

1 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
2 **NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION**
3 **2 p.m. MT, January 17, 2024**
4 **Westin Hotel & Conference Center**
5 **Westminster, Colorado**
6

7 Call to Order

8 Donnis Baggett called the meeting to order at 2:00pm MST.
9

10 Roll Call

11 Roll call conducted by Jim Matheson.
12

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

16 Members Absent: Mimi Hillenbrand, Campbell Burgess
17

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

20 Guests Present: Ron Miskin, Ace Ward, Jamie and Matt from Raymond James
21

22 Reports

23 President's report provided by Chad Kremer.
24

25 Board minutes of November meeting, and finance minutes for December and January
26 reviewed. No comments, questions or revisions. Motion to approve all minutes as presented
27 made by Carie Starr. Seconded by Mary Adams. Motion passed unanimously.
28

29 Treasurer's report presented by Joe Graham and Jim Matheson. Year end financials
30 presented. No questions or revisions for income, expense, or balance sheets. Motion by
31 Adam Ulbricht to approve financials. Seconded by Mary Adams. Motion passed unanimously.
32

33 2024 budget will be reviewed and voted on by new board post election.
34

35 Jamie and Matt from Raymond James presented 2023 outcomes of investments and
36 provided 2024 market perspective.
37

38 Membership report (attachment F) presented by Jim Matheson. Exploring subscription fees,
39 altruistic donation options, beyond membership for bringing in funding.
40

41 Committee reports presented.
42

43 Legislative and regulatory update provided by Adam Ulbricht, committee chair. Met 1/17/24
44 and have a tentative plan to do a virtual call in to congressional members in March.

45

46 Gold Trophy Show and Sale update provided by Boyd Meyer and Karen Conley. 94 head
47 present for show and sale. Discussion on quality of tech support at NWSS.

48

49 North American Bison Registry update provided by Jim Matheson. Dr. Parsons is the active
50 chair and is working on filling out the committee and establishing new bylaws.

51

52 Science and Research- have not met since last board meeting.

53

54 Commercial Marketers- Dick Gehring as chair, and Jim Matheson had a meeting with ag
55 marketing service and authors of the Bison Price Report. Proposed changes to the report will
56 be reviewed tomorrow morning with the Commercial Marketers meeting.

57

58 Conservation Committee- Ken Klemm reported the committee met a few hours ago.
59 Concerns raised integration of woods genetics into plains bison herds and vis a vis. First step
60 may be transparency and education. Archeological find in Caprock Canyon State Park- bison
61 jumpsite. If Ken elected as president, need to entertain new chair members. Active
62 discussion on potential leadership.

63

64 State and Regional- Have not met since last meeting.

65

66 Winter Conference- Lydia Whitman provided update.

67

68 Other Business:

69

70 Growth Fund- Jim Matheson presented. Discussion- how to represent the benefit of the
71 growth fund to the smaller producers. Need talking points for regional directors to promote.
72 Developing 2024 proposal for the growth fund donors.

73

74 South Dakota State Climate Smart Grant Update- Reported by Karen Conley. Meeting weekly
75 with team on the grant. Karen working on enrolling folks for the grant. Goal is to start
76 making calf payments in the fall of 2024.

77

78 Program Manager Report provided by Lydia Whitman.

79

80 3:45pm meeting paused to gather with InterTribal Buffalo Council Board. Meeting resumed
81 at 4:09pm.

82

83 Communications Report provided by Karen Conley.

84

85 Legislative and Regulatory Report- Jim Matheson provided updates. Discussion- Possible
86 opportunities with Canadian National Farm Animal Care Council to grow management tools
87 and cost share opportunities to put forward to USDA programs.

88

89 Executive director report (Attachment I) provided by Jim Matheson. Strategic planning
90 proposed date and location April 17-19, in Denver, CO. Previous facilitator is available for
91 those dates and has them penciled in for the NBA. No objections.

92

93 Officer elections- new folks on the slate for election. Director at large- Sean Graese NorthStar
94 Bison, Secretary Treasurer Jessie Deardorf Benjamin Lee Bison, Joe Graham for Vice
95 President, Ken Klemm President, Chad Kremer Board Chair.

96

97 Proposed bylaw amendments reviewed. Motion to accept the bylaw amendments as
98 presented made by Liz Riffle, second by Carie Starr.

99

100 Question by Ken Klemm Article 21a- dropping owning at least one bison not noted in current
101 proposed changes. Discussion commenced. Conclusion to make edits, distribute to board,
102 and commence to vote by email response.

103

104 Motion and second agreeable suspending vote until edits are made and distributed to board,
105 with final vote occurring by email response.

106

107 Proposal of Justin Dory as International Representative for the board.

108

109 Thank you to outgoing board members.

110

111 Adjournment

112

113 Next regular board meeting to be coordinated post conference.

114

115 Motion made by Boyd Meyer, seconded by Liz Riffle to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed
116 unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.