



## **National Board Meeting Monday, April 13, 2026**

**Meeting called to order at 8:34AM**

- Started with the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call Taken and quorum confirmed by Treasurer.
- Mission Statement read by Vice Chairman
- Consent Agenda Approval
- Page 15 of 18, Update the minutes to clearly state the disaster relief funds

***Motion to update the minutes with the clarification of resolution***

***Motion to accept the 2025 minutes with the clarification. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed***

- Departed Member Memorial
- State of BCHA presented by Chairman, Craig Ferdig

### **Committee Reports**

Chapter Support Grants – 2026 Recipients

- Black Hills Chapter South Dakota
- Southwest Chapter Utah
- Selway Pintler Chapter Montana
- West Alabama
- Sunflower Chapter Kansas
- Jemez Chapter New Mexico
- Lewis County Chapter Washington State
- Cache Peak Chapter Idaho
- Northern chapter Colorado

Education Committee Report provided by Colleen Fisk, Committee Chair

Expansion Committee Report provided by Misty Valdez, Committee Chair

Fundraising Committee Report provided by Latifia Rodriguez, Committee Chair

Marketing & Media Report; Chair position is open

- Continuing to update the website

Nominating Committee Report

- Nominations submitted
  - Chairman; Craig Ferdig
  - Vice Chairman; Latifia Rodriguez
  - Treasurer; Heather Schultz
  - Directors; Heather Cox and Keith Holley
  - Non-Director; Darrell Wallace



Call for nominations from the floor (1)

- Debra Spickermann nominated for Director position

### **Partnership Report**

- Partnership Committee Governance Policy Review
- Federal Agency Partnership and Agreement Review
  - United State Forest Service
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - National Parks Service
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
- Partner Organizations presented in the following order..
  - Substantial Engagement Organizations
  - American Horse Council (AHC)
  - Partnership for the National Trail System (PNTS)
  - National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA)
  - American Trails
  - Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT)
  - American Hiking Society (AHS)
  - The Wilderness Society (TWS)
  - Northwest Trails Roundtable
  - Equestrian Legacy Radio
- Limited Engagement Organizations
  - International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) – Trails are Common Ground
  - Sierra Club – Recreation Issues Team
  - Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Engagement via other Organizations
  - American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) (via Hike the Hill)
  - Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) (via AHC Annual Conference)
  - Pacific Crest Trail Association, Continental Divide Trail Association, Arizona Trail Association, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Pacific Northwest Trail Association (bulk via Hike the Hill)
- Proposed Budget Recommendation presented.



## Public Lands Report

The results of the 2025 PL survey were provided, and the states were asked if anything has changed from the time of this survey.

States provided updates to resolve issues and added some new issues.

## Sawyer Report

Letter to the Chief and the Chiefs response are in the National Board Meeting folder.

## Volunteer Hours Report

- Added National Scenic Trails to the reporting form, we will only be using the long form in the future. The reporting guide to be cleaned up in the near future. 2025 Hours presented. See chart below.

| Backcountry Horsemen of America                   |                     |                        |                        |                                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Volunteer Hours Report                            |                     |                        |                        |                                                 |                                |
| [Enter state or Affiliate Organization]           |                     |                        |                        | Edit this column to change the published values |                                |
| Date Range (Oct 2024-Sept 2025) or (Jan-Dec 2025) |                     |                        |                        |                                                 |                                |
|                                                   | Totals              | Rate per hour/mile/day | Total Value            | Calculated per hour                             | Current Rate per hour/mile/day |
| Total Basic Hours                                 | 76533               | \$33.49                | \$2,563,090.17         | Calculated per hour                             | \$33.49                        |
| Total Skilled Hours                               | 37606               | \$50.24                | \$1,892,339.84         | Calculated per hour                             | \$50.24                        |
| Non-Trail Hours                                   | 64134               | \$33.49                | \$2,147,847.66         | Calculated per hour                             | \$33.49                        |
| Travel Time                                       | 51765               | \$33.49                | \$1,733,609.85         | Calculated per hour                             | \$33.49                        |
| <b>Total Hours</b>                                | <b>230099</b>       |                        | <b>\$8,336,887.52</b>  |                                                 |                                |
| Personal and Stock Use                            | 1163338             | \$1.00                 | \$1,163,338.00         | Calculated per mile                             | \$1.00                         |
| <b>Total Travel Miles</b>                         | <b>1163338</b>      |                        | <b>\$1,163,338.00</b>  |                                                 |                                |
| Power Equipment                                   | 9612                | \$35.00                | \$336,420.00           | Calculated per hour                             | \$35.00                        |
| Heavy Equipment                                   | 4516                | \$140.00               | \$632,240.00           | Calculated per hour                             | \$140.00                       |
| <b>Total Equipment Hours</b>                      | <b>14128</b>        |                        | <b>\$968,660.00</b>    |                                                 |                                |
| Total Stock Days                                  | 11400               | \$125.00               | \$1,425,000.00         | Calculated per day                              | \$125.00                       |
| <b>Total Donations</b>                            | <b>\$554,648.68</b> |                        | <b>\$554,648.68</b>    |                                                 |                                |
|                                                   | <b>Total</b>        |                        | <b>\$12,455,934.10</b> |                                                 |                                |

The value of Volunteer time is determined by The Independent Sector each year.  
Skilled labor is one and one-half times basic labor

- 12 Applications for the Double Diamond Award to be announced at the banquet, Wednesday night.
- Youth Committee Report: New Chair for the youth committee is Lexi Studebaker.
- Provided an overview of ideas going forward.

## Crosscut Saw Giveaway

They are getting ready to ship their 60<sup>th</sup> saw for the crosscut giveaway.

## Treasurer Report: End of March 2026

- Treasurer provided the balance sheet totals. Including, bank accounts, CDs, and Stifel Values.
- Budget vs. Actual provided.
- Dues income provided and is below budget.



Executive Administrator Report provided

Social Media Platforms: X, Instagram, YouTube, Blue Sky, Facebook, LinkedIn

Director of Public Lands and Recreation report provided.

***Motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

### **Proposed Budget**

Treasurer provided the proposed budget and explained the procedure of limited questions, and we will reconvene to the proposed budget on Wednesday when conversation and questions will be discussed and voted on.

Treasurer provided each line-item proposed budget and there was some discussion for clarification regarding the saw training line item.

### **Resolutions (2)**

#### ***(1) Legacy Resolution***

Colorado and Kentucky presented and provided detailed explanation provided by Vice Chairman and Lon Oyster followed by a Q&A.

***Motion to approve this resolution, seconded. All but two approved. Motion passed.***

#### ***(2) National Membership Exploration Committee***

Resolution to explore supplemental National-Level membership options while preserving chapter-based membership as BCHA's primary structure, presented by Wyoming and Colorado. This is a look at the membership by forming a committee to research/explore if there is something we could be doing better.

***Motion to accept the resolution, motion seconded. More discussion had.***

Question: How long will this committee be in place? Will bring the findings back to the 2027 National Board Meeting.

Comment: We need to make sure we are not taking anything away from the state.

Comment: This is a top-down approach.

What's different about the At-Large membership? At-Large is specifically for people who do not have BCHA in their state.

Discussion if this is against our constitution.

Suggested the resolution should be rewritten so as not to look like a top-down.



*Question been called, motion to end discussion, vote; approved to end discussion.*

*Motion to accept the resolution to explore membership options, seconded. Not unanimous, motion passed.*

#### **Governance Policy Review**

Suggested changes to the governance policy presented by the Vice Chairman.

4.6.2.1.3 page 9, there is a typo.

Q&A – Saw Committee; We will table this to Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn: 4:00PM**

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### **2026 BCHA National Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:32AM

Chairman went over the day's agenda and events

#### **Governance Policy Changes**

Motion to approve all changes in the governance policy, seconded.

Open for discussion

*Motion to amend to the motion for the saw page to have all materials. Seconded.*

*Final motion to approve the governance policy changes with amendment for saw page to have all materials related to saw. Seconded. Amended motion passed. Not Unanimous.* Policy changes approved.

#### **Anti-discrimination and Harassment Policy**

*Motion to accept the Anti-Discrimination policy, seconded. All in favor, none opposed, Motion passed.*

Call for additional Nominations (2)

Shirley Righi for Executive Committee Director.

Misty Valdez for Executive Committee Director

## **Strategic Business Plan Update**

- Expires in 2027
- Updated on the additions and changes submitted to the Strategic Business Plan as the SBP progresses.

## **2026-2027 Budget**

### **Motion to open up for budget discussion, seconded, Motion passed.**

- Discussion on the promotional item, this is money out and money in.
- Discussion on the National Director Gifts, part was donated and not paid for by BCHA.
- Hike the Hill- Is it necessary to have two or more people to attend? Suggested keeping it with two people. Answer: We only have two people attending Hike the Hill.
- Administration General- Suggested to cut this. This includes Shipping/Postage and Bank/Merchant Processing Fees; hard to cut static fees.
- Saw Training: Suggested to strike this expense. Consensus is this will be part of the motion regarding the budget.
- Dues – Suggested chapters need to more vigilant in retaining members and receiving dues in a timely manner. Suggested to increase membership to \$158,000. Consensus to raise dues budget to \$158K
- Donations: This line is for operation donations.
- Sponsors & Advocacy – This is advertising.
- Suggested instead of basing budgets on Actuals to instead use an average of, for example, 3 previous years.
- Suggestion to move savings to offset the budget deficit instead of cutting income and expenses. Comment: Eventually this will go dry and how will we replenish it. Also,
- Investment Expenses: We are reviewing the fees and accounts to determine moving forward.
- Suggested: To remove the \$4500 from Investment expense.
- Suggested to reduce Marketing & Media to zero dollars.
- Partnership Committee: \$3400 based on recommendation. Consent approved
- Volunteer Hours: \$200 Consent approved
- Youth Committee \$0 Consent approved



*Motion to approve the budget as edited with the negative \$1180, seconded.*

*Further discussion: None.*

*All in favor, none opposed. Motion to approve the budget is passed.*

**Nominations** – Call for nominations #3

No additional nominees.

Nominee Speeches Provided. The list of nominees is as follows...

- Non-Director
  - Darrell Wallace, Washington
- Director
  - Misty Valdez from Texas
  - Deb Spickermann from New Mexico
  - Keith Holley from
  - Heather Cox from North Carolina
  - Shirley Righi from Arizona
- Treasurer
  - Heather Schultz
- Vice Chairman
  - Latifia Rodriguez
- Chairman
  - Craig Ferdig

*Motion to approve the slate of officers and the slate of non-directors, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.*

### **Election Results**

2026-2027 EC Directors

- Heather Cox and Keith Holley

2026-2027 Non-Director

- Darrell Wallace

Officers

- Chairman, Craig Ferdig
- Vice Chairman, Latifia Rodriguez
- Treasurer, Heather Schultz

*Motion to destroy the election ballots, seconded. Motion passed.*



### **Additional Comments**

Suggested, BCHA should reconsider providing our membership list to sponsors and fundraising to make it easier for fundraising. Governance Policy states we cannot sell the membership list.

### **Museum**

Done with construction and now working on all the electronics and IT. Looking for an opening in June.

### **State Accomplishments**

Around the room allows 2 minutes for one person from each state to talk about their past year accomplishments

**Adjourn 3:30PM**