

**New Mexico Bioscience Authority (BSA) Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2026, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Paul Laur (Chair), Tanner Schaub (Acting Chair), Dale Dekker, Tom Kieft, Alex Koglin, Lisa Kuuttila, Francisco Pallares, David Perkins

**Absent:** Christos Christodoulou, Nora Sackett, Prisca Tiasse

**Staff Present:** Stephanie Tofighi, Anne-Laure Schmitt Olivier, Irene Gray, Sterling Nichols, Ryan Cangioli

#	Agenda Items	Board Actions
1.	Call to order and Confirmation of Quorum	<p>Prior to the meeting, Chair Laur and Vice Chair Schaub agreed that Vice Chair Schaub would preside over the meeting due to environmental constraints affecting Chair Laur’s ability to effectively chair, despite being present throughout.</p> <p>Vice Chair Schaub called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM. A quorum was confirmed.</p>
2.	Approval of Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 19, 2025, BOD Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>Vice Chair Schaub called for a motion to approve the February 19, 2025, meeting minutes.</p> <p>A motion was made by Francisco Pallares with a second from Alex Koglin to approve the February 19th meeting minutes.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with six in the affirmative, none in opposition, one in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Absent, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Abstain, Tiasse-Absent</p>

3.	Announcements and Chair's Report	<p>NMBSA Chair Paul Laur provided his update for the month of <b>April</b>.</p> <p><b><u>Legislative Support for the BSA</u></b></p> <p>While attending the BIO Fly-In event in Washington, D.C., the Chair received feedback from some state representatives and senators that they are fully endorsing the efforts of the BSA and if any help is needed, please reach out to staffers. The Chair also met with New Mexico Senator Ben Ray Lujan to discuss new developments in the state's bioscience industry and providing assistance to the BSA by matching state funds with federal funds</p> <p><b><u>National Institute of Health (NIH) Science Event; Thursday April 16, 2026</u></b></p> <p>The Chair attended the NIH's event in Bethesda, Maryland to gather further insight on grant funding for New Mexico and NIH Small Business Innovation Research proposals.</p> <p>The Chair concluded his report for the month of April.</p>
4.	Executive Director's Report	<p>NMBSA Executive Director (ED) Stephanie Tofighi provided an update on the following items for the month of <b>April</b>.</p> <p><b><u>2026 NMBSA Travel Grant and Feasibility Study for Office and Lab space</u></b></p> <p>ED Tofighi reported that her focus has been with the implementation of the BSA's 2026 BIO International Travel Grant which is a competitive program run by the NMBSA that provides funding for companies to attend the BIO International Conference in San Diego; June 22-25 and the Feasibility Study that evaluates the planning for lab and office space that will be conducted by the BSA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b><i>NMBSA 2026 BIO International Travel Grant</i></b> – Tofighi completed an agreement for recipients and finalized the awards. Grant Awardees will participate in the conference at the New Mexico Pavilion or as a competitor in the BIO Convention's Startup Stadium.</li> </ul>

		<p>➤ <b><u>NMBSA Feasibility Study</u></b> – Tofighi confirmed the study will be discussed in the upcoming <b><u>Bid Recommendation Discussion for April 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda Item 8</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Meeting with the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)</u></b></p> <p>Tofighi plans to meet with the NMDOH to connect the department with a company who is interested in discussing integrating their in-home fusion therapy into standard operating practices for the procedure with a focus in New Mexico’s Medicaid sector.</p> <p>ED Tofighi concluded her report.</p>
5.	President’s Report	<p>NMBSA President Dr. David Perkins presented his report for the month of <b>April</b>.</p> <p><b><u>NMBSA Feasibility Study for construction of Office and Lab Space</u></b></p> <p>President Perkins announced he would assist in facilitating the Feasibility Study Bid Recommendation discussion</p> <p>President Perkins concluded his report.</p> <p>Director Lisa Kuuttilla joined the meeting at 11:50 AM.</p>
6.	<p>Executive Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NMBSA/BEE SWAG Authorization</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>Vice Chair Tanner Schaub presented the Executive Committee Report for the month of <b>April</b>.</p> <p><b><u>NMBSA/BEE SWAG Authorization</u></b></p> <p>During their March executive committee meeting, the budget for the purchase of NMBSA Business Entrepreneur Experience (BEE) promotional items (SWAG) was approved for \$3,194.10. This decision was made during the committee meeting since there was not a full board meeting scheduled in March, and the items needed to be purchased in time for related promotional events. NMBSA and BEE Swag items are to be distributed at events such as</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIO Travel Grant Update</li> </ul>	<p>the 2026 BIO International conference in San Diego; June 22-25 2026. Swag items are</p> <p>-Pens, Chapstick, T-Shirts, Stickers, Magnets</p> <p><b><u>BIO Travel Grant Update</u></b></p> <p>Vice Chair Schaub informed the committee that the Travel Grant awardees have been named that will participate in the 2026 BIO International Conference either at the New Mexico Pavilion or as competitors in the Convention’s Startup Stadium depending on whether they were awarded for the <b>‘Pavilion’</b> or <b>‘Pitch’</b> track.</p> <p><b>Pavilion Track</b> – 6 travel grant awardees will participate in the pavilion track representing the state’s bioscience companies.</p> <p><b>Pitch Competition Track</b> – 5 travel grant awardees will compete in the convention’s Startup Stadium competition.</p> <p>Vice Chair Schaub reiterated that all awardees have signed their travel grant agreements.</p> <p>Vice Chair Schaub concluded his report.</p>
7.	<p>Finance Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly Financial Statement Review (February &amp; March)</li> </ul>	<p>Through screen share, FCC Koglin presented the 2026 February and March Financial Statements.</p> <p><b><u>February 2026 Financial Statement</u></b></p> <p>FCC Koglin reported there were no significant changes to the budget for the month of <b>February</b>.</p> <p>FCC Koglin called for a motion to approve the February 2026 financial statement.</p> <p>A motion was made by Dale Dekker to approve the February financial statement with a second from David Perkins.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with eight in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and three absent. The vote was as follows:</p>

		<p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft- Affirm, Alex Koglin- Affirm, Kuuttilla- Affirm, Laur- Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins- Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub- Affirm, Tiasse-Absent</p> <p><b><u>March 2026 Financial Statement</u></b></p> <p>FCC Koglin reported there were no significant changes to the budget for the month of <b>March</b>.</p> <p>FCC Koglin called for a motion to approve the March 2026 financial statement.</p> <p>A motion was made by Francisco Pallares to approve the March financial statement with a second from Dale Dekker.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with eight in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and three absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft-Affirm, Alex Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttilla-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Absent</p> <p>Chair Koglin concluded his report.</p>
8.	Feasibility Study Recommendation	<p><b><u>Feasibility Study Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>Vice Chair Schaub introduced NMBSA President Dr. David Perkins to facilitate the Feasibility Study Recommendation Discussion.</p> <p>Through screen share, Dr. Perkins presented the scoring sheet evaluating the six applicants who applied to conduct the Feasibility Study through the recently closed request for proposals process run through the UNM Procurement Office.</p> <p>NMBSA President Dr. David Perkins opened the discussion stating that the committee members listed on the meeting agenda met to evaluate the six applicants following the</p>

		<p>scoring procedure shared by the UNM Procurement agent, Andre Nunez.</p> <p><b>Architectural Firms listed for feasibility Study</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FBT Architects</li> <li>2. McClain and YU Architecture and Design</li> <li>3. Sam Sterling Architecture</li> <li>4. Design Plus</li> <li>5. Merrick &amp; Company</li> <li>6. Jon Anderson</li> </ol> <p>From the applicants, President Perkins explained, <b>FBT Architects</b> was selected for its ability to complete the study on or before the July 2026 deadline and their overall highest score based on the committee’s reviews.</p> <p>Director Alex Koglin, a member of the review committee, explained that FBT was a good choice because their quote addressed certain items in constructing the facility for office and lab space the other applicants failed to mention, although their construction fees were higher than some of the other applicants. Koglin continued stating FBT offerings to conduct the study are well rounded according to their expertise which is solid. FBT was also chosen for its ability to meet the July timeline, facility construction that meets commercialization aspects, and the inclusion of lab space for academic endeavors he said.</p> <p>Director Dale Dekker concurred with Director Koglin’s assessment by confirming FBT’s reputation for quality from their previous construction projects at UNM’s North Campus location. FBT is also known for completing projects on time and ahead of schedule which will appeal to legislators if there were construction requests in the future.</p> <p>President Perkins called for a motion to approve the recommendation for FBT Architects to conduct the feasibility study</p> <p>A motion was made by Dale Dekker to approve the FBT proposal with a second from Tom Kieft.</p>
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		<p>Through screen share Executive Director (ED) Stephanie Tofighi explained the NMBSA Bioscience Pitch Readiness Program Suggestion.</p> <p>The Pitch Readiness Program looks at various types of programming that can be implemented for companies to impact growth and funding from external sources. The programming includes an introduction to developing pitch decks for investor solicitations and effective ways companies can present to potential investors in <i>'Pitch'</i> oriented events. ED Tofighi said there has been feedback for supporting companies in their partnering efforts, and pitch efforts.</p> <p>The Pitch Readiness program utilizes an inclusive training model titled <b><i>'Train-the-Trainer'</i></b> where it can be adopted by organizations and companies outside of the BSA after completion. After completion, companies would be educated on how to apply for various Travel Grants that could provide opportunities to attend industry related events pertaining to bioscience such as <b><i>BIO International</i></b> and <b><i>MedTECH</i></b>.</p> <p>Tofighi's suggestion to launch the Pitch Readiness program would involve using a portion of the BSA's encumbered funds for programming endeavors. The BSA can design the program with the intention for it to be sustainable after a considerable investment amount for the first year and a gradual decrease in costs as efforts move forward. At present, this type of programming does not exist. So, for the BSA to create and be trained on how to franchise the program is vital to satisfy our objectives of creating programs to support the growth of bioscience companies while acquiring funding for the state she said. For the creation of the Pitch program, Director Lisa Kuuttilla added that some attention be given to customer discovery that could assist in formulating the request for proposal.</p> <p>Following Tofighi's pitch program suggestions, MACC Kieft called for a motion to approve the NMBSA Bioscience Pitch Readiness Program.</p>
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10.	<p>Other NMBSA Related Business Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth Opportunities for New Mexico’s Science and Technology sectors</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Growth Opportunities for New Mexico’s Science and Technology sectors</u></b></p> <p>Director Dale Dekker presented information on growth opportunities for New Mexico’s Science and Technology sectors from TEconomy Partners’ recent report that outlines the New Mexico Economic Development Department’s strategy for areas of focus in Science and Technology.</p> <p>Director Dekker pointed to the reports <i>‘Emerging Science and Technology Growth Opportunity Areas: Biosciences Innovation</i> reference and explored ideas for sustainability because his assessment is that ‘Bioscience Innovation’ has already emerged.</p> <p>Dekker addressed three ideas for sustainability that could have a maximum impact for the innovation in the bioscience sector. Dekker stressed that such ideas should inspire the BOD to think big.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1. Recruitment of science and engineering talent to New Mexico due to cutbacks in federal funding for scientific research and development. This focuses on gathering human capital to elevate the bioscience sector.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2. Deployment of the state’s surplus resources. Director Lisa Kuuttila suggested the possibility of adopting the University of Georgia’s model of recruiting faculty that would split time in a tenured position in their field of expertise at the university and developing local start-up companies through an endowment process. Director Tanner Schaub pointed to Director Kuuttila’s suggestion confirming that the state’s fiscal year 2026 budget has a \$10 million pool of funds available for endeavors akin to Director Kuuttila’s mention of the University of Georgia’s incentive to recruit faculty.</li> <li>➤ 3. Ensure the continuation of current economic development initiatives in the bioscience sector with a new gubernatorial administration in 2027.</li> </ul> <p>Dekker concluded his discussion with the BOD committing to meet and discuss creating a white paper for best practices that represent ideas for sustainability that will impact the bioscience sector.</p>
11.	Adjourn	<p>NMBSA Vice Chair Schaub called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made by Alex Koglin to adjourn the meeting with a second from Tom Kieft.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and four absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft-Affirm, Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Absent, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Affirm, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Absent</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.</p>

Respectfully submitted by Sterling Nichols & Stephanie Tofighi.