Grand County Libraries: linking people to boundless opportunities

GRAND COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, July 21, 2026
5:30 PM

Location: Hot Sulphur Springs Library or Zoom
Meeting ID: 863 4751 3182
Passcode: gMNz7j

MINUTES

Trustees: Jeremy Krones, Jen Goertz, Alan Walker, Jennifer Tibbetts, L Jones, Erika Cohen, Miriam Roskam
Staff: Mary Ann Degginger, Tara Thompson, Chris Newell, Emily Pedersen
Friends: Judy Smith
Public: Marcus Davis, Kaydee Jensen, Jeanette McQuade, Joe Farstad

5:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order and Consideration of Trustee Absences
Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Jeremy Krones.

II. Approval of the Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Alan Walker motion; Jennifer Tibbetts 2nd
Approved

5:35 p.m.

III. Consent Agenda:

A. June Regular Meeting Board Minutes
B. Correspondence
C. April Budget to Actual and Balance Sheet
D. May Budget to Actual and Balance Sheet
E. June Budget to Actual and Balance Sheet
Motion to approve the consent agenda
Alan Walker motion; Erika Cohen 2nd
Approved

5:40 p.m.

IV. Reports

A. Friends of the Grand County Library, Inc.
Judy Smith reported. July 4th Granby Library book sale was successful and raised $1,871. The Grand Lake sale will be held during Buffalo Days – August 15-16, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Community House. Thanks to branch staff who assist with book donations and for interacting with the public on our behalf. The Friends decided to set a daily limit of donations for each branch. Up to two boxes per day per individual will be accepted.

B. Public Comment
None

5:50 p.m.

V. Business Items

A. Hot Sulphur Springs Library welcome and tour by Branch Manager, Emily Pedersen. She thanked the Board for approving money to make renovations and modifications to the library. Kaydee Jensen was introduced and praised for her Storytime events. Pedersen described the changes made to the space to accommodate larger groups for programming. It is brighter and has welcoming colors, new movable shelving, and comfortable and flexible seating. She thanked the team of individuals who assisted with the project and made time to get everything ready for the Summer Library Program kick-off events.

B. Recognition of bi-annual merit bonus recipients

Twice per year, colleagues are nominated by peers to receive a financial award for hard work and dedication to GCLD. Congratulations to the following individuals who were recognized. John Marte, Marcus Davis, Richard Gott, Tallie Gray, Kathe Merken, Jeanette McQuade, Shelly Mathis, and Kristin Hanson. Congratulations to Chris Newell for being the recipient of the Colorado Association of Libraries Partnership of the Year Award.

C. Review by Executive Director of June GCLD Department Highlights & Statistics

Degginger gave a review of June's programs and events. Appreciation to all involved in the 20th celebration parties for Granby and Juniper Libraries. Congratulations to Emily Pedersen and Michelle Grant who will be celebrating 20 years with GCLD in July. The new website has been launched, and accessibility features meet Colorado standards. Solar umbrellas have been installed in three locations and are well-used. One Grand Book will be held on October 3 featuring Ben Goldfarb.

D. Meeting Calendar

1. August 18 BoT Meeting at Kremmling Library
2. September 9-11 CALCON Conference (Aurora)
3. September 15 BoT Meeting at Granby Library

E. Kremmling Library Project Owner's Representative Report

Monthly report was given by Joe Farstad of Wember, Inc. He provided a recap of the steps that have been taken in the process. Program and floor plans were summarized. Service point, visibility, and accessibility were taken into consideration during the design process. Drawings were shared with a description of the spaces provided. The project is on schedule, and Farstad feels confident with the team that has been selected. He gave an update on the General Contractor hiring process.

F. General Contractor Selection

Joe Farstad and the Executive Building Committee presented information about the interview and selection process used. Interview process was explained and summarized, including selection criteria. Nine people expressed interest, five submitted proposals, and four candidates were short-listed and interviewed. Big Valley, a local contractor, was selected to be Construction Manager-At-Risk (CMAR). Big Valley is helping to design the build, so they will be held accountable. Farstad answered questions from

Trustees. There was discussion. Cohen expressed concerns regarding the decision, especially about scope and contingency plans and how they could impact the overall project budget. Per Farstad, the appropriate amount of design contingencies have been allocated for this project; total project value will not be affected. Wember, Inc. is responsible for overseeing the bidding process and will hold contractor accountable. Project team has been assembled to make sure design questions are asked and discussed prior to project completion. Trustees want to make sure Wember, Inc. will advocate for GCLD.

G. Six-Month Review of Strategic Framework, Capital Projects, and Budget

Degginger provided a mid-year report on progress on the current Action Plan. Items completed to date were highlighted. Ongoing programs, services, and projects were summarized. Capital Projects still in progress were described. A draft of the new Strategic Framework will be shared in August. Financial and fundraising consultants have also been hired. Davis gave the facilities mid-year report including status of Capital and maintenance projects. Projects are under budget. Future-planned projects were summarized; plan is in place for 2027 budget. Thompson gave a mid-year financial report. Numbers for over/under budget were shared for six-month review. We are projected to be $224,000 under budget for total operating expenses. Foundation budget is at risk of not being compliant due to the hiring of a fundraising consultant. There is a chance we will need to do an amended budget to accommodate Foundation expenses.

H. Financial Consultant report

Thompson shared a summary of the report provided by Bryce Denton, The Mtn CFO. Questions were addressed regarding the need for Mill Levy and funding options for the new construction project. The report concluded with funding strategy and recommendations for the near-term, medium-term, and long-term. Trustees asked questions. There was discussion.

I. Mill Levy Discussion and Decision for 2026 Ballot

Trustees discussed the need for a ballot initiative in November 2026. GCLD's financial consultant and the Finance Committee support and recommend the need for a ballot initiative. The Board of Trustees would be able to withdraw as late as September 1. Ballot language is due at the end of August. Trustees asked questions. There was discussion.

6:50 p.m.

VI. Action Items

A. Award of General Contractor contract for CMAR preconstruction

Motion to award the general contract for the building of the Kremmling Library CMAR construction to Big Valley.

Alan Walker motion; L Jones 2nd

6 in favor

1 opposed

Approved

B. Authorize Kremmling Executive Building Committee to spend $7,242,808 for construction, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, and technology to build and complete the new Kremmling Library

Motion to authorize the Kremmling Executive Building Committee to spend $7,242,808 for construction, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, and technology to build and complete the new Kremmling Library.
Jen Goertz motion; Miriam Roskam 2nd
Approved

C. Authority to enter into coordinated election November 3, 2026 with Grand County Clerk and Recorder
Motion to give Executive Director authority to enter into coordinated election November 3, 2026, with Grand County Clerk and Recorder.
Jen Goertz motion; Erika Cohen 2nd
Approved

7:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.