

1 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
2 **NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION**
3 **2 p.m. MT, November 16, 2023**

4 **Via Zoom:**

5 **Via Zoom - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84934713951>**
6 **Or call in to - 719 359 4580, Meeting # - 849 3471 3951**

7
8 Call to Order

9 Donnis Baggett called the meeting to order at 2:09pm MST.

10
11 Roll Call

12 Roll call conducted by Jim Matheson.

13
14 Members Present: Robert Johnson, Ken Klemm, Joe Graham, Stuart Schrag, Donnis Bagget,
15 Carie Starr, Mary Adams, Adam Ulbricht, Boyd Meyer, Moritz Espy, Chad Kremer

16
17 Members Absent: Mimi Hillenbrand, Liz Riffle, Campbell Burgess

18
19 Staff Present: Jim Matheson, Lydia Whitman, Karen Conley

20
21 Guests Present: Ron Miskin, Ace Ward

22
23 Reports

24 President's report provided by Chad Kremer.

25
26 Minutes presented. Board, 2 sets of Finance minutes verify attachments. Motion made by
27 Ken Klemm, Seconded by Carie Starr, Motion passed unanimously.

28
29 Treasurer's report (Attachment C) presented by Joe Graham and Jim Matheson.

30
31 Motion to approve Mary Adams, Ken Klemm. Motion passed unanimously.

32
33 Budget Development- Jim preparing to review at next week's finance committee meeting.

34
35 Membership Count- Jim presented. Lost 24 members. Renewals appear to be strong. Just not
36 securing new members. Have picked up active members that dropped. Exploring
37 subscription fees, altruistic donation options, beyond membership for bringing in funding.

38
39 Lydia presented a quick summary of Summer Conference results.

40
41 Committee reports presented.

42
43 Legislative and regulatory update provided by Adam Ulbricht, committee chair. Haven't met
44 since going to Washington, D.C. in September.

45

46 Gold Trophy Show and Sale update provided by Boyd Meyer and Karen Conley. 10-12
47 consigners. Classes starting to fill up.

48

49 North American Bison Registry update provided by Jim Matheson. Gerald Parson appointed
50 as interim chair. Three committee members at this time. Working to fill out committee to be
51 5-7 members total. Meeting again on Friday.

52

53 Science & Research committee update provided by Jim Matheson with chair Dr. Carter Kruse
54 not present.

55

56 Commercial Marketers committee update provided by Jim Matheson, with chair Dick
57 Gehring absent. Working with AMS on monthly bison report to increase participation and
58 accuracy. Plan to present in person in January.

59

60 Conservation committee updated by Ken Klemm, committee chair. Explored property rights
61 discussion individually with phone calls. Reports 6 of 10 committee members consent for the
62 following addition to the ethics statement:

63

64 Members Shall:

65 Respect established private and public property rights and boundaries by responsibly keeping their
66 bison on lands that they own, manage, lease, or for which they have other formal land use
67 agreements. Stray animal occurrences should be infrequent and solved in a safe and timely manner
68 to preserve harmony within the local community and to foster the continued widespread public
69 acceptance of bison reintroduction and production while ensuring the proper care and protection of
70 the bison themselves.

71

72 Ken reported that he, on behalf of the committee, is offering this statement as a motion.
73 Robert Johnson seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

74

75 Discussion: Robert Johnson reported that the phrase "having a land use agreement" is sticky
76 and leaves much open to debate.

77

78 Ken Klemm reported that the statement is conceptual, not legal, thus a guiding principle
79 without jurisdictional impact.

80

81 State and Regional committee update provided by Jim Matheson, with John Graves absent.

82

83 Winter Conference committee update provided by Jim Matheson with chair Beverly
84 Brown absent. Conference registration open. All conference meals included in registration.
85 Hotel room blocks still available. Agenda full, and including expanded vendor hours, and
86 increased programming at the National Western Stock Show Friday afternoon. Encouraging
87 vendors to all have full conference registration so all meals are covered, then just a small add

88 on for booth cost. Regional Directors asked to be present at the Mentor Session Thursday
89 morning for introductions.
90
91 Other Business
92 Growth Fund: Performing well this year. Diversified donations to this fund from processors
93 and private donors. Positive results from food events. Shifting work to producer outreach
94 with the Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show coming up.
95
96 2024 Winter Conference- note that the Westin continues to push for a 2025 & 2026 contract,
97 which is being declined by NBA until through the Winter Conference.
98
99 SDSU Grass is Greener Climate Smart Grant update Karen Conley. Eleven enrollments,
100 beginning the process with Tanka Fund. Working through initial first enrollments and
101 building capacity.
102
103 Center of Excellence Update- Jim Matheson reported 25 letters of intent submitted. Able to
104 add Dr. Galborath from Canada to a seat. Need another NBA member for consideration on
105 this board.
106
107 Program Manager Report provided by Lydia Whitman.
108
109 Communications Report provided by Karen Conley.
110
111 Legislative Report provided by Jim Matheson.
112
113 President's report by Chad Kremer. Noted members across the country have reflected
114 appreciation for national leadership and staff taking the time to attend and come to their
115 areas. Related that we are gaining ground as an organization and as an industry.
116
117 Executive Director Report presented by Jim Matheson.
118
119 Review of strategic plan encouraged for all board members. Tentative spring strategic
120 planning session.
121
122 Regional director election –Ace Ward for region 2; Region 6 – Ron Miskin. Region 4 and 6 –
123 Stuart and Liz elected for second term.
124
125 Officer elections in January. International Director position will be open- solicitation of
126 names. Director at large will be open. Slate of officers will be up for election as well.
127
128 New membership app coming along, mostly funded by Climate Smart grant.
129
130 Adjournment
131

132 Next regular board meeting January 17, 2024 2pm at the Winter Conference at the Westin in
133 Westminster, CO.

134

135 Motion made by Adam Ulbricht, seconded by Ken Klemm to adjourn the meeting. Motion
136 passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.