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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION
November 19, 2015
Via Telephone Conference Call**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Bison Association was convened at 5:00 p.m. MST, Thursday, November 19, 2015 via telephone conference call, pursuant to previous action by the board and the requirements of the bylaws.

Present were:

Bruce Anderson	Peter Cook (Joined at 5:20 p.m.)
Roy Liedtke (Joined at 5:15 p.m.)	Keith Yearout
Peter Kohl	Dick Gehring
Ray Thieman	Tom Barthel
Karen Conley	Dave Hunter
Jason Moore	

Absent were Paul Kolesar, Troy Bivens and Peter Rooney. Also attending were Dave Carter and Jim Matheson. Bruce Anderson presided and Dave Carter served as recording secretary.

Pending the arrival of Peter Cook, Bruce Anderson assumed the Chair. He provided a report from the president. He reported that the GTSS Committee has been doing a lot of work that will enhance the 2016 Show and Sale. He complimented the Winter Conference Committee for the work in developing the Winter Conference agenda. The Executive Committee has developed a proposed slate of officers. That slate will be presented later in the meeting.

The Chair directed the board's attention to the Minutes of the Meeting of September 28, 2015, which were distributed as Attachment A with the board packet. A motion was made by Peter Kohl to approve the minutes as presented. Said motion was seconded and carried.

The chair called for a financial report. Dave Carter reported that the Finance Committee met October 20th to review the Year-to-Date financial performance. Following the audit, the new accountant, Teresa Amos, is working with Barb Dowdy to adjust some of the accounting procedures, so the October financials are not yet finalized. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet November 24th to review those financials.

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Mr. Carter reviewed the Year-to-Date Financials through September. The association is continuing to record a strong financial performance through the first nine months of 2015. YTD gross revenues of \$523,393 are \$41,793 below budgeted levels. The lag in grant-funded reimbursements are the primary factor in that negative deviation. Membership revenue, conversely, is tracking significantly above budget. On the expense side, YTD gross expenditures of \$509,230 were \$74,945 below budget. Again, the timing of grant funded activities are the primary factor. After adjustments, the net income of \$17,921 is \$33,109 ahead of budget. A motion was made by Dick Gehring to approve the financial report, as presented. Said motion was seconded by Jason Moore and carried.

Mr. Carter reported that the accountant has recommended that the association handle annual membership revenues as cash income, rather than as an accrual. He had approved that change. As a result, approximately \$85,000 in additional membership revenue will be recorded as income in 2015. Roy Liedtke joined the meeting, and stressed that this change will need to be explained at the January membership meeting.

Mr. Carte reported that he has been waiting for the accountant to finish revising the financial reporting format before formally beginning budget development for 2016. However, the staff has been discussing potential budget items for next year.

Jim Matheson provided a report on the NBA grant activities. He reported that the NBA has spent \$45,000 of the \$60,000 Risk Management Agency grant. The RMA grant underwrote a major portion of the 2nd edition of the *Bison Producer's Handbook*. The book is now at the printer, and we are wrapping up some of the details, such as the glossary and index. The book will be ready for distribution at the Winter Conference. The NBA intern is working with Jim to develop an on-line curriculum, and in organizing a number of workshops primarily aimed at educating extension agents and ag educators.

Peter Cook joined the meeting and assumed the Chair. He called on Jim Matheson for a membership report. The current membership in the NBA is 1,038, compared to 1,045 on September 25th. The membership dues increase has had negligible impact on our membership levels. He reported that the NBA wrapped up another successful FFA convention, and have a list of FFA advisors and students who are prospects for our student group membership program. The top priority list is the advisors who participated in our Teachers' Workshop. Twenty five of those

1 advisors provided contact information, and said they were interested in connecting with a nearby
2 bison operation.

3 Bruce Anderson reported that the Executive Committee met November 18th, and has
4 recommended the following slate of offices for 2016:

5 Roy Liedtke, President;
6 Dick Gehring, Vice President;
7 Karen Conley, Secretary-Treasurer; and
8 Jason Moore, Director at Large.

9 A motion was made by Jason Moore to recommend the slate of officers as recommended
10 by the Executive Committee. Said motion was seconded by Keith Yearout, and carried.

11 Tom Barthel reported that, pursuant to previous action from the Board, the Past
12 Presidents' Committee is developing recommended changes in the association's bylaws. The past
13 presidents' are now submitting their comments, and a second draft document is scheduled to be
14 ready for review by the end of November.

15 Jim Matheson provided a report on the Winter Conference. The Winter Conference
16 planning committee has been actively planning the events for January's meeting. The draft agenda
17 is included as Attachment E. The extended time for the 2016 conference allows for additional
18 speakers and workshops. The board meeting will be scheduled for January 19th. Mr. Matheson
19 reviewed the agenda with the board.

20 Dick Gehring discussed the contribution that the Turner organization has made to the
21 bison industry, particularly in addressing Mycoplasma bovis. He made a motion to honor Ted
22 Turner with a special award at the NBA Winter Conference. Said motion was seconded by Peter
23 Kohl. Discussion was held. The motion was put to a vote, and carried.

24 Mr. Carter noted that the sponsorship categories are included with the Board packets. He
25 encouraged board members to promote sponsorship for the Winter Conference.

26 Mr. Matheson reported that the Minnesota Buffalo Association has already been
27 developing preliminary plans to host the 2016 Summer Conference in Elk River. The conference
28 is scheduled for June 20-22, 2016. The Holiday Inn in Elk River will serve as the official
29 conference headquarters. The Ranch Day will be at Snake River Ranch, near Elk River. Northstar
30 Bison Co. has agreed to conduct a carcass breakdown comparing bison to beef.

1 The International Bison Conference planning committee met by teleconference on November
2 18th to plan that event. Andrew Bardwell has initiated the order for 15 commemorative Sharps
3 Rifles. Thirteen of the rifles will be sold for \$5,000. One will be auctioned during the IBC, and the
4 other will be part of the IBC raffle. Karen Conley has developed the raffle tickets, which will be
5 sold beginning this weekend. Jim Matheson reported that he traveled to Big Sky in October and
6 has developed the conference contract with the resort. The rooming block includes 250 rooms,
7 with double occupancy beginning at \$119/night. Camping will be available. Big Sky is charging
8 \$750.00 for the meeting space. A motion was made by Dick Gehring to approve the conference
9 contract as presented. Said motion was seconded by Roy Liedtke, and carried.

10 The board moved into committee reports.

11 Keith Yearout provided a report of the Membership Committee. He reported that Jim
12 Matheson has been compiling statistics on the NBA membership records. He noted that the
13 average membership retention is two years. He said the committee will be looking at some
14 alternatives for increasing retention. Jim Matheson said that the NBA does not have dedicated
15 membership software. He recommended that the association look into potential membership
16 tracking software programs. Mr. Yearout reported that he is working to encourage more follow-up
17 from board members with delinquent members.

18 Karen Conley provide a report on the Gold Trophy Show and Sale Committee. She reported
19 that the entry form is now posted on-line. The committee has made some changes in the
20 categories. Belt buckles will be offered in addition to trophies this year. She is starting to work on
21 the catalogs. The consignor meeting is set for Friday morning, January 22nd. She reported that the
22 committee is working on ways to guarantee funds, particularly from new buyers. The committee is
23 recommending that new buyers provide a credit card guarantee on new purchases. Discussion was
24 held. No action was taken.

25 Bruce Anderson reported that he has been communicating with Donald Beard regarding the
26 finalization of the Conservation Committee's definition of a conservation herd. President
27 Anderson has been encouraging the committee to finalize its definition of a conservation herd.

28 Gerald Parsons was not on the call, so Jim Matheson reported that the NABR Conservation
29 Herd Registry signs are being ordered. Mr. Matheson reported that there is some concern that the
30 conservation herd registry definition will conflict with the conservation herd definition being
31 developed by the Conservation Committee. Bruce Anderson noted that the NABR has already

1 developed its definition to be used for the conservation Registry. Dick Gehring said that there is
2 some discussion ongoing regarding on how the Conservation Committee definition melds with the
3 Conservation Registry.

4 Dave Carter reported on the Commercial Marketers' Committee. He reported that the twice
5 annual survey is now on-line. He encouraged all marketers to complete that survey.

6 The chair called on Dave Carter for a legislative report.

7 Mr. Carter reported that U.S. Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY) successfully carried the
8 resolution to designate November 7th as National Bison Day. Several activities were conducted
9 across the country to recognize the event.

10 Mr. Carter reported that he and Colin Sheldon of the Wildlife Conservation Society had
11 met with the staff of U.S. Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.), the prime sponsor of the Bison Legacy Act,
12 in late October. Senator Hoeven subsequently obtained permission from the Senate Judiciary
13 Committee to hotline the proposal. That means that the bill will likely go through the Judiciary
14 Committee without a formal hearing.

15 Mr. Carter reported that The Trans-Pacific Partnership Proposal negotiations were
16 completed in early October, and the text of the complex trade agreement has now been made
17 public. Additionally the USDA and USTR conducted a meeting for their Agricultural Trade
18 Advisory Committees and the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.
19 Bison is included with beef in the language that will eliminate tariffs on 75 percent of the bovine
20 products exported to Japan over the next 16 years.

21 Mr. Carter reported that since September, the National Bison Association has been
22 working with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service to resolve adipose which is preventing bison
23 from being shipped into some European ports under the Hilton Quota. In September, a customs
24 official in Germany began to interpret bison under the EU regulations regarding "buffalo," which
25 can only be shipped into the EU outside of the Hilton Quota. Mr. Carter has been working with the
26 USDA Foreign Agricultural Service to pressure the European Commission to resolve this issue.
27 The EC released a new memorandum on November 19th that should resolve the dispute.

28 Mr. Carter reported that the NBA continues to push for Senate support for the Federal
29 Water Quality Protection Act being sponsored by U.S. Sen John Barrasso (R-WY). That
30 legislation would roll back the latest regulatory amendments to the Clean Water Act imposed by
31 the Environmental Protection Agency in June. Passage of that bill failed to gather the necessary

1 votes to move forward. Meanwhile, The U.S. Sixth Court of Appeals has issued a temporary stay
2 of the EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule. And, the American Farm Bureau, along with a coalition of
3 other agricultural organizations, has filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court asserting that the
4 EPA has overstepped its regulatory authority with the new rules.

5 The Chair called on directors for Regional Reports.

6 Dave Hunter provide a report from region I. He reported that he has been communicating
7 with Alan Douglas regarding activities with the Western Bison Association.

8 Ray Thieman reported that everything has been fairly quiet in Region II. The Rocky
9 Mountain Buffalo Association is starting to plan its spring conference.

10 Karen Conley reported on Region III. The North Dakota Association is planning its
11 meeting and sale in Napoleon, ND in January. The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is
12 planning some major activities in celebration of its 25th anniversary. She noted that the Custer
13 Park Sale and the 777 Ranch sale are scheduled for the coming weekend.

14 Keith Yearout provided a report on Region IV. The Kansas Buffalo Association is
15 preparing for its sale in early December.

16 Tom Barthel provided a report on Region V. the Minnesota Buffalo Association is
17 planning its Legends of the Fall sale and meeting for 27.

18 Peter Kohl provide a report from Region VI. The Missouri Association sale is set for
19 December 10th.

20 Dave Carte provided a report from the Executive Director. He noted that the board has
21 been provided a written copy of his report.

22 Roy Liedtke noted that the board of directors in September approved the development of a
23 USDA Process Verified Program for Humanely Raised Bison. Mr. Carter said that he has not yet
24 started to work on developing that program.

25 Chairman Cook noted that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be January 19,
26 2016 in Denver.

27 There being no other business to come before the board, and upon motion, made, seconded
28 and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.