

1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**
2 **OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
3 **OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION**
4 **January 18, 2021**
5 **Via Zoom Videoconference**
6

7 The special meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Bison Association was
8 convened at 5 p.m. MST, Monday, January 18, 2021 via on-line video conference pursuant to
9 the call of the Executive Committee and notification by the Executive Director.

10 Present were:

11 Donnis Baggett	Dick Gehring
12 Joe Graham	Robert Johnson
13 Kristopher Kelley	Chad Kremer
14 Jeremy Allemann	Mary Adams
15 Ken Klemm	Boyd Meyer
16 Kevin Leier	Mimi Hillenbrand

17 Absent was Campbell Burgess. Also present were Dave Carter, Jim Matheson, Karen
18 Conley, and Carie Starr. Dick Gehring presided, and Dave Carter served as recording secretary.
19 The minutes of the October meeting of the NBA Board of Directors included the following
20 discussion and action on the winter conference:

21 Dave Carter stressed that the NBA should take all reasonable steps to protect the health
22 and safety of the attendees, including distributing hand sanitizers and masks to all
23 attendees. Donnis Baggett recommended that the Board and leadership of the NBA set
24 an example and be required to wear a mask while in attendance. Mr. Matheson said he
25 will be negotiating the contract with the Ramkota and will make sure there is a Force
26 Majeure clause to protect the NBA in the event circumstances prohibit an in-person
27 meeting in February. Kristopher Kelley recommended that the NBA be prepared to
28 reassess the winter conference if there is determination that the association can incur
29 liability. Ken Klemm noted that it will be important to know if the DTBA leadership is
30 prepared to recommend similar steps to protect the health and safety of participants. Joe
31 Graham made a motion to move forward with the Winter Conference Committees
32 recommendation to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding to hold a
33 winter conference in Rapid City South Dakota on February 19-20, 2021, and that the
34 NBA and its leadership implement appropriate steps to protect the health and safety of
35 attendees. Said motion was seconded by Chad Kremer. Discussion was held. Mimi
36 Hillenbrand recommended the board wait until the Human Resources officials for
37 Turner Enterprises render an opinion on liability. Consensus was expressed to proceed

1 with a vote. The Chair called for a roll call vote, and the motion carried by a margin of 7
2 ayes, three nays, and one abstention
3

4 On January 14, 2021 the NBA received the following notice from the Dakota Territory
5 Buffalo Association regarding the action DTBA was taking regarding this issue:

6 The Winter Conference was discussed. The DTBA Board of Directors feels that masks
7 should not be mandatory. If people are concerned about Covid-19, then they should
8 exercise the option to view the conference virtually.
9

10 Donnis Baggett noted that virus infection rates are increasing nationwide and new variants of
11 the virus were a concern. He felt it was prudent for the board to consider its options:

- 12 1. Moving to a totally virtual conference.
- 13 14
- 15 2. Staying with an in-person conference with a virtual option as planned.
- 16
- 17 3. Staying with an in-person conference with a virtual option, along with a notice to
18 members that some attendees will not be wearing masks.
19

20 He called on Mr. Carter to review some data regarding COVID cases in South Dakota, and in
21 the Rapid City area specifically. Mr. Carter shared information from the South Dakota
22 Department of Health. Discussion was held. Consensus was expressed to move forward with
23 the third option — an in-person conference with a virtual option, as planned, with the NBA
24 providing members COVID information, informing them that masks will not be mandated, and
25 informing them there will be no financial penalty should in-person registrants want to change to
26 virtual attendance. Kristopher Kelley still objected to an in-person conference. There being no
27 additional information to come before the board, and upon motion made, seconded and carried,
28 the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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30 Respectfully Submitted,
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33 _____
34 Joe Graham, Secretary
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3 Dave Carter, Recording Secretary