

**LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE**  
**BOARD MINUTES – Unofficial**  
**Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Kent District Library Service Center**

Present: Abby Black (OA), Diane Kooiker (HO), Rob Bristow (OG), Carol Dawe (LLC), Maggie McKeithan (OS), Ron Suszek (MADL), Jessica Hunt (NG), Lance Werner (KDL), Dale Parus (IC)  
Lakeland Staff Present: Amber McLain (LLC)  
Absent: John McNaughton (GRPL)

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 9:32 by Lance Werner.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Rob Bristow moved, supported by Diane Kooiker to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried*.
- 3) **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:** There were no questions from members.
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
- 5) **AUDIT PRESENTATION:** Joseph Verlin from Gabridge and Associates presented their findings from our annual audit. Lakeland received a “Clean” opinion, which is the highest level of opinion. Reports show that Lakeland essentially broke even in the last fiscal year regarding cash in vs. cash out.
- 6) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Maggie McKeithan moved, supported by Rob Bristow, to approve the board minutes from January 9, 2025 – *motion carried*.
- 7) **FINANCIAL REPORT:**
  - a) January and February Financials and Check Register: Rob Bristow moved, supported by Maggie McKeithan to approve the January and February Financials as presented - *motion carried*.
- 8) **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
  - a) None.
- 9) **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
  - a) Carol was contacted by MLA – both by Debbie Mikula and Dillon Geshel – regarding a situation with the Lowell school district. Their school librarian is under attack by an individual there and has been for years. Carol attended the school board meeting, ready to speak if needed, but both the community in Lowell and the school board stepped up to voice their support of the librarian and condemning the woman who is responsible for these attacks.
  - b) Carol shared that options are currently being explored for what we can do if MeLCat funding is taken away due to Department of Education funding cuts.
- 10) **COUNCIL/COMMITEE REPORTS**
  - a) Advisory Council minutes from November 14, 2024 included for information.
- 11) **ONGOING AND NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a) **Approval of the Audit:** Maggie McKeithan moved, supported by Jessica Hunt to approve the audit as presented - *motion carried*.
  - b) **Strategic Plan Discussion:** Discussion about rainy day planning for DoE reductions, expanding and adding to the strategic plan, etc. Rob Bristow moved, supported by Abby Black to approve the strategic plan extension and modification - *motion carried*.
- 12) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
- 13) **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
  - a) Abby Black – Allendale is strategic planning and working on board development.
  - b) Diane Kooiker – Herrick got a “Pocket Talk” from Ottawa county that translates spoken languages and documents. Cost is \$250 for wifi-only and \$350 for cellular data.
  - c) Ron Suszek – MADL Millage committee has a kickoff event on March 18.
  - d) Lance Werner – Lance shared that Feeding America is facing budget cuts so KDL is talking internally about rolling out a more robust food program. The idea was floated about a mobile food and hygiene pantry that would distribute throughout the Lakeland delivery system. The program would be voluntary, but interest was high.

**14) NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m. at Kent District Library Service Center.

**15) ADJOURNMENT:** **Jessica Hunt** moved, supported by Rob Bristow, to adjourn at **10:05** - *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Amber McLain