

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION**

**November 11, 2014
Via Telephone Conference Call**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Bison Association was convened at 5:10 p.m., Tuesday, November 11, 2014 via telephone conference call pursuant to previous action by the board and the requirements of the bylaws.

Present were:

Peter Cook	Bruce Anderson
Marvin Moore	Dick Gehring
Roy Liedtke	Russ Miller
Karen Conley	Jason Moore
Amil Kleinert	Peter Kohl
Lee Graese	Ray Thieman
Peter Rooney	

Absent was Troy Bivens. Also attending were Dave Carter, Jim Matheson, and Jud Seaman. Peter Cook presided and Dave Carter served as recording secretary.

The Chair called upon Bruce Anderson for a report of the President. Mr. Anderson reported that the recently completed state/regional leadership conference in Kansas City reflected the growth in teamwork between associations at all levels. He reported that one of the items discussed at the meeting was a potential voluntary contribution per member from state/regional associations to be dedicated to support NBA activities that meet the goals of the NBA and state/regional associations.

The chair called for the approval of the minutes of the August 28, 2014, which minutes were previously distributed to the board. A motion was made by Peter Kohl to approve the minutes as distributed. Said motion was seconded and carried.

The Chair called upon Jason Moore and Roy Liedtke to present the year-to-date financial report. Mr. Liedtke reported that the association is operating behind budget for the first seven months of the year. The year-to-date income of \$381,050 is \$22,737 below budgeted gross revenue for the first nine months. Likewise, gross expenses of \$411,648 are \$31,545 above

budget. After adjustments, net income of (\$41,722) is \$44,949 below budget. Summer conference expenses were significantly higher than budgeted, and some Gold Trophy Show and Sale expenses were not entered into the books at the time that the nine-month budget was adopted. On the positive note, membership revenue of \$100,436 is \$5,407 above budget. Almost all of that increase is in our active and multi-year memberships. The year-to-date financial report does not include any activities from the SARE or USDA Risk Management Agency grants, as those projects did not start until October 1, and any income will be received on a reimbursable basis. The immediate help provided through the grants will be an offset on some personnel costs. Russ Miller suggested that the association should consider increasing the registration for Winter Conference. Jim Matheson noted that the winter conference registration form has already been published. Discussion was held regarding expenses, and revenue sources. Consensus was expressed to consider a dues increase. Dave Carter recommended that he conduct an analysis of the cost/benefit of a dues increase, with the decision to be presented to the membership at the Winter Conference. Mr. Miller also questioned whether the 5% designated reserve policy implemented in during the period of extreme budget strain should be continued.

Russ Miller moved to approve the financial report. Said motion was seconded and carried.

As per previous action by the board, the Finance Committee has developed a proposed change in the investment policies for the National Bison Association. Roy Liedtke reviewed the proposed changes with the board. He said the proposed investment policy is intended to provide additional flexibility for the association, while still maintaining a conservative approach. He noted that the proposed investment policy is patterned after the policy already used by the National Buffalo Foundation. The major addition to the policy is the language:

It is the policy of the National Bison Association that excess cash may be invested as outlined in Attachment A – Investment Guidelines. Excess cash is defined as no more than 50% of the residual Current Assets in Checking & Savings (this does not include Accounts Receivable or Other Current Assets such as Inventory); additionally Current Assets in Checking & Savings shall not be less than \$125,000 or 25% of the prior year's Total Annual Expense, whichever is greater.

The decision to invest excess cash in approved investments must be made by the Executive Committee with the recommendation of the Executive Director and Finance Committee. A completed Investment Authorization Form will be retained with the investment documents.

A motion was made by Jason Moore to approve the proposed investment policy, as amended. Said motion was seconded and carried.

Jim Matheson reported on the status of the grants awarded to the National Bison Association. He reported that he has been working to establish the work plan in the two grants. He mentioned that the two grants may support an updated *Bison Producers' Handbook*.

Mr. Matheson reported that there are now 1,073 members in the National Bison Association. This is an increase over the August membership count of 1,044. He also reported that the association will be working to expand the student group membership program.

Mr. Carter provided an update on the NBA Strategic Plan adopted earlier in 2014. Since August, the NBA has been focusing on the plan elements that concern our social media, and the chef/blogger outreach. He reported that the staff has conducted a session with Marilyn Wentz and Anita Shaver regarding the analysis for a consumer focus newsletter vs. emphasis on on-line resources. The association is also placing more emphasis on our on-line and social media resources to connect with consumers.

Mr. Carter reported that the September Washington, D.C. Policy Roundup was very successful in terms of cultivating and strengthening our relationships with key policymakers. Among the issues addressed during the event were:

- Developing a stronger relationship with 4-H;
- Maintaining funding for MCF research;
- Separating bison and beefalo in USDA's disaster assistance price calculations;
- Keeping bison on the agenda for the TTIP (U.S. /EU) negotiations, and the TTP (Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations);
- Establishing specific Customs Codes for bison;
- Strengthening private producer input into the Department of Interior's Bison Recovery process; and
- Eliminating branding requirements for bison imported into the United States from Canada.

Mr. Carter reported that the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has sent the bison questionnaire to every producer who listed bison when responding to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. NASS is now working to follow up with producers who did not respond to the first round.

Mr. Carter reported that subsequent to his appointment to the USDA Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, he has become more deeply involved with the negotiators involved in the ongoing trade negotiations with the European Union (TTIP) and with the countries of the Pacific Rim (TPP). Mr. Carter reported that he provided a presentation on bison during the stakeholders' forum in Washington, D.C. for the negotiators involved in the TTIP negotiations. One of the commercial marketers underwrote his travel expenses for that trip. He also participated in a formal briefing for the ATAC on the status of the TPP negotiations.

Mr. Carter reported that he is working to push the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to utilize an alternative to branding as an identification practice required on bison brought into the United States from Canada.

He reported that the Bison Legacy Act remains stalled because of the House Government Oversight Committee's rules prohibiting commemorative legislation. However, discussions are underway with appropriate officials in the Executive Branch to implement this through an Executive Order. The approach being developed for this include establishing a Presidential Task Force on Bison to be chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. Discussion was held regarding the political implications around designating bison as the National Mammal as an Executive Order.

Jim Matheson reported that the Winter Conference agenda is nearly finalized. Roughly 20 people have already registered. The theme for the 2015 conference is: *20/20 Vision to the Future*. The keynote speaker scheduled this year is Dr. Dennis Swanberg. The Texas Bison Association is working with the NBA to develop some items that promote the 2015 Summer Conference.

Roy Liedtke provided an update on the 2015 Summer Conference. It is scheduled for June 1-3, 2015 at the historic Stockyards in Fort Worth. Mr. Matheson reported that the Hyatt Place will be the host hotel for the conference. The NBA is working at the Stockyards Inn for an overflow hotel. All of the conference activities will be held at the Stockyards Station.

Mr. Carter reported that The University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have signed a collaborative research agreement approving work on developing the alternative tuberculosis test validation project. Dr. Murray Woodbury, who has been heading up that project, has also been working to organize an International Bison Health Symposium in Saskatoon next June 24-26. Dr. Woodbury is seeking financial support for the

conference, and has approached the National Buffalo Foundation and the National Bison Association. Mr. Carter said that he would work with the National Buffalo Foundation to develop a combined sponsorship proposal. The NBA portion of the sponsorship will be presented for board approval at the January Board meeting.

Mr. Carter reported that the NBA is beginning preliminary work on the 2017 International Bison Conference in Bozeman.

He noted that the Board of Directors is authorized to nominate a slate of candidates for the positions of officers and Director at Large. Bruce Anderson recommended a slate of the current officers, along with Dick Gehring as director at large. Marvin Moore noted that his term as International Director is expiring. He suggested that it is important to have a member of the Canadian Bison Association board of directors as an International Director. Bruce Anderson noted that this item will be discussed by the NBA Executive Committee.

The Chairman called for a report of the committees. Jud Seaman provided a report of the state/regional committee. Discussion was held on the state/regional leadership meeting. Mr. Seaman reported that the recommendation has come forward to have the meeting every other year.

In the absence of Gerald Parsons, Dick Gehring provided a report of the North American Bison Registry. He directed the board's attention to the draft language in No. 7 under the requirements to participate in the NABR. The proposed language reads:

Requirements to participate in the NABR Bylaws.

7 Any DNA tested bison going into the individual or DNA Certified registries may be registered in the NABR if there is no mitochondrial introgression and not more than three (3) current cattle alleles present in the nucleus.

This requirement does not apply to the Conservation Herd Registry. It is a goal for all Conservation Herd Registry animals to eventually be registered individually at which time the Individual registry rules would apply. Once DNA results on individuals in the Conservation Herd Registry have been determined, their progeny's introgression level must be maintained at the same level or lower to continue to participate in the Conservation Herd Registry.

Russ Miller asked how the NABR will work with the Conservation Committee to coordinate the conservation registry's activities with the NABR Conservation Registry. Peter Cook said that the Conservation committee is currently trying to define its role. Discussion was held regarding the herd registry and the individual registry. A motion was made by Roy Liedtke to approve the proposed wording, as presented. Said motion was put to a vote, and carried.

Karen Conley reported that the GTSS committee met in late October. The changes being made for 2015 include:

- Drop pen of five heifer calves and pen of three bull calves;
- Will offer some discounts for early registration;
- People who bring seven or more animals will get a free conference registration;
- Working to revise the GTSS catalog to include more information for buyers; and
- Will work to get the Buffaleros sponsored.

She reported that there is some discussion about whether or not to continue the Ranch Ready pen of heifers. She also reported that the committee will be working to promote the GTSS.

Mr. Carter reported that the Commercial Marketers Committee met in September to discuss the items that will be included in the twice-yearly survey, which will be conducted later this month. He said that the association has been very active in utilizing the resources provided by the NBA checkoff.

Peter Cook called upon the directors for Regional Reports:

Russ Miller reported on the issues surrounding bison in Montana. He reported that the brucellosis quarantine project has been successful. State ended up with 135 Yellowstone bison. Those animals are now being shipped to Fort Peck Indian Reservation. The bison were scheduled to go to multiple recipients, but there was the threat of an injunction to block shipment of the animals out of Montana.

Ray Thieman reported on District II. The Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association is starting to plan its spring conference.

Karen Conley reported on District III. North Dakota has revamped their website, and is in the process of reorganizing the organizational structure. DTBA is planning for its 19th anniversary sale and meeting in February.

Dick Gehring reported on Region IV. He reported that the Texas Bison Association had a good turnout for its junior judging event. The Oklahoma Bison Association has cancelled its sale. The Kansas Buffalo Association is planning its December auction in early December.

Lee Graese reported on District V. He reported that the Minnesota Buffalo Association's Legends of the Fall and educational workshop is coming up later this month.

Peter Kohl reported on Region VI. He reported that the Missouri Bison Association sale is scheduled for December 11th. He is working with the bison produces in Michigan to work through their organizational issues.

Amil Klienert reported that the FFA convention was extremely busy.

The next board meeting will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, 2015 in Denver, CO. The new board will meet upon adjournment of the winter conference on Friday, January 23rd.

There being no additional business to come before the board, and upon motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Moore, Secretary-Treasurer

David E. Carter, Recording Secretary