

1 The chair called on Amil Kleinert and Bruce Anderson to present the year-to-date
2 financial report. The Year to Date financial report is favorable compared to budget. The gross
3 profit for the first two months is \$212,911, which is \$13,321 above budgeted levels, while gross
4 expenses of \$141,112 are \$6,914 below the budgeted level. This is resulting in a net ordinary
5 income that is \$20,232 above budget. After the 5% designated reserve and other adjustments,
6 we still recorded a two-month net profit of \$59,694, which is \$17,331 above budget. Mr. Carter
7 noted that the membership revenue is \$4,007 above budget. There are some individual timing
8 deviations in the two-month financial report that will even out as we proceed. A motion was
9 made by Bruce Anderson to approve the year to date as presented. The motion was seconded by
10 Lee Graese and carried.

11 Mr. Anderson reviewed the proposed nine-month budget with the board. That proposed
12 budget was unanimously recommended on Monday, following a process that involved four
13 drafts and two reviews by the committee. The budget projects gross revenues of \$477,478, and
14 gross expenses of \$448,877. After adjustments and the 5% designated reserve of \$23,842, the
15 net result projected is \$86. Mr. Carter said he anticipates that a strong summer conference will
16 help us exceed our budgeted projections. Russ Miller asked about the allocation of checkoff
17 funds. Mr. Carter reviewed the formula for allocating checkoff funds to marketing and
18 promotion. Russ Miller made a motion to approve the budget, as presented. The motion was
19 seconded by Roy Liedtke, and carried.

20 Mr. Carter reported that the NBA has not performed a formal audit for several years. This
21 places the NBA out of compliance with the financial policy provision stating: *The association*
22 *will contract for an independent review of the year-end financial reports for two years, followed*
23 *by an audit. An audit may be called at any time by the Board of Directors.* An audit is not
24 included in the 2013 budget. However, the Finance Committee has discussed this issue, and has
25 expressed a consensus that this is something that should be budgeted for 2014. In response to a
26 question regarding cost, Mr. Carter agreed to get some price ranges from at least two audit
27 firms, and to discuss the issue with the NBA Finance Committee.

28 Jim Matheson provided a membership report. He reported that the membership is holding
29 relatively stable for 2013. As of March 22, we have 1,026, members compared to 1,031 in
30 January (and 1,018 in January 2012). He reviewed the timing of memberships becoming
31 delinquent and encouraged board members to contact parties with delinquent memberships.

1 Discussion was held regarding a proposed membership survey that was previously
2 discussed by the board. Mr. Carter said that the association is still paying for a Survey Monkey
3 account, and would like to implement the survey as soon as possible. Jim Matheson noted that
4 a survey of between 10-20 questions is considered ideal.

5 Mr. Matheson noted that he also working to develop a lapsed member survey.

6 Mr. Matheson reported that he has added a tool on the website that will make it easier for
7 members to renew memberships on-line. President Cook has also sent along an idea for a
8 potential app that can be used on smart phones or tablets.

9 Dick Gehring mentioned that he has been approached by individuals who are interested in
10 some type of student membership in the NBA. Mr. Matheson and Mr. Carter reviewed the
11 current Junior membership and Student Affiliate memberships. Mr. Gehring recommended that
12 some type of discount be offered for members willing to sponsor a group of student affiliate
13 chapters. Discussion was held. Mr. Carter recommended that the Finance Committee consider
14 options on this issue, and bring a recommendation back to the full board. Gerald Parson, a
15 member from Oklahoma, provided some additional thoughts on how to reach out to FFA groups
16 and other organizations. Chairman Flocchini asked Mr. Gehring and Mr. Parsons to put
17 together a recommendation that could be considered by the Finance Committee and brought
18 back to the board.

19 The Chairman called on Jim Matheson and Karen Conley to provide an update on the
20 2013 summer conference. Mr. Matheson reported that the registration will officially open on
21 March 29. The office will be heavily promoting the Join and Go program. Wednesday, June
22 26th, will be dedicated to educational seminars and the mid year membership meeting. The
23 conference will also featuring a screening of the Buffalo King, a movie covering the life of
24 Scotty Philip. On Thursday, the activities will be held off-site, and will include a tour at the
25 Vore Buffalo Jump. On Friday, there will be a board meeting and the ranch day at the Cammack
26 Buffalo Ranch. Karen Conley noted that some motorcycle tours are also being planned. Mr.
27 Carter noted that 10 percent of any net revenues will go back to the Dakota Territories Buffalo
28 Association to compensate their efforts in putting together the conference. Bruce Anderson also
29 reported that the Flocchini family has offered to donate a calf that would be used for a rollover
30 auction as a fundraiser for the association. Karen Conley said that the DTTBA board has

1 discussed the idea, and is willing to have the winning calf entered into the association's Young
2 Guns or Girlz Gone Wild competitions.

3 Mr. Carter noted that planning will need to begin on the 2014 Summer Conference. He
4 encouraged directors to see if any State/Regional associations are willing to help host the 2014
5 Summer Conference.

6 Mr. Carter reported that he has been casually visiting with some NBA members about
7 potential locations for the next IBC, scheduled for 2017. To date, we have not received any
8 strong indication of anyone chomping at the bit to host IBC.

9 Mr. Carter provided an update on the Nationwide Insurance program. He noted that there
10 was a positive reception at the Winter Conference. Four new policies were written during the
11 last quarter of 2012, and 29 existing policyholders converted to our new program. He noted
12 there have been some bumps in the road during the start-up. One problem is that Nationwide
13 Agribusiness requires applicants to demonstrate that they have had insurance previously. Also,
14 there is a learning curve for some of the agents who are being asked to quote bison businesses.
15 Mr. Carter is working with Nationwide to address those issues.

16 The Chair noted that Robert Stirling of the Commercial Marketers' Committee had to
17 leave the call. Mr. Carter provided a report from the Commercial Marketers Committee. He
18 reported that he is financing a checkoff-funded marketing and promotion plan for 2013. Also,
19 the Commercial Marketers Committee will develop a new survey to be conducted among the
20 marketers this May.

21 Ryan Hanna provided a report on the State/Regional Committee. He noted that he has just
22 assumed the chair of that committee. Mr. Hanna asked Jim Matheson to provide a report on the
23 State/Regional meeting held at Winter Conference. Mr. Matheson reported that he has
24 implemented the transition on the recording of the sale results into the NBA members' area of
25 the Website. Mr. Carter provided some additional information regarding the communication
26 with the State/Regional associations.

27 Boyd Meyer said that he did not have anything new to report for the Gold Trophy Show
28 and Sale but did add that the RMBA is considering doing away with their annual sale and there
29 has been conversations about the possibility of somehow linking it with the GTSS.

30 Mr. Carter reported to the board that he is recommending the establishment of a History &
31 Heritage Working Group to compile and archive information, events or issues that occurred

1 during the period prior to the merging of the National Buffalo Association and the American
2 Bison Association to form the current National Bison Association. Dick Gehring made a motion
3 to authorize the establishment of a working group to compile a history of the Bison Association
4 going back to the formative stages of the National Buffalo Association and the American Bison
5 Association. The motion was seconded by Karen Conley. Discussion was held. Gail Griffin, a
6 member from Minnesota, volunteered to serve on the working group. Mr. Gehring also said he
7 would like to be involved. The motion was put to a vote, and carried.

8 Mr. Carter reported that, pursuant to previous action by the board, he has started to
9 compile a list of potential members to serve on the NBA Science/Research Committee.

10 Mr. Carter provided a report on legislative and regulatory issues.

11 He reported that the Bison Resolution is scheduled for introduction in the next two weeks.
12 Because of the House Government Oversight Committee's refusal to consider commemorative
13 legislation, this is being changed from an "act" to a "resolution." That will simplify the
14 prospects of passage.

15 Mr. Carter reported that —through the assistance of Dr. Dave Hunter of Turner Enterprises,
16 Inc.—the NBA has been working with Dr. Brian McCluskey, Chief Epidemiologist for USDA
17 APHIS Veterinary Services, to develop a proposal for an Epidemiologic Investigation on
18 *Mycoplasma bovis* in bison. Dr. McCluskey has submitted a formal request with his superiors at
19 USDA APHIS. We followed that request with a formal letter of support.

20 Mr. Carter reported that there has been no formal congressional activity regarding a new
21 farm bill.

22 Mr. Carter reported that, on March 1, the National Bison Association and Canadian Bison
23 Association filed a joint comment in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)
24 proposed rule to exempt Alaskan wildlife officials from certain Endangered Species Act (ESA)
25 provisions concerning wood bison. This proposed rule would allow wood bison to be
26 reintroduced into its former range in Alaska with "special rules that allow for some of the
27 management requirements of the ESA to be relaxed to facilitate acceptance by local landowners
28 and managers." The NBA also consulted with members in Alaska in developing those
29 comments. Alaskan Fish and Game Officials, and the offices of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-
30 AK) have been pushing hard for this rule. Mr. Gehring noted that the Western Bison
31 Association has filed comments on the issue reflecting a different perspective.

1 Mr. Carter noted that it will be advisable for the NBA to conduct a legislative roundup in
2 Washington, D.C. sometime later this year. Bruce Anderson recommended that the plans for the
3 roundup be finalized by Summer Conference to increase participation.

4 The Executive Director reported that many individual state legislatures are considering
5 bison-related bills. There are some similarities in some of the bills. He noted that the NBA does
6 not lobby directly in state legislatures, but can play a role in serving as a clearinghouse for
7 information among state/regional associations. He also recommended that the next
8 state/regional summit include a training session on lobbying in a state legislature. Russ Miller
9 provided an update on bison issues in the Montana legislature. He said that 14 bills were
10 introduced into the Montana Legislature. Five of those bills are still under debate. Two bills--
11 SB 143 and HB 396 –would allow county commissioners to have approval rights over any
12 relocation of bison in their counties.

13 Discussion was held on the North American Bison Registry. Mr. Matheson reported that
14 the NBA has been advertising the DNA testing services offered through the North American
15 Bison Registry. Several NBA members have received packets in the mail promoting the DNA
16 services offered through Texas A&M University. Gerald Parsons, chair of the NABR, reported
17 that those same type of testing services can be provided through the NABR. Both the NABR
18 and Texas A&M are testing for the Charolais gene in bison. Dr. Parsons noted that he is
19 working with officials at Alaska Fish & Game to collect hair samples from the wood bison that
20 are scheduled to be released into the Yukon Flats. That information will help officials gather
21 some information regarding the survival of animals released into the wild. Mr. Matheson
22 discussed the pricing for the NABR services. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

23 The chair called on directors for Regional Reports.

24 Russ Miller provided a report from Region I. He reported that he covered his report in the
25 legislative section.

26 Boyd Meyer provided a report from Region II. He reported that his area is still dealing
27 with significant drought issues. The Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association has voted to
28 contribute \$1,200 to the NBA Junior Judging competition.

29 Karen Conley provided a report from Region III. She reported that sections of North and
30 South Dakota have received moisture, but drought issues are still causing an impact. The North
31 Dakota Buffalo Association is still seeking an executive director. The Dakota Territories

1 Buffalo Association had a very successful winter conference and Show & Sale and the recent
2 sale in South Dakota with 540 head was a strong sale. The DTBA has just donated \$5,000 to the
3 National Buffalo Foundation as a challenge grant to other associations to support the one-time-
4 through TB testing.

5 Dick Gehring provided a report from Region IV. He noted that the Texas Bison
6 Association has their annual meeting set for early May.

7 Lee Graese provided a report from Region V. He reported that the Minnesota Buffalo
8 Association has its spring meeting scheduled at the Meyer farm in Sauk Center in April. He
9 reported that he is concerned with the difficulty in attracting new producers into the bison
10 business.

11 Jason Moore provided a report from Region VI. He reported that he has been working to
12 follow up with delinquent members. Mr. Moore reported that producers in the Illinois/Indiana
13 region are working to organize a new state/regional association; The new Michigan Bison
14 Association has been communicating with him as well.

15 Bill Edwards had nothing to report from District VIII.

16 Gerald Parsons provided a report from the Canadian Bison Association board meeting. He
17 reported that the Canadian Bison Association is frustrated by the continued difficulties in
18 bringing bison across the border. He also reported that the Canadian Fish & Game Service is
19 going through the COSEWIC process to consider whether plains bison warrant endangered
20 species protection in that country. The CBA is taking the lead in working on the COSEWIC
21 process. The NBA is supporting those efforts.

22 Mr. Carter provided a report of the Executive Director. He noted that there has been an
23 increase in attention on the use of pens and corrals in bison production. The NBA recently
24 released a background paper on that issue. Boyd Meyer said he would be willing to work with
25 the Commercial Marketers Committee to develop information on bison production protocols.
26 Also, Mr. Carter noted that he has had conversations with representatives of two national
27 Humane Certification organizations about the opportunity to use those programs in bison.
28 Discussion was held. No action was taken. Mr. Carter said he will work through the
29 Commercial Marketers' Committee to address this issue, and will keep the board apprised.

30 The Chair called on Dick Gehring to bring forward the issue of the NBA logo. Mr.
31 Gehring reported that he has received comments from members wanting to go back to the old

1 logo. Mr. Carter reported that a survey was conducted at the time the new logo was adopted. He
2 also noted that there would be a budget impact on transitioning to the old logo. Karen Conley
3 noted that she did prefer the old logo, but added that it likely not be a cost-effective use of funds
4 to make a transition. Roy Liedtke and Lee Graese said they were comfortable with either
5 version. Bruce Anderson noted that any time that an NFL team changes logos, there is a demand
6 for the new merchandise. Discussion was held about including the topic as a question on an
7 upcoming member survey. Russ Miller noted that, if the question is included in a survey, the
8 question would include an estimation of the budget impact. Following additional discussion,
9 Russ Miller made a motion that the board recognizes that there may be some dissatisfaction
10 with the current logo, but that the board recognizes that the members' money should be
11 expended on other priorities on behalf of the membership at this time. Lee Graese seconded the
12 motion. Discussion was held. The motion was put to a vote, and carried, but not unanimously.
13 Dick Gehring voted nay.

14 Following discussion, the board agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled for 8
15 a.m., Friday, June 28th in Deadwood, SD.

16 There being no further business to come before the board, and upon motion made
17 seconded and carried, the board adjourned 7:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

David E. Carter, Recording Secretary

Amil Kleinert, Secretary

