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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION
May 18, 2023
Via TEAMS**

7 A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Bison Association was convened at
8 2:02 p.m. MST, Thursday, May 18, 2023, via the TEAMS virtual platform pursuant to the bylaws
9 and at the request of the NBA President and Executive Director.

10
11 **Board Members Present:**

12 Donnis Baggett Chad Kremer
13 Ken Klemm Carie Starr
14 Elizabeth Riffle Adam Ulbricht
15 Boyd Meyer Moritz Espy
16 Stuart Schrag Joe Graham
17 Campbell Burgess Mimi Hillenbrand

18
19 **Board Members Absent/Excused:**

20 Robert Johnson Mary Adams

21
22 **Staff/ Guests Present:**

23 Jim Matheson Lydia Whitman
24 Karen Conley

25
26 **Call to Order Board Meeting**

27 Donnis Baggett called the May 18, 2023 regular Executive Board meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

28
29 **Roll Call**

30 Roll call was conducted by Jim Matheson.

31
32 **President's Report**

33 President's reported delivered by Chad Kremer. Recognition was given to regional board
34 members for the quality of their reports, and thanked for the insight they provide.

35
36 **Approval of the Minutes**

37 March 16, 2023 Board Minutes (Attachment A), April 27, 2023 Finance Committee Minutes
38 (Attachment B) reviewed. Motion to approve minutes with corrections made by Ken Klemm,
39 second by Carie Starr. Motion carried unanimously.

40
41 **Treasurer's Report**

42 Jim Matheson reviewed January YTD Financial Report (Attachment C), with consent from Joe
43 Graham. More revenue than usual thanks to advertising and fundraising responses that were
44 robust, with note made of significant gains in Growth Fund donations.

45
46 Motion to approve January Financials by Ken Klemm, second by Joe Graham, motion carried
47 unanimously.

48
49 Cost of living adjustment recommended to be changed to merit based increase.

50
51 Motion made to approve merit based increases as recommended by the Finance Committee by
52 Joe Graham. Seconded by Liz Riffle. Motion carried unanimously.

53
54 New NBA merchandise presented to board by Lydia Whitman. Reported that merchandise is
55 completing production and will be live on webstore once all products are received at the point
56 for fulfillment.

57
58 **Membership Report**

59 Lydia Whitman and Jim Matheson reviewed current membership counts (Attachment D). Join
60 and go membership will be offered for the summer conference opportunities. Regional directors
61 will continue to receive reports for lapsed and current members to support ongoing outreach.

62
63 **Committee Reports**

64 Legislative and Regulatory Committee- Chair Adam Ulbricht reported first meeting was
65 productive. Reported that members would be convening virtually with congressional staff next
66 week to address bison needs in farm bill and labeling.

67
68 Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) – Chair Boyd Meyer and Jim Matheson results of GTSS
69 meeting. Reported plans to manage cost would focus on volunteer coordination, to reduce food
70 and board expenses. Recommendation made by GTSS committee to utilize Quality Auction
71 Services for 2024, 2025 and 2026.

72
73 Motion made to approve Quality Auction Services for use at the GTSS auction for 2024, 2025,
74 2026 by Joe Graham. Seconded by Moritz Espy. Motion carried unanimously.

75
76 North American Bison Registry (NABR) – Chair Dr. Connor Elliott reported that committee met
77 and explored merits of developing a sub-species herd registry to preserve species' genetics.
78 Recommendation made by NABR to further investigate the addition of a sub-species herd
79 registry.

80
81 Motion made by Ken Klemm to approve NABR further exploring the merits of sub-species herd
82 registry development. Second by Joe Graham. Motion carried unanimously.

83
84 Science & Research – Chair Dr. Carter Kruse was not in attendance. Jim Matheson reported 6
85 applications were reviewed for COE grant funding. Likely there will be one selection.

86
87 Commercial Marketers – Chair Dick Gehring was not in attendance. Jim Matheson reported
88 commercial marketers are supporting outreach to potential bison ranchers in addition to

89 advancing public awareness of bison meat and by products. One particular product is video
90 footage of low stress bison handling.

91

92 Conservation – Chair Ken Klemm reported on new members to committee providing
93 representation of diverse bison association groups and regions.

94

95 State-Regional – Chair John Graves was not in attendance. Jim Matheson and Adam Ulbricht
96 providing insight on the recent state/ regional meeting held and the outcome of discussion on
97 concept to merge state and regional groups with the NBA. No action is recommended by the
98 committee at this time.

99

100 Winter Conference – Chair Beverly Brown was not in attendance. Jim Matheson reported first
101 meeting for the Winter Conference would be in June virtually.

102

103 **Growth Fund**

104 Consumer/Producer outreach plan (attachment G) briefly reviewed by Jim Matheson. New NBA
105 promotional and outreach items highlighted by Lydia Whitman. Video podcast concept being
106 explored. Eat Bison to Restore Bison ad campaign is completed with Google, but will be
107 continued using Facebook/ Instagram platforms. An additional junior judging class is
108 recommended to be added- allowing a junior and senior class for scholarship awards.

109

110 **Summer/ Fall Conference Update**

111 Lydia Whitman reviewed scheduled events for 2023. Jim reviewed tentative plans (Attachment
112 H) and provided updates on grants. NRCS GLCI grant was not awarded to NBA. SARE grant is in
113 year two of implementation, and will be successfully completed with events in Ohio, Minnesota
114 and Wisconsin. SDSU Climate Smart grant is just beginning, launching April 24, and will be a five
115 year grant. Implementation is still being strategized.

116

117 **Program Manager Report**

118 Lydia Whitman reported work products achieved covering legislative work, membership drive,
119 event planning, and support for members and committees (Attachment I).

120

121 **Communication Report**

122 Karen Conley reported Summer Bison World is nearing completion. Reported advertising interest
123 is high, and development of content for Fall and Winter editions is in progress.

124

125 **Legislative Report**

126 Jim Matheson reported that there will be 22 congressional virtual visits held next week.
127 Reported on Farm Bill priorities (Attachment J). Reported on progress for soliciting sponsorship
128 for the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act (Attachment K). Reported on rationale for abstaining from
129 FSIS COOL comments (Attachment L). Updates provided for ARS vaccine development, USDA
130 Indian Agriculture Summit in South Dakota where Chad Kremer will represent bison, and DOI
131 order. Note that the inclusion of NBA is being pursued and recommended by ITBC for DOI
132 initiative, and encouraged for the Tri-lateral meeting thanks to Glenn Plumb.

133

134 **Executive Director Report**

135 Jim highlighted report provided (Attachment M). Provided update on ITBC. Reported on
136 Continental Bison Working Group strategic planning, likely occurring in October. Reported on
137 upcoming meetings with ITBC, Tanka Fund, CMP and COE in June.

138

139 **Adjournment**

140 Motion to adjourn made at 4:04 p.m. MT by Ken Klemm. Seconded by Carie Starr. Motion carried
141 unanimously.

142

143 Respectfully Submitted,

144

145

146 _____
Joe Graham, Secretary

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149 _____
Lydia Whitman

150 Recording Secretary