

1                           **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
2                           **OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
3                           **OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION**  
4                           **March 17, 2016**  
5                           **Conducted via Telephone Conference Call**  
6

7         The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Bison  
8     Association was convened at 5:00 MDT, Thursday, March 17, 2016, via telephone conference  
9     call, pursuant to previous action by the board and notification by the Executive Director

10       Present were:

11                           Bruce Anderson	Roy Liedtke
12                           Jason Moore	Dick Gehring
13                           Paul Kolesar	Alan Douglass
14                           Ray Thieman	Tom Barthel
15                           Karen Conley	Dave Hunter
16                           Brian Grubb	Sherry DiSimone

17       Absent were Keith Yearout and Gerald Parsons. Also attending were Dave Carter and Jim  
18     Matheson. Bruce Anderson presided and Dave Carter served as Recording Secretary.

19       Roy Liedtke provided a report of the president. He noted that the year is starting out well  
20     for the NBA. The Winter Conference was profitable. The Summer Conference is shaping up to  
21     be a success. Mr. Liedtke has been working on updating the association's standing committees.  
22     He thanked the members who are stepping up to chair a committee, or to serve on a committee.  
23     He said he was pleased on the progress of the Bison Legacy Act.

24       The chair directed the board's attention to the minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2016.  
25     Those minutes were mistakenly not included in the board packet, but were distributed prior to the  
26     meeting. There were no changes noted. Roy Liedtke made a motion to approve the minutes, as  
27     distributed. The motion was seconded and carried.

28       The chair called the board's attention to the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2016,  
29     which minutes were previously distributed to the board. A motion was made by Karen Conley to  
30     approve the minutes, as distributed. Said motion was seconded and carried.

31       The chair directed the board's attention to the minutes of the General Membership meeting  
32     of January 22, 2016, which minutes were previously distributed to the board. A motion was

Attachment A

1 made by Dick Gehring to accept the minutes of the membership meeting, as distributed. Said  
2 motion was seconded and carried.

3       The Chair called for a financial report. Mr. Carter explained the budget process to the  
4 new board members. The Finance Committee met March 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the January financial  
5 performance. The February financials are largely finalized, but have not yet been reviewed by  
6 the Finance Committee.

7       In January, gross revenue of \$257,763 was \$10,185 above budget. Expenses of \$184,982  
8 were \$81 above budgeted levels. After accounting for reserves and other adjustments, net results  
9 of \$55,548 were \$3,084 above budget. However, there are still some January items that will be  
10 captured in the February financial statement. A motion was made by Dick Gehring to approve  
11 the January Financial Report as presented. Said motion was seconded and carried.

12       Mr. Carter noted that the management letter accompanying the 2014 external audit had  
13 recommended that Mr. Carter participate in an inventory of the association materials maintained  
14 at the Matheson residence as part of the shipping program. Mr. Carter reported that he and Mr.  
15 Matheson conducted the inventory.

16       Mr. Carter reported that he was waiting until the February financial statements were  
17 finalized before beginning to develop the proposed 9-month budget. He said the draft would be  
18 reviewed by the Finance Committee, and that there may be need for a special board meeting in  
19 April for final approval.

20       Jim Matheson provided a report on the SARE Grant. We are now in the 7<sup>th</sup> quarter of the  
21 project and the outreach materials proposed in the project application are complete. He is  
22 working to implement the outreach portion of the project. Seven workshops are planned this year  
23 and will feature the new handbook and other materials that have been developed in 2015. The  
24 workshops target extension agents, students, ranchers, herd health professionals and others.

25       Mr. Matheson reported that the Request for Proposals has been issued for the USDA  
26 Farmers' Market Promotion Program Grant. He and Mr. Carter will be developing a grant  
27 application for that program.

28       Paul Kolesar noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> edition *Bison Producers' Handbook* was funded in part by  
29 funding from the Canadian government, and that the handbook reflected the joint funding. He  
30 encouraged the NBA to ask the Canadian Bison Association to seek similar funding for future  
31 collaborative projects. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

Attachment A

1        Jim Matheson provided a membership report. The membership report provided to the  
2 board in the packet showed 1,037 members, compared to 1,041 on January 14<sup>th</sup>. However, four  
3 new members have joined since the report was distributed with the board packets. The NBA is  
4 experiencing a slight loss in active members (24 since January) and an offsetting increase in  
5 three-year members (10 since January).

6        The Chair directed the board's attention to the proposed bylaws changes that were  
7 presented to the membership in January. The proposed changes included with the board packet  
8 were reviewed by the full board in January, and with the members during the January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9 membership meeting. Tom Barthel noted that the version circulated to the board was a redline  
10 version that included all of the edits. He recommended that the board receive a clean copy before  
11 conducting a final vote. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Dick Gehring to delay the  
12 final vote on the bylaws until the June board meeting. Said motion was seconded and carried.

13       Mr. Barthel provided a report on the NBA summer conference, set for June 20-22 in Elk  
14 River, MN. The agenda is set, and registration is now open. The Holiday Inn in Elk River will  
15 serve as the official conference headquarters. Discussion was held. The budget for summer  
16 conference will roughly equal the budget for the 2015 summer conference in Fort Worth.

17       Mr. Carter provided a report on the International Bison Conference. The IBC Committee  
18 met February 29<sup>th</sup> to continue planning for the 2017 event. The NBA has signed the contract at  
19 Big Sky, so the logistics are falling into place. Mr. Carter said that he has also developed the  
20 preliminary "laundry list" of potential speakers and topics for the three-day event. And, the NBA  
21 and CBA issued a Call for Papers in January to solicit any new research information that can be  
22 presented at the conference.

23       He also reported that the Shiloh Sharps 1874 Sporter No. 3 rifles are in production. Turner  
24 Enterprises, Inc. has donated two bulls from their Yellowstone herd. Discussion is underway  
25 about some type of starter herd, or perhaps a horse. And, the committee is visiting with  
26 dealerships and manufacturers about an ATV or side-by-side utility vehicle. We have also  
27 finalized our sponsorship packages, and have distributed the attached presentation to some  
28 outside corporate sponsors.

29       Discussion moved to the strategic planning session. Mr. Carter said that the current  
30 Strategic Plan covers the period until 2017. He said that he and President Liedtke have been  
31 discussing the value of holding a strategic planning session this fall. One idea is to conduct the

Attachment A

1 session in conjunction with the State/Regional meeting in Kansas City in October. The  
2 State/Regional Committee voted in January to hold a planning session the second weekend in  
3 October. Discussion was held. Consensus was held to look at holding the strategic planning  
4 session in March/April 2017. Roy Liedtke made a motion to hold a strategic planning session in  
5 March 2017, with the dates to be finalized at the June board meeting. Said motion was seconded  
6 and carried.

7 Jim Matheson reported that he has issued a Request for Proposals for the redesign of the  
8 NBA website. Four responses have been received and reviewed by the staff. Mr. Matheson has  
9 distributed that analysis to the board. He reported that he and Mr. Carter were recommending the  
10 proposal by Direct Design. Tom Barthel moved to approve the proposal submitted by Direct  
11 Design. Said motion was seconded and carried.

12 The Chair called on Karen Conley for a report from the Gold Trophy Show and Sale  
13 Committee. The committee met following the January show and sale to review the event. The  
14 committee is starting to look at changes for the 2017 show and sale.

15 Jim Matheson reported that he has been working on the membership committee with  
16 committee chair Keith Yearout. The committee is working to reach out to lapsed members. They  
17 are also working on a survey to distribute to lapsed members.

18 The chair asked Mr. Carter to provide a report on legislative and regulatory issues.

19 Mr. Carter reported that the National Bison Legacy Act is nearing final passage in the  
20 U.S. House of Representatives. The procedural roadblocks that had prevented committee  
21 consideration of the bill have been cleared away. The mark-up hearing was held on March 1, and  
22 the bill unanimously passed the committee after Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) inserted one  
23 amendment. Attachment J contains the committee-approved version of the bill. The bill sponsors  
24 are now working with House leadership to get the bill scheduled for unanimous consent under a  
25 suspension of the rules. It is likely that the bill will pass and that the President will sign it  
26 sometime in April or May. The NBA is working with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the  
27 Inter Tribal Buffalo Council to coordinate a signing ceremony and celebration. Mr. Carter has  
28 contacted Mike Fogel in Minnesota about bringing Cody the Buffalo to Washington, D.C. for the  
29 ceremony. The cost will be \$3,000, so Mr. Carter is soliciting a private contribution to cover that  
30 expense.

Attachment A

1       Mr. Carter reported on the status of the Waters of the United States. He reported that this  
2 issue is going to be largely determined in the courts. He reported that in February, a three-judge  
3 panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati ruled that it has jurisdiction  
4 over the lawsuits challenging the WOTUS rule. The decision, which is certain to be appealed and  
5 likely will reach the U.S. Supreme Court, involves only the question of which court has authority  
6 to review the WOTUS rule; it is not a determination over the legality of the rule itself.

7       Mr. Carter reported that the Senate has been considering legislation regarding labeling of  
8 food containing—or made from—Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's). A proposal offered  
9 by U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Pat Roberts to implement a voluntary labeling  
10 program failed on the Senate floor.

11       Alan Douglass reported on the information that Gerald Parsons had circulated on the  
12 North American and Canadian Bison Registries. That information was circulated to the board  
13 prior to the meeting. Mr. Parsons had recommended that the U.S. and Canadian registries  
14 develop at a joint partnership that would allow the NBA and the CBA to maintain their  
15 individual database information. Dick Gehring made a motion that the National Bison  
16 Association work with the Canadian Association to develop a joint partnership on the North  
17 American Bison Registry Conservation Herd program, and the Canadian Conservation Herd  
18 Registry, with the specific elements of the partnership to be presented for approval at a future  
19 meeting. Said motion was seconded and carried.

20       Mr. Carter and Dick Gehring reported that leaders of the Throlson American Bison  
21 Foundation and the National Buffalo Foundation have started to engage in discussions about a  
22 potential merger between the two entities. There is no definitive plan at this point, but the NBA  
23 will be participating in those discussions as they progress. Mr. Carter said that he recommended  
24 that there be a working group comprised of two people each from the NBA, the Throlson  
25 Foundation, and the National Buffalo Foundation. That group may be bringing forward a more  
26 formal proposal at a future meeting.

27       The chair called for reports from Regional Directors.

28       Region I report was provided by Alan Douglass. The Northwest Bison Association will  
29 be having its meeting this weekend. The Western Bison Association had a very successful  
30 meeting in December, and is planning its summer gathering.

Attachment A

1       Ray Thieman provided a report from Region II. He reported that the RMBA will be  
2 hosting its spring conference April 9<sup>th</sup>. Roland Kroos of Crossroads consultingwill be providing  
3 a presentation at that conference.

4       David Hunter provided a report from Region III. He reported that the MtBA has been  
5 working hard on the IBC.

6       Tom Barthel provided a reported on Region V. He reported that the Wisconsin Bison  
7 Association held its spring meeting. They will be holding a summer meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The  
8 Minnesota Buffalo Association conducted a strategic planning session in February. Gail Griffin  
9 is planning to retire in the fall of 2017. The MnBA spring conference will be held in April.

10       Brian Grubb provided a report from Region VII. The Eastern Bison Association had a  
11 successful meeting in March. The live animal auction results were a bit disappointing.

12       Sherry DiSimone provided a report from Region VIII. She reported that the southeast has  
13 enjoyed a warm, mild winter.

14       The next board meeting will be held June 20, 2016 in Elk River, MN.

15       There being no additional information to come before the board, and upon motion made,  
16 seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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18       Respectfully Submitted,

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21       Karen Conley, Secretary

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23 \_\_\_\_\_

24       Dave Carter, Recording Secretary