



32 The chair directed the board's attention to the minutes of the Members' Meeting from  
33 January 23, 2015. A motion was made by Roy Liedtke to accept the minutes of the meeting. Said  
34 motion was seconded and carried.

35 Dave Carter reviewed the year-to-date financial report with the board. He reported that the  
36 NBA is tracking ahead of budget for the first two months of 2015. Gross income through  
37 February is \$238,445, compared to the budgeted level of \$228,852. This is \$9,592 ahead of  
38 budget. However, much of the \$10,831 in grant revenues received in February will be adjusted to  
39 our 2014 financial statement. Expenses for the first two months were \$161,215, compared to  
40 budgeted levels of \$171,327. That is \$10,111 below budget. And, much of the \$1,057 in grant  
41 expenses will be allocated to 2014. After accounting for our 5% reserve, and adjustments to the  
42 previous year, the NBA will be about \$6,280 ahead of budget year-to-date. Dick Gehring made a  
43 motion to approve the year-to-date financial report, as presented. The motion was seconded and  
44 carried.

45 Dave Carter reviewed the proposed nine-month budget with the board. The budget projects  
46 gross revenues of \$657,986 for 2015, compared to \$474,296 in actual revenue in 2014. Grant  
47 revenues of \$123,000 account for a significant portion of that increase. Gross expenses are  
48 projected at \$620,997, compared with actual expenses of \$502,864 in 2014. After the 5% reserve  
49 adjustment of \$32,899, the net income for the NBA is projected at \$4,089. Jason Moore made a  
50 motion to adopt the nine-month budget, subject to a final review by the NBA Finance  
51 Committee. Said motion was seconded by Peter Kohl. The motion was put to a vote, and carried.

52 Jim Matheson provided a report on the grants being administered by the National Bison  
53 Association. He reported that work is underway to develop bison benchmarks through the  
54 resources provided by the USDA Risk Management Agency. That grant has also allowed the  
55 NBA to make presentations at the Dakota Territories Buffalo Association, the Montana Bison  
56 Association, and the North Dakota Buffalo Association.

57 In regard to the two-year SARE grant, the NBA is working to develop an updated and  
58 expanded Bison Producers' handbook. Once the handbook is developed, the association will  
59 focus on dissemination of those materials.

60 Mr. Matheson reported that the USDA has just issued a Request for Proposals for the  
61 Farmers Market Promotion Program grant program. The NBA will be looking at submitting an  
62 application for one of those grants.

63 Jim Matheson provided a membership report. He reported that the membership count as  
64 of March 13, 2015 is 1,109 members. This represents an increase of 16 members since winter  
65 conference. He also reported that there has been very little resistance to the dues increase to date.

66 The chair called on Roy Liedtke and Jim Matheson for a report on summer conference.  
67 Mr. Matheson reported that the conference is scheduled June 1-3 in the Fort Worth Stockyards.  
68 The conference will feature a virtual ranch tour, as compared to a ranch day. The planning  
69 committee is looking at having a concert and dance during the conference. The Theme is Lone  
70 Star Legacy. Registration is open on the NBA website.

71 Mr. Matheson also provided the board with a report on the status of a proposed contract for  
72 a hotel for the next few winter conferences. He has been coordinating with Conference Direct to  
73 issue a request for proposals for our future conferences through 2018. The NBA received  
74 proposals from seven hotels. He recommended approval of the contract with The Renaissance  
75 Denver Hotel, which is offering a three year contract with room rates of \$129 without breakfast,  
76 or \$134 with breakfast. Dick Gehring made a motion to approve the contract with the  
77 Renaissance Hotel. The motion was seconded by Roy Liedtke, and carried.

78 Dave Carter provided a report on the International Bison Conference. He reported that  
79 the conference planning committee held its initial meeting in February. The committee would  
80 like to establish a separate non-profit corporation to handle the income and expenses for IBC.  
81 Mr. Carter will work with an attorney to organize that corporation. The committee is also  
82 planning to explore working with a Montana gun manufacturer to produce a limited edition  
83 Sharps rifle to be sold and auctioned as a fundraiser for IBA. Mr. Carter said that he had  
84 indicated that the National Bison Association would provide a seed loan to the IBC Corporation.

85 Dave Hunter provided a report on the Bison Herd Health Symposium scheduled for  
86 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in late June. He reported that the symposium will provide some of the  
87 latest in herd health information from veterinarians, researchers and other bison health officials.  
88 Mr. Carter suggested that some of the information from the symposium could be included in the  
89 new Bison Producers' handbook.

90 The Chair called for reports from the committees. Jim Matheson provided a report for  
91 Jud Seaman, chair of the state/regional committee. He reported that the state/regional committee  
92 is planning a meeting in late April.

93 Bob Stirling provided a report on the Commercial Marketers' Committee. Bob reported  
94 that the commercial marketers met in conjunction with the winter conference. Bob said that he  
95 will be working with the committee to establish some long term goals. He will be requesting  
96 guidance from the board. He is going to be working with the staff to more heavily promote the  
97 NBA check-off program.

98 Peter Cook provided an update on the Conservation Committee on behalf of Donald  
99 Beard. He said the committee has adopted the following mission statement:

100 *The mission of the National Bison Association Conservation Committee is to*  
101 *provide support and information to Association members for the continuation of the*  
102 *historical re-establishment of Bison in North America by promoting both economically*  
103 *and ecologically sustainable, science-based conservation practices and to invite*  
104 *collaboration among organizations interested in the conservation of the bison species.*

105 Karen Conley provided a report on the NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale Committee.  
106 She said the committee met to debrief after the January GTSS. The committee is proposing to  
107 start the 2016 auction at 10:30 a.m. with the carcass class, and then move into the live sale by 11  
108 a.m. the committee is also looking at some continuing changes with the catalog. The committee  
109 is recommending reinstating minimum weights as a recommendation.

110 The chair called on Dave Carter to provide a report on legislative and regulatory issues.  
111 Mr. Carter reported that there has not been any significant progress on the Transatlantic Trade  
112 and Investment Partnership negotiations since December. He is working with the USDA Foreign  
113 Agriculture Service to get a technical process started to petition South Korea to reopen its market  
114 to bison, and to work with APHIS and FSIS to start pulling together the necessary information.

115 Following a meeting with APHIS officials in December, and because of support from  
116 the Canadian government, USDA APHIS is working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
117 to develop a procedure to eliminate the requirement that Canadian bison be branded before being  
118 imported to the United States. The new procedure would only require the use of RFID tags.

119 Mr. Carter reported that there have been no developments in the status of the petition  
120 filed last November by the Western Watershed Alliance and the Buffalo Field Campaign to have  
121 Yellowstone bison declared endangered. He is staying in contact with U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
122 officials to remain apprised on that issue.

123 He informed the board that discussions are continuing with officials at U.S. Fish &  
124 Wildlife Service, and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to implement the Bison Legacy Act  
125 through an Executive Order. The approach being developed for this includes establishing a  
126 Presidential Task Force on Bison to be chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. The task force,  
127 based on the current Interagency Working Group at the Department of the Interior, shall develop  
128 and implement a national bison strategy.

129 The chair called on directors for reports from their region.

130 Paul Kolesar provided a report of the International Director. He reported that the  
131 Canadian Bison Association has been working on the branding and tattoo requirement. He said  
132 that some states may still require branding, and that the CBA would like to work with the NBA  
133 to address that issue. The CBA is monitoring the COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of  
134 Endangered Wildlife in Canada) to push for keeping bison from being considered for threatened  
135 status under that process.

136 Dave Hunter provided an update from the Region I. He said that he has been working  
137 with Aaron Paulson on the International Bison Conference. He also reported that he will be  
138 communicating with the Western Bison Association to address concerns over mycoplasma bovis.

139 Ray Thieman reported from District II. He reported that the Denver Mountain Parks sale  
140 had strong prices. The Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association is planning its spring meeting on  
141 April 24-25. He noted that there is increasing interest in absentee ownership, and that he is  
142 looking at potential methods for helping to establish grazing cooperatives.

143 Karen Conley provided a report from Region III. She reported that the Dakota Territory  
144 Buffalo Association had a very successful conference and show and sale in February. DTBA will  
145 be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. She said that she is working to assist the North  
146 Dakota Buffalo Association on some reorganizational issues.

147 Tom Barthel provided a report from Region V. He reported that he presented  
148 information on the NBA activities at the Wisconsin Bison Association conference held in

149 February. The Minnesota Buffalo Association spring conference is scheduled April 17-19 at  
150 Northstar Bison in Rice Lake.

151 Peter Kohl provided the report from Region VI. He reported that the Missouri Bison  
152 Association has a sale scheduled this weekend. There are 257 animals consigned to date. The  
153 Missouri Association is planning its summer conference for June 4-6.

154 Troy Bivens did not have anything to report from region VII.

155 Peter Rooney provided the report for Region VIII. He reported that the Eastern Bison  
156 Association just finished its meeting this past weekend. Attendance was good. There was good  
157 participation from new and young members.

158 Dave Carter provided a report of the Executive Director. He reported that he has been  
159 working with officials with the Global Animal Partnership humane certification program as those  
160 officials develop standards for bison. He said that the NBA is working to make sure that those  
161 officials understand bison. He also reported that he, Mr. Matheson and President Anderson have  
162 been working to attend all of the state/regional conferences.

163 The next board meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with the NBA summer  
164 conference in Fort Worth Texas in early June.

165 There being no additional business to come before the board, and upon motion made,  
166 seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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168 Respectfully submitted,

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171 Jason Moore, Secretary

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175 David E. Carter, Recording Secretary