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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION
2 p.m. MT, July 20, 2023
Via Microsoft Teams:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MDFhOTU4OWQtYTUzNC00OGE4LWJjZjktZDFmOGRjMWI4Y2Ri%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22562b6152-04a7-412d-bf2f-92c80ad632bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22643a93c4-e2c3-45da-b0e7-395a21b3c1b8%22%7d

Call to Order

Donnis Baggett called the meeting to order at 2:00pm MST.

Roll Call

Roll call conducted by Jim Matheson.

Members Present: Chad Kremer, Ken Klemm, Joe Graham, Mimi Hillenbrand, Robert Johnson, Mary Adams, Boyd Meyers, Moritz Espy, Stuart Schrag, Carie Starr, Campbell Burgess, Liz Riffle, Adam Ulbricht

Staff Present: Karen Conley, Jim Matheson, Lydia Whitman

Reports

President's report provided by Chad Kremer.

Minutes presented. Motion by Mary Adams, second by Mimi Hillenbrand to approve the May 18, 2023, Board Minutes (Attachment A); June 8, 2023, Finance Committee Minutes (Attachment B); June 22, 2023, Finance Committee Minutes (Attachment C); July 20, 2023, Finance Committee Minutes (Attachment D). Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report presented by Joe Graham and Jim Matheson.

Motion to approve June Financial made by Joe Graham, seconded by Adam Ulbricht. Motion passed unanimously. (Attachment E)

Membership report presented by Jim Matheson. Year to date membership reviewed. (Attachment F)

Committee reports presented.

Legislative and regulatory update provided by Adam Ulbricht, committee chair. Committee met in May. Committee conducted virtual congressional meetings focusing on Farm Bill and Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act. Adam attended field hearing U.S. House Ways and Means

45 committee. Demetrius Daniels added to the committee. Looking forward emphasis on
46 membership advocacy for Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act hearings in senate and house prior to
47 September Fly In.

48

49 Gold Trophy Show and Sale update provided by Boyd Meyer, committee chair. Committee
50 meeting planned for early August. Reported a plan is developed to address buffalero budget.
51 Getting judges confirmed.

52

53 North American Bison Registry update provided by Jim Matheson. Chair Dr. Connor Elliott
54 not present.

55

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

58

59 Commercial Marketers committee update provided by Jim Matheson, with chair Dick
60 Gehring absent.

61

62 Conservation committee updated provided by Ken Klemm, committee chair. Committee
63 convened recently, focused on reworking of mission statement.

64

65 State and Regional committee update provided by Jim Matheson, with chair John Graves
66 absent. Committee met in June, reviewed the concept paper of combining regional groups
67 into one group. No current interest from state and regional groups to make changes. State
68 and regional summit planned at Custer State Park November 4th on National Bison Day and
69 Annual Custer State Park Auction.

70

71 Winter Conference committee update provided by Jim Matheson with chair Beverly
72 Brown absent. The committee met a few weeks ago and determined a theme of "Hats Off to
73 Bison".

74

75 Other Business

76 Growth Fund Outreach Plan (Attachment G) presented by Jim Matheson. NBA 2023
77 Outreach and Education Plan contains consumer and producer focused outreach tracks. The
78 "Bison Managers and Marketers" video podcast is being strategized, but work will not begin
79 on this project at this time. Part of the Growth Fund Outreach Plan includes the NBA Intern
80 Program with Grace Kremer, focusing on social media and Meredith Halweg, developing
81 economic tools and other new producer resources.

82

83 2023 Summer/Fall conferences reviewed by Jim Matheson.

84

85 SDSU Grass is Greener Climate Smart Grant update provided by Jim Matheson. Specifics for
86 protocols, process and partners are drafted. Boyd will be the buyer for the climate smart
87 animals. Karen is working on the grant too. There is freedom within the grant for NBA to

88 define minimum weights, vaccine requirements, time since weaning. Conservation
89 Management Plan may be a component of this.
90
91 Program Manager Report provided by Lydia Whitman.
92
93 Communications Report provided by Karen Conley. Drafting in progress on Fall Bison World.
94 Financial note- bison world is being greatly support by editing work by Ilana Xinos. She has
95 received \$200 per magazine. Karen recommends increasing payment rate for editing
96 services.
97
98 Legislative Report provided by Jim Matheson. 2023 Farm Bill (Attachment H) and Truth in
99 Buffalo Labeling Act (Attachment I) highlighted.
100
101 FSIS Native Bison Processing Program \$700,000 designated to offsetting native American
102 owned plants or plants on tribal land, included in funding. Jim has meeting with Heinrich's
103 office to discuss further. Exclusively available to Native Americans to offset their inspection
104 fees. \$3 million appropriated to AMS bison promotional programs if non-profits. Jim
105 Matheson will be talking to Senator Heinrich's office about this as well.
106
107 APHIS EID tag ruling update. Jim Matheson trying to learn more on where things are at for
108 this program. Goal to get tags ordered and provide distribution for NBA members.
109
110 ARS - MCF Vaccine funding support is continuing to be pursued by NBA staff. Letters of
111 support from conservation herd managers and tribal herd managers are being pursued.
112
113 Executive Director Report (Attachment J) presented by Jim Matheson.
114
115 Addition to agenda: Discussion on Continental Bison Working Group. Board consensus to
116 direct this topic to the Conservation Committee for further exploration and drafting of
117 recommendations for board consideration.
118
119 Adjournment
120
121 August 1st virtual membership meeting will be held. Next regular board meeting September
122 21st, 2023 virtual via TEAMS.
123
124 Motion made by Mary Adams, seconded by Carie Starr to adjourn the meeting. Motion
125 passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.