



1 The Chair directed the Board's attention to the minutes of the membership meeting of  
2 January 24, 2014. Roy Liedtke made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Said motion  
3 was seconded and carried.

4 Chairman Cook noted that Peter Kohl, an NBA member in good standing, has agreed to  
5 accept an appointment to fill the vacancy in Region VI. That vacancy was created by the election  
6 of Jason Moore as Secretary-Treasurer at the January annual members' meeting. Mr. Kohl meets  
7 the qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors. Jason Moore made a motion to approve  
8 Peter Kohl as a new director for District VI. Said motion was seconded by Bruce Anderson and  
9 carried. Mr. Kohl joined the meeting.

10 The chair called for a Year-to-Date financial report. Dave Carter provided that report.  
11 Vicky Vlaanderen and CPA Stan Stahl have finalized the year-end adjustments for 2013, and  
12 have worked to make sure that we have an accurate accounting of our performance during the  
13 first two months of 2014. Those adjustments will also be examined during the upcoming  
14 Financial Review. The National Bison Association generated \$8,319 in net income in 2013,  
15 compared to the budgeted projection of \$86 in net income. The association also added \$23,842 to  
16 net equity through the 5% designated reserve allocation.

17 Mr. Carter reported that the association has exceeded its budget goals for the first two  
18 months of the three-month budget period. The year-to-date report through February, 2014  
19 indicates that we have generated \$50,707 in net revenue during the first two months of 2014,  
20 compared to our anticipated net revenue of \$39,428. Several factors contributed to this better-  
21 than-anticipated performance: 1) Higher than budgeted revenues and lower than anticipated  
22 expenses for winter conference and the benefit auction; 2) a slightly lower than budgeted  
23 performance for the Gold Trophy Show and Sale; and 3) a large influx of check-off contributions  
24 in February. Mr. Carter noted that the Finance Committee had reviewed the YTD financial  
25 report. A motion was made by Dick Gehring to approve the year to date financial report. Said  
26 motion was seconded and carried.

27 Dave Carter reviewed the Nine-Month Budget with the board. That budget projects a year-  
28 end net income result of \$9,468. Gross revenues are projected at \$502,307, and gross expenses  
29 are projected at \$467,724. The designated reserve contribution is estimated at \$25,115. Mr.  
30 Carter highlighted the major budget assumptions. The Finance Committee had reviewed the

1 proposed budget on March 26<sup>th</sup> and had voted to recommend its adoption. Lee Graese made a  
2 motion to approve the nine-month budget as presented. Said motion was seconded and carried.

3 Mr. Carter provided a report to the board that he and Vicky Vlaanderen have interviewed  
4 three accounting firms to fill the vacancy created by the death of Rich Zahringer last December.  
5 The NBA will be contracting with the firm of McNurlin & Associates, P.C. at a rate of \$80/hr.

6 He also reported that the NBA has signed an engagement letter with Taylor Roth & Co.  
7 to conduct the financial review and audit. The financial review of the 2013 performance is  
8 scheduled for April 18. Taylor & Roth will also conduct a full audit of the 2014 finances in the  
9 spring of 2015. Roy Liedtke asked about the Finance Policy language which specifies that two  
10 financial reviews shall be conducted, followed by a full audit. Mr. Carter reported that, because  
11 an audit has not been conducted for the past several years, it was felt that it would be best to  
12 schedule one as soon as feasible.

13 Jim Matheson provided a membership report. The National Bison Association has 1,059  
14 members as of March 25, 2014, compared to 1,041 on January 17, 2014. Mr. Matheson reviewed  
15 the individual membership categories.

16 The Chair called for Old Business. The board entered into a discussion of the North  
17 American Bison Registry's Conservation Herd Registry program which was approved by the  
18 board at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Roy Liedtke said that he had voted against the action at the  
19 previous board meeting because he felt that the proposal for implementing the registry was  
20 unclear and confusing. As examples, he cited the fee structure and audit cost. Discussion was  
21 held. The fee structure for conservation herd has not been set. Jim Matheson said that Dr.  
22 Parsons has recommended a registration fee of between \$50 - \$150, with a \$25- \$50 audit fee.  
23 Mr. Carter discussed the importance of having clear protocols. Russ Miller noted that it is very  
24 important to recognize the target audience in communicating the value of the conservation herd.  
25 Dick Gehring noted that this program can be important to instilling consumer confidence in the  
26 practices of private ranchers. Bruce Anderson said that the conservation registry can be a  
27 valuable tool for the NBA. He noted that there is a difference in opinion on how the registry  
28 ought to be structured. Jason Moore noted that the motion adopted in January only pertained to  
29 the establishment of a registry, and not to the program details. The board reviewed the motion  
30 approved by the board in January 24. Said motion was:

1           *Dick Gehring made a motion to approve a conservation herd classification within the*  
2 *North American Bison Registry.*

3           Mr. Carter noted that the NBA has the ultimate responsibility to administer the program.  
4 Bruce Anderson appointed a working group of Roy Liedtke, Dick Gehring and Peter Kohl to  
5 work with Dr. Parson and Dr. Derr to define the procedures for the conservation herd. Without  
6 objection, the working group was assigned the task of developing the policies and procedures for  
7 the conservation herd program, with those policies and procedures to be approved by the board at  
8 the next meeting.

9           The chair called on Jim Matheson to report on the summer conference scheduled for  
10 Branson, MO June 4-6. Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> will be the Ranch Day tour, hosted by Randy  
11 Miller. On Thursday, the meeting schedule will include speakers, including a presentation on  
12 Woods versus Plains bison, agritourism, and climate change. The board meeting is tentatively  
13 planned for Thursday. That evening will be the banquet and benefit auction. The general  
14 membership meeting will be scheduled for Friday morning, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Matheson said that he  
15 is investigating options for excursions on Friday afternoon.

16           The Chair called on Dave Carter to report on the development of a Memorandum of  
17 Understanding with the Intertribal Buffalo Council. Mr. Carter and Mr. Anderson discussed their  
18 recent conversations with the leadership of the ITBC. ITBC Executive Director Jim Stone and  
19 Vice President Mike Faith had suggested a formal MOU between the ITBC and the NBA. Mr.  
20 Carter reported that Mr. Stone has provided him with the outline of a Memorandum of  
21 Understanding. Mr. Carter said that he would develop additional language to be included in the  
22 MOU.

23           The Chair called for a report from the Gold Trophy Show and Sale Committee. Mr.  
24 Carter reported that the committee met March 5<sup>th</sup>. During that meeting the committee voted  
25 unanimously to recommend that the NBA eliminate the Official Calfhood Vaccination  
26 requirements for female animals at the GTSS. Dick Gehring made a motion to approve the  
27 committee recommendation that the NBA eliminate the OCV requirement. Said motion was  
28 seconded and carried. The committee has also requested that the NBA office conduct a survey  
29 of the membership regarding a video auction. Discussion was held. Bruce Anderson  
30 recommended that the board ask Bradeen Auction Service to develop a proposal for conducting a

1 video auction for the NBA. That information will be utilized as the basis for a survey of the  
2 membership. Mr. Carter said that he would ask Bradeen Auction to develop the proposal so that  
3 the committee can review at their next meeting, which is scheduled in April. The Gold Trophy  
4 Show Committee is recommending development of a mission statement. The draft statement that  
5 Mr. Carter drafted for consideration reads:

6 *To foster a judging and selling environment that meets the needs of producers who are*  
7 *raising bison demanded in today's marketplace.*

8 Discussion was held. Bruce Anderson said that GTSS was originally established in part to  
9 promote genetic diversity within the bison business. Roy Liedtke noted that an important part of  
10 GTSS is to generate revenue. Lee Graese said that there is a conflict between the heritage or the  
11 animal and the commercial aspects. The board will ask the GTSS committee to formally develop  
12 a proposed Mission Statement.

13 Jim Matheson provided a report of the State/Regional Committee. A state/regional—  
14 NBA meeting will be held in Kansas City the second weekend in October.

15 The board discussed the legislative and regulatory issues.

16 Jim Matheson reported on his trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in a lobbying trip on  
17 the Bison Legacy Act. That trip was set up by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the  
18 Intertribal Buffalo Council.

19 Dave Carter reported that the recently-enacted farm bill has many provisions beneficial  
20 for the bison industry. He also reported that the negotiations between the U.S. and the EU  
21 regarding a free trade agreement are just in the organizational phase. He also said that no  
22 announcement has been made regarding the appointment to the Agricultural Trade Policy  
23 Advisory Committee.

24 Mr. Carter reported that he and Mr. Matheson met with representatives of the U.S.  
25 Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on March 25<sup>th</sup>  
26 to discuss the status of the agency's Bison 2014 epidemiological survey. The project is now  
27 under review by the Office of Management and Budget. The APHIS representatives anticipate  
28 mailing an extensive survey by late August. That mailing will be handled by the USDA National  
29 Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and may be mailed to roughly 3,000 producers.

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1 Karen Conley urged the NBA to file formal comments on the proposed regulation  
2 allowing expanded meat import from Brazil. The proposed regulation to allow imports from  
3 Brazil was issued December 20<sup>th</sup>. The comment period for that issue has been extended to April  
4 22nd.

5 The board called on directors for regional reports.

6 Russ Miller, from Region I, reported that he had nothing further to say.

7 Ray Thieman from Region II reported that the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association will  
8 hold its spring meeting April 10-11.

9 Karen Conley from District III noted that there has been little formal activity in her  
10 region since the DTBA conference in February.

11 Dick Gehring, no report from Region IV.

12 Lee Graese from Region V reported that the Minnesota Buffalo Association will hold its  
13 spring meeting in Winona, MN April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

14 Peter Kohl from District VI reported that the Missouri Bison Association conducted its  
15 sale in March. Jason Moore reported that the Illinois-Indiana Bison Association held its initial  
16 meeting in March with 24 members and two media members attending. The association has  
17 identified some priorities for the association. Peter Kohl noted that the Missouri Bison  
18 Association has undergone a board reorganization. He said he will be working with the new  
19 board to instill strong working relationship with the NBA.

20 Peter Rooney reported on Region VII. He noted that the Eastern Bison Association had  
21 enthusiastic participation. Prices were lower at the show and sale.

22 Mr. Carter provided a report of the Executive Director, and said he had nothing to add to  
23 his written report submitted to the board.

24 There being no additional business to come before the board, and upon motion, made,  
25 seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

26  
27 Respectfully Submitted,

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30 Jason Moore, Secretary-Treasurer

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3 David E. Carter, Recording Secretary