
Meeting Date & Venue: April 20, 2026, at Ukiah Natural Foods Co-op | **Next Meeting:** May 19, 2026, via Zoom

Overview

The Board of Directors met to review key organizational updates, confirm leadership roles, and discuss financial health and strategic planning efforts. The meeting focused on strengthening governance, engaging new board members, and advancing business planning initiatives for the Co-op's continued growth.

Key Updates & Decisions

- **New Board Members Seated:** Jen Dalton, Anthony Browning, and Maria Landaeta Andrade officially joined the Board.
- **Board Leadership Confirmed:** Gideon Burdick (President), Angie McChesney (Vice President), Christine Rodrigues (Secretary), and Tim Dolan (Treasurer) were appointed.
- **2025 Financial Audit:** The Co-op reported a small net income with no long-term debt, reflecting a strong financial position; improved documentation practices were recommended.
- **Committee Assignments Finalized:** Board members were assigned across Finance, Board Development, Owner Relations, GMEC/ETC, and Farmer Loan Committees.
- **Business Planning Approach Introduced:** A new collaborative planning process involving staff-driven goals and SWOT analysis was presented and well received.
- **Operational Highlights:** March sales, promotions (including Cheese Madness), and product updates like the smoothie menu showed positive momentum.

Public Comments

While no attendees spoke during the meeting, a member submitted questions regarding the timing of the annual report and access to board meeting minutes on the website.

What's Ahead

- **New Member Orientation:** Schedule and finalize participation for upcoming onboarding sessions.
- **Business Planning Rollout:** Continue developing and implementing the new goal-setting framework.
- **Member Engagement:** Prepare for upcoming member events and improve communication access (e.g., board minutes online).
- **Board Tools & Resources:** Review and organize shared systems such as Google Drive for improved collaboration.

**UKIAH NATURAL FOODS
(A.K.A THE HOMESTEAD EXCHANGE)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The regular meeting of the Ukiah Natural Foods Board of Directors was convened on Monday, April 20th, 2026, at 5:34 PM at the Ukiah Co-op.

BOARD DIRECTORS PRESENT: Angie McChesney (Vice President), Tom Chandler (arrived late), Gideon Burdick (President), Christine Rodrigues (Secretary), Larry Mayfield, Ky Mayers, Steve Turner, Steve Groff

BOARD DIRECTORS ABSENT: Tim Dolan (Treasurer)

STAFF PRESENT: Rob Drake (GM) (via Zoom and later), Joe Riemann (Accounting Manager)

GUESTS: Jen Dalton (Member-Owner), Anthony Browning (Member-Owner/Staff), Maria Landaeta Andrade (Member-Owner), Brian Dahlk, Auditor - Wagner & Associates (via Zoom and later)

President Burdick called the meeting to order at 5:34 P.M.

1. Introductions and Check-Ins:

2. Brief Announcements and Confirm Agenda:

Board Member Mayfield **MOVED to approve the agenda as presented.** Seconded by Board Member Groff. **MOTION PASSED.**

Yes: Board Members;
 Burdick, McChesney, Chandler, Mayfield, Rodrigues, Mayers, Groff, and Turner

3. Consent Agenda:

Approve with changes as presented, with changes to the March Summary of Board minutes.

Board Member Mayfield **MOVED to approve the agenda with changes presented.** Seconded by Board Member Groff. **MOTION PASSED. With one abstention, Board Member Chandler**

Yes: Board Members:
 Burdick, McChesney, Mayfield, Rodrigues, Mayers, Groff, and Turner

4. Public Comment:

No guests were present at the meeting. We discussed Member Owner questions that had recently come up about when the annual report will be coming out (usually in May), and why the

board minutes are no longer on the website (we will follow up on this.)

5. Seating New Board Members:

The terms of Directors Chandler, Groff, and Mayfield expired at the conclusion of this meeting. The board thanks them for their service.

Three qualified applicants, Jen Dalton, Anthony Browning, and Maria Landaeta Andrade, were reviewed by the Board Development Committee and confirmed to meet all eligibility requirements under the bylaws. Because the number of qualified applicants did not exceed the number of open seats, no election was required. The Board has also agreed to hold elections regardless of the number of applicants moving forward to better embrace our cooperative principles.

Secretary Rodrigues **MOVED to seat Jen Dalton, Anthony Browning, Maria Landaeta Andrade.** Seconded by Board Member Mayers. **MOTION PASSED.**

Yes: Board Members;
Burdick, McChesney, Chandler, Mayfield, Rodrigues, Mayers, Groff, and Turner

6. Appointing Officers:

The following nominations and selections are as follows.

President - Gideon Burdick
Vice President - Angie McChesney
Secretary – Christine Rodrigues
Treasurer – Tim Dolan

Board Member Mayers **MOVED to approve the selection of new board officers: President - Gideon Burdick, Vice President - Angie McChesney, Secretary – Christine Rodrigues, and Treasurer – Tim Dolan.** Seconded by Board Member Turner. **MOTION PASSED.**

Yes: Board Members:
McChesney, Rodrigues, Mayers, Burdick, Turner, Dalton, Browning, and Landaeta

7. 2025 Financial Audit w/Wegner & Associates:

An audit was conducted for the Ukiah Natural Foods for the year of 2025, and this was a full audit. Every three to four years it can be decided to have a full audit instead of a financial review. The financial statements showed a small net income for 2025, with the co-op maintaining a strong financial position by having no long-term debt. The only recommendation from the audit was to better document monthly banking activity reviews.

8. New Member Orientation:

Secretary Rodrigues passed around the new member onboarding presentation. What we want to do at the meeting tonight is just two things. One, we want to determine who will be participating in it. We would meet in the co-op cafe, and the GM would give a store tour, and we would then review the slide deck. We would like to set the date before the next board meeting, and we will have one member from each committee there as well. A Doodle poll will be sent out to determine attendance.

9. Committee Assignments:

The following committee assignments were made.

Finance Committee

Tim Dolan – Chair / Steve Turner / Ky Mayers / Anthony Browning

Board Development Committee

Christine Rodrigues – Chair / Ky Mayers / Anthony Browning

Owner Relations Committee

Jen Dalton - Chair / Maria Landaeta / Anthony Browning / Gideon Burdick

GMEC / ETC

Gideon Burdick - Chair / Angie McChesney / Christine Rodrigues / Steve Turner

Farmer Loan Committee

Angie McChesney – Chair / Ky Mayers / Jen Dalton / Maria Landaeta

Secretary Rodrigues **MOVED to approve the above committee assignments as presented.**

Seconded by Board Member Turner. **MOTION PASSED.**

Yes: Board Members;

McChesney, Rodrigues, Mayers, Burdick, Turner, Dalton, Browning, and Landaeta

10. General Managers Report and Business Plan:

GM Drake presented a strong FYI report highlighting March sales performance, successful promotions including Cheese Madness, and improvements to the smoothie menu. GM Drake introduced a new business planning process inspired by Sarah Christensen at Oriana Co-op, which involves staff in creating annual goals through SWOT analysis and visioning exercises. The board expressed appreciation for the new report format and business planning matrix, which includes measurable goals and tracking capabilities.

11. Committee Reports:

Owner Relations Committee (ORC) - There was no meeting.

Board Development Committee (BDC) - Secretary Rodrigues stated that we have already discussed the new member orientation.

Finance Committee - There was no meeting.

Farmer Loan Committee - There was no meeting.

General Manager Evaluation Committee (GMEC) - There was no meeting.

12. Little Questions:

None

13. Topics for Next Month:

- GoogleDrive

14. Closing and Evaluation:

President Burdick adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

The next Meeting is on **May 18th, 2026**, via Zoom

Submitted by Erica Ramirez, Board Administrator