BDSRA Foundation Board Meeting
April 19, 2026
2 pm – 5 pm PST

Attendees:		**Absent:**
Gretchen Fieschko	John Patterson	Edward Harriman
Kate Haller	Dave Pearce	Dave Pearce
John Ireland	Mathias Schmidt	
Suzette James	Fred Surrey	
Wayne Kiefer	Ned Timmerman	
Chris Lowden	Barb Wuebbels	
Barb McDonough		

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Barb McDonough

Honoring Recent Batten Angels
Chris Lowden read the name of the child who have passed recently, followed by a moment of silence: Violet Caroline Sherman

Acceptance of the minutes from March 22, 2026 meeting: John P. motioned for the acceptance of the minutes. Suzette seconded. All voted to accept the minutes.

Organizational Update: Presented by Suzette

- Findings from an analysis of operational needs versus available headcount and talent summarized and concluded that a more stringent adjustment of the BDSRA organizational structure than initially anticipated will be necessary to match operational setup with skillsets and financial reality.
- Suzette presented an updated restructuring plan and timeline. The proposal was generally accepted with some slight changes to timing.

Finance Committee Update:

- **Unrestricted funds:** High-level review of current financial accounts reinforced that unrestricted funds to pay for operations cannot sustain the current organizational staff and daily operational costs for more than ~6 months. New unrestricted donations have not come in to refill the accounts. The urgency for the organizational restructuring was clear.
- **Restricted funds** are largely already designated for specific payouts (COE NYU Grossman, Summer Conference and Ineka's salary) so BDSRA restricted coffers are relatively constrained as well. The restricted Calvert Mutual Fund is highly restricted to only fund stipends for conference.

- **Audit update:** an error found in the 2023 financials have impacted the completion of 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- **2025 990 completion**: Don Wells will complete this over the next few months with a charge of $12,200 to be spread over 4 months for payment.
- Kate reminded us that the **Labyrinth**, once the audits and 990 are completed, is critical to be updated so that we can fundraise in certain currently blocked states like California.
- **Rob Mackey sent a disengagement letter** to BDSRA citing too much oversight and back and forth. His letter states disengagement by May 31, 2026. Wayne will reach out to see if he can extend to allow a more seamless transition.
    - Wayne will ask Don Wells if he can support us in the interim.

Committee Updates:
Science Committee: Mathias will plan a first meeting under his leadership for April.

Conference Committee: Suzette and Barb updated the board on conference activities and current funders ($190,000 pledged to date). Volunteers will help staff registration and other areas to reduce costs from sending all BDSRA staff and Site Solutions staff.

NOTE: ***The Board was reminded that the July 9 board meeting will be held at 8:30 am in Lombard at the Westin and people should plan to fly in on Wednesday night for dinner and stay through the entire conference.***

Fundraising Committee: Suzette updated the board regarding a proposal to send a fundraising letter to donors in our database who have ever given $250 and above. The dire financial situation dictates the need for this letter. Gretchen motioned to approve the letter to be sent. Wayne seconded. All approved. Suzette will work with staff for email and US mail letters to be sent within a few weeks.

- **Board Fam Funds:** John Patterson reminded the board that a Board Fam Fund has been set up for board members to donate unrestricted funds to BDSRA. Board members are encouraged to donate via the Fam Funds.

Committee Review and request for board volunteers to chair or join a Committee:
A list of current standing committees and new or ad hoc committees were presented for Board members' consideration. The list was culled by combining some committees. The results are presented below. ALL COMMITTEES are requested to bring a short overview of their respective Committee remits and goals for 2026 to the June 14 meeting. A number of the standing committees have been inactive for years but are necessary to resurrect. New ad hoc committees were listed because current BDSRA situation necessitates focus on these issues.

	Current Standing Committees per By-Laws	Chair
Standing	**Executive Committee (with Nominating)**	**Barb McDonough**
Standing	**Finance and Audit**	**Wayne Kiefer**
Standing	**Fundraising and Development**	**Suzette James ADD Chris as new member**
Standing	**Advocacy**	**Ned is Chair (Chris will join)**
	Science and Research Call to amend by laws to make this "Standing"	**Mathias Schmidt**
	Human Capital Management and Compliance, Hiring Call to amend by laws to make this "Standing"	**Barb McDonough,** Ed Harriman, Kate
	Community Outreach and Engagement and Support	**Barb M. as Chair, Chris will join**
	Human Capital Management and Compliance, Hiring Call to amend by laws to make this "Standing"	**Barb McDonough,** Ed Harriman, Kate
	Volunteer Committee	**Barb W will chair and work with Heather Dainiak**
	Marketing/Strategic Planning	**Gretchen as chair**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm.

Upcoming meetings:

5/18, 6/14, 7/9 Conference, 8/16, 9/20, 10/18, 11/22, 12/20

NOTE: A request for a time change to the standing monthly meeting was requested by John P. Gretchen will send a Doodle poll to collect input from board members for alternatives. We may move to an alternating schedule to accommodate time zones.