

1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
2 **OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
3 **OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION**  
4 **June 1, 2015**  
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6 The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Bison  
7 Association was convened at 3:00 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2015, in the Hyatt Regency Stockyards  
8 Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas, pursuant to previous action by the board and the requirements of the  
9 bylaws.

10 Present were:

11 Peter Cook	Bruce Anderson
12 Peter Kohl	Dick Gehring
13 Ray Thieman	Roy Liedtke
14 Dave Hunter	Tom Barthel
15 Karen Conley	Paul Kolesar
16 Jason Moore	Keith Yearout

17 Absent with Peter Rooney and Troy Bivens. Also attending were Dave Carter, Jim  
18 Matheson, and several NBA members. Peter Cook presided and Dave Carter served as recording  
19 secretary.

20 Bruce Anderson provided a report of the president. He reported that he has been working  
21 with Executive Director Dave Carter to reorganize some of the standing committees. He also  
22 noted that the Summer Conference Planning Committee has put together an excellent program,  
23 and that the revenue and expenses for the conference are being closely monitored.

24 The chair directed the board's attention to the Minutes of the Meeting of March 18, 2015,  
25 which minutes were distributed as Attachment A with the board packet. There were no  
26 correction noted. A motion was made by Roy Liedtke to approve the minutes as distributed. Said  
27 motion was seconded and carried.

28 The Chair called for a Year-to-Date (YTD) Financial Report. Mr. Carter reported that the  
29 Finance Committee met on May 26<sup>th</sup> to review the Year-to-Date Financial Report. The  
30 association is tracking ahead of budget, although there are significant deviations in both income  
31 and expenses. Those deviations are primarily the result of the timing of grant expenses and  
32 reimbursements. YTD income is \$299,613 compared to budgeted levels of \$302,725. YTD

33 expenses are \$228,623, compared to budgeted levels of \$261,808. Mr. Carter noted that  
34 membership revenue is \$9,455 above budget, with regular and multi-year membership primarily  
35 responsible. Peter Kohl made a motion to approve the YTD financial report, as presented. Said  
36 motion was seconded by Paul Kolesar, and carried.

37 Jim Matheson reported that slightly less than 200 members are registered for the  
38 conference. The budget is based on registration of 200 people. Sponsorships have come in ahead  
39 of budget, with \$15,000 in cash sponsorships pledged, compared with the budgeted level of  
40 \$8,000. In-kind donations are valued at \$2,761, compared with the budgeted levels of \$3,000.  
41 Mr. Matheson said he is optimistic that the conference will generate \$20,000 in net revenue for  
42 the association.

43 Mr. Carter reported on the status of the audit of the 2014 finances. He reported that the  
44 audit has been delayed until the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> because of a delay in obtaining some of the  
45 information the auditors need regarding the NBA investment portfolio and grant reimbursements.  
46 Also, the auditor requested that we provide additional reconciliation regarding the year-end  
47 closing 2013 financial statements, and the opening 2014 statements.

48 Mr. Barthel asked when the last audit was conducted. Mr. Carter reported that the  
49 association has not had a full audit since at least 2007, although there was a financial review  
50 conducted on the 2013 finances.

51 Mr. Carter reported that he is not satisfied with the customer service level provided by  
52 the association's current investment firm. He reported that the Finance Committee had  
53 recommended that the NBA begin to identify a new investment firm, subject to approval by the  
54 board.

55 Peter Cook called on Jim Matheson to provide an update on the grants being  
56 administered by the National Bison Association. Mr. Matheson reported that the two USDA  
57 grants are now in their third quarter and are going well. The Risk Management Grant allowed the  
58 NBA to attend state/regional conferences and auctions in Montana, North Dakota and South  
59 Dakota this year, and has helped in the development of updated bison benchmarks, in  
60 cooperation with the Canadian Bison Association. The benchmarks will be implemented into the  
61 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Bison Producers' Handbook*. The grant will also support the editing and  
62 printing of the book, now in its early stages of development.

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The two-year SARE grant is also supporting the *Bison Producers Handbook* project, and adding more content, including a chapter and guidelines on holistic grazing management. The SARE grant will also support the development of a bison curriculum, which will be based on the handbook and will be promoted to extension agents, teachers and youth groups.

Mr. Carter reported that the NBA submitted a grant proposal in May for \$60,675 in funding from the USDA Farmers’ Market Promotion Program. If awarded, the funds will be utilized for a variety of materials and activities to promote farmers’ markets and agritourism for bison producers.

Jim Matheson reported on the year-to-date membership. The association recorded 1,078 numbers on May 26th, compared to 1,109 on March 13. Active one-year membership has dropped from 725 to 694, but our three-year membership has increased to 108 from 100. These shifts are likely the result of our dues increase that took effect March 1. Mr. Matheson reported that the association has also gained two new lifetime memberships.

Keith Yearout reported on the Membership Committee. He said that he wants to take a look at an annual renewal, rather than an anniversary renewal. He also reported that he wants to look at other membership-based organizations on how they operate their membership. Karen Conley asked about the composition of the committee. Mr. Yearout said the committee was still being organized. Roy Liedtke mentioned that Craig Dummer is interested in serving on the committee.

The board entered into a discussion on the redistricting as required under Section 3.2(a) of the bylaws, which states: “The Board of Directors shall create eight regions within the United States. The regions will follow state lines and will be equally divided by association membership as reasonably as possible. These eight regions shall be numbered rather than named. These eight regions’ boundaries will be reanalyzed every five years and restructured, if necessary, in accordance with the results of that analysis. The Board of Directors will initially establish the eight regions for the January 2001 election and then every five years thereafter.”

Mr. Carter presented two options that he had developed for the redistricting, which options are included as Attachment E with the board packet. Mr. Carter recommended that the

93 board adopt the version entitled Option A. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Roy  
94 Liedkte to approve the Option A, with the exception of moving Alabama into District VIII. Said  
95 motion was seconded and carried. A copy of the adopted proposal accompanies these minutes.

96 Mr. Carter noted that new directors will be elected for regions I and VI in  
97 September to take office in January. Region III and IV would have two directors, both of whom  
98 would serve the remainder of their terms, according to Section 3.2(h) of the bylaws.

99 Mr. Carter reported that the National Buffalo Foundation had requested that the NBA  
100 develop a description of the expectations for the director appointed to the NBF board from the  
101 board of directors of the NBA. Dave Carter reviewed with the board a proposed document he has  
102 developed in consultation with President Anderson. Discussion was held. A motion was made by  
103 Tom Barthel to approve the document, as presented. Said motion was seconded and carried.

104 Mr. Carter reviewed with the board the status of the Strategic Plan that was adopted in  
105 March 2014. He noted that he is focusing on the social media and governmental relations aspect  
106 of the plan. Discussion was held about securing the right to .bison and/or .buffalo URL domains.  
107 Mr. Anderson proposed that the NBA look at securing the right to .bison or .buffalo. Mr. Carter  
108 said the staff will research the feasibility of cost of proceeding.

109 Peter Cook called on Jim Matheson for a report on Winter Conference. Mr. Matheson  
110 reported that the NBA has signed the new agreement with the Renaissance Denver Hotel for  
111 2016. Beverly Brown has agreed to continue to chair the committee. The conference committee  
112 will begin meeting in the coming weeks to start working on the agenda for the 2016 conference.  
113 Peter Cook suggested that consideration be given to adding a day to the conference. Discussion  
114 was held. No action was taken.

115 Discussion was held regarding Summer Conference 2016. President Anderson reported  
116 that he had contacted Tom Barthel to request that the Minnesota Buffalo Association consider  
117 hosting the 2016 Summer Conference. Mr. Barthel reported that the Minnesota Buffalo  
118 Association would be pleased to host the 2016 Summer Conference. A motion was made by  
119 Dick Gehring to schedule the 2016 summer conference in Minnesota. Said motion was seconded  
120 by Karen Conley, and carried. The conference may be planned June 20-22 in Elk River, MN.

121 Mr. Carter reported on the 2017 International Bison Conference.

122 He noted that the IBC planning committee had recommended establishing a free-  
123 standing IBC non-profit corporation to handle the receipts and disbursement of the funds for that  
124 conference. This is similar to the procedure used for the 2007 IBC. Accordingly, he had  
125 requested an attorney to develop draft Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for an IBC  
126 Committee. Discussion was held. Keith Yearout made a motion to authorize the NBA to file  
127 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws establishing the IBC non-profit corporation. Said motion  
128 was seconded and carried.

129 Jim Matheson reported that it appears that there is insufficient lodging and meeting  
130 space in Bozeman to handle the International Bison conference. He is looking at areas  
131 surrounding Bozeman, including Big Sky and Billings.

132 Mr. Carter reported that the IBC Planning Committee is looking at developing a series  
133 of limited edition replica buffalo rifles, as a fundraising tool. These rifles will be specially  
134 engraved and numbered for the IBC. The cost per gun, with engraving and numbering will be  
135 \$2,850/gun. Because of the time required, we would like to begin production of 10 rifles. The  
136 company is requiring a 50% advance to begin the order. Mr. Carter reported that the Finance  
137 Committee has proposed that the NBA provide an initial seed loan to the IBC for \$10,000 to  
138 begin the production, with the seed loan to be repaid from the initial proceeds of the fundraising.  
139 Discussion was held regarding the funds required to start the process. Roy Liedtke made a  
140 motion to authorize a seed loan of up to \$13,500 to be used as seed money for fundraising for the  
141 IBC, contingent on finalizing the location for the IBC. Keith Yearout seconded the motion. The  
142 motion was put to a vote, and carried.

143 Mr. Carter reported that the National Buffalo Foundation today approved a \$15,000  
144 sponsorship for the International Bison Conference, with the sponsorship to be dedicated to  
145 support the educational program, and the follow-up information.

146 The Chair called upon the various committees to provide a report to the board.

147 Gail Griffin, chair of the Past Presidents' Committee reported that the committee, in  
148 response to a request from President Anderson, has agreed to conduct a review of the NBA  
149 Policy documents. The committee will present any recommendations to the board for review and  
150 submission to the membership.

151 Jim Matheson reported that the State-Regional Committee met by conference call on May  
152 21<sup>st</sup>. The state/regional associations on the call did not express a desire to continue to support the  
153 *Bison Advantage* website.

154 Bob Stirling reported on the Commercial Marketers' Committee. He reported that the  
155 committee met in May to discuss the supply/demand situation. Following that call, the NBA  
156 conducted its twice-yearly market survey. Mr. Carter noted that he has compiled the major  
157 survey findings, and would report the highlights of the survey at the general membership  
158 meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

159 Donald Beard provided a report of the Conservation Committee. He reported that the  
160 committee has adopted its mission statement. He reviewed with the board the Committee's  
161 Mission Statement:

162 The mission of the National Bison Association Conservation Committee is to provide  
163 support and information to Association members for the continuation of the historical re-  
164 establishment of Bison in North America by promoting both economically and ecologically  
165 sustainable, science-based conservation practices and to invite  
166 collaboration among organizations interested in the conservation of the bison species.  
167 He announced that the committee is now developing a brochure to be used to illustrate the role  
168 that private producers play in bison conservation. Mimi Hillenbrand has recommended that the  
169 committee begin to develop some definitions.

170 Karen Conley reported that the Gold Trophy Show and Sale Committee met by telephone  
171 conference call on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee recommended that Sandy Limpert of South Dakota  
172 and Lance Kuck of Nebraska be appointed as the judges for the 2016 GTSS. Both have agreed to  
173 serve, if appointed. Roy Liedtke moved that Sandy Limpert and Lance Kuck be appointed as the  
174 GTSS Judges for 2016. Said motion was seconded by Ray Thieman, and carried. Ms. Conley  
175 reported that the committee is recommending that a buyer/consignor short course be conducted  
176 at the Winter Conference. The committee is also recommending that consignors provide more  
177 information on the animals entered into GTSS. The committee is recommending that the catalogs  
178 be released earlier. A motion was made by Peter Kohl to authorize the earlier release of the  
179 GTSS catalog. Said motion was seconded and carried.

180 Gerald Parsons reported on the activities of the North American Bison Registry.  
181 (NABR). He noted that the fees for the conservation committee were \$250, and that participants  
182 should receive something to display in recognition for participation. He displayed an example of  
183 a road sign that can be displayed. Discussion was held regarding the use of the former NBA logo  
184 in the NABR logo. Roy Liedtke made a motion to incorporate the current NBA logo into the  
185 logo for the North American Bison Registry. Said motion was seconded by Tom Barthel. The  
186 motion was put to a vote. The chair was in doubt. The motion was put to a vote, and failed.  
187 Discussion was held regarding the sign proposed by Mr. Parsons. Roy Liedtke made a motion to  
188 authorize the NABR to develop a buffalo-shaped gate sign. Said motion was seconded and  
189 carried.

190 The Chair called on Ray Thieman to discuss a proposal for investigating the  
191 development of a bison ranching cooperative. Mr. Thieman reported that he had initiated  
192 discussion at the recent Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association spring meeting to explore a  
193 cooperative approach in which shareholders would organize a business entity to purchase or  
194 lease a ranch, along with a herd of mother cows. Each share would represent one cow and a  
195 proportionate share of the ranch. The revenue would be derived primarily from the calf crop each  
196 year. Mr. Thieman said that he had developed a proposed survey to explore interest in this  
197 approach. He requested approval from the board to distribute that survey to the NBA  
198 membership. Discussion was held. No action was taken. Consensus was expressed that Mr.  
199 Thieman could distribute the survey via the association's Trading Board advertising program.

200 Jason Moore made a motion to recess the board meeting until 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday.  
201 Said motion was seconded and carried.

202 The board reconvened at 7:30 a.m. on June 2.

203 Dave Carter reported that he has reviewed the make-up of the current House and Senate  
204 Committees for Agriculture, Agricultural Appropriations, and Natural Resources. He will be  
205 working with Donnis Baggett, chair of the Government Relations Committee to appoint NBA  
206 members to the committee from those states.

207 Discussion was held regarding the 2015 Washington, D.C. Roundup. Consensus was  
208 expressed to hold the Roundup September 15-18, 2015. .

209 Mr. Carter reported that there have been no significant developments in the agricultural  
210 discussions in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Program.

211 He reported that he met with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington,  
212 D.C. in April to request that FAS initiate the process to petition Korea to open its marketplace to  
213 bison meat exports from the United States. That process is being delayed, but Mr. Carter said  
214 that he will be meeting with FAS again in June.

215 He reported that the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the  
216 Canadian Food Inspection Agency in April announced an agreement to eliminate the requirement  
217 that Canadian bison be branded before being imported to the United States. The new procedure  
218 will only require the use of RFID tags.

219 Mr. Carter reported that there have been no developments in the status of the petition  
220 filed last November by the Western Watershed Alliance and the Buffalo Field Campaign to have  
221 Yellowstone bison declared endangered.

222 He reported that discussions are continuing with officials and U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
223 Service, and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to implement the Bison Legacy Act through  
224 an Executive Order.

225 Discussion was held regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's new regulation  
226 on the Waters of the United States. Mr. Carter reported that the 300-page rule was released last  
227 week, and most organizations are analyzing the impact. Donnis Bagget distributed to the board a  
228 resolution that was enacted by the Texas Bison Association. Dick Gehring made a motion to  
229 direct the Executive Director and Chair of the Government Relations committee to draft a  
230 resolution on the Environmental Protection Agency's new Clean Water Act regulations for  
231 consideration and approval by the board of directors via email vote. Said motion was seconded  
232 by Tom Barthel and carried. Karen Conley recommended that the resolution be distributed to the  
233 state-regional committees.

234 The Chair called upon directors for regional reports.

235 David Hunter reported from Region I that he is planning to attend the Western Bison  
236 Association meeting in December. He noted that he is working with the Montana Bison  
237 Association to develop proposals for the International Bison Conference.



238 Karen Conley provided a report from Region III. The North Dakota Buffalo Association  
239 is scheduling a bus tour of the state. The NDBA annual meeting is set for Jan 8-9 in Napoleon,  
240 ND. The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is planning its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting for  
241 February 5-7, 2016. The DTBA is sponsoring a veterinarian to attend the International Bison  
242 Symposium in June.

243 Keith Yearout said the Kansas Buffalo Association is planning its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
244 meeting at Ray Smith's ranch. The Missouri Bison Association will be meeting in early June.

245 Tom Barthel reported on Region V. He reported that the Minnesota Buffalo  
246 Association's spring meeting was hosted by the Graese family in Rice Lake, WI. The MNBA  
247 Legends of the Fall meeting will be held in November.

248 Peter Kohl reported on Region VI. Peter Kohl reported that the Missouri Bison  
249 Association is having the Show Me conference June 5-7. Discussion was held regarding the  
250 inter-organizational issues within the Michigan Bison Association.

251 Paul Kolesar provided a report of the International Director. He reported limited drought  
252 is affecting some regions of Canada.

253 Dave Carter reported that RMBA and EBA both had good meetings this spring.

254 Dave Carter reported that the National Bison Association has been working with the  
255 Global Animal Partnership in developing the GAP bison handling standards. The NBA has  
256 developed a working group to advise the GAP staff drafting the standards. At the NBA  
257 suggestion, the GAP officials have been meeting with individual producers, and attended the  
258 Minnesota conference.

259 Discussion was held on issues surrounding animal husbandry.

260 There being no additional business to come before the board, and upon motion made,  
261 seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

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263 Respectfully Submitted,

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266 Jason Moore, Secretary

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270 David E. Carter, Recording Secretary

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