

1 because of summer conference, and from other factors. He asked Mr. Carter to review the YTD
2 budget. Mr. Carter reviewed the YTD operating statement. YTD income of \$351,530 is \$19,714
3 below targeted gross revenue for the first seven months. Likewise, gross expenses of \$359,756
4 are \$32,168 above budget. After adjustments, net income of (\$19,036) is \$44,130 below budget.

5 Two primary factors are responsible for the deviation. Because of adjustments made
6 during the transition in accountants following the death of Rich Zahringer, the organization's
7 nine-month budget did not fully capture the GTSS expenses when approved. Also, the 2014
8 summer conference experience lower revenues and higher expenses than budgeted.

9 On the positive side, Mr. Carter reported that membership revenue of \$85,703 is \$4,367
10 above budget. Active and multi-year memberships are the primary drivers on this. Also, the
11 NBA has been awarded a total of \$164,000 in new grant funding over the past two months. Most
12 of that funding will come in over the next two years, and will be spread among a series of grant
13 participants, but there will be a positive impact on the NBA budget beginning October 1. Mr.
14 Matheson estimated that there could be a \$20,000 positive impact through the remainder of 2014.

15 Discussion was held. A motion was made by Dick Gering to approve the financial report
16 as present. Said motion was seconded and carried.

17 Mr. Carter directed the board's attention to the completed 2013 Financial Review,
18 compiled by Taylor Roth & Co., PLLC. Mr. Carter reported that President Anderson, Vicky
19 Vlaanderen, Bella Selko (NBA accountant) and he had an exit interview with the auditor to
20 review the report. The firm issued a clean report. The report noted, "Based on our review, we are
21 not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for the
22 year ended December 31, 2013 in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles
23 generally accepted in the United States." The audit report did recommend some changes in the
24 classification of checkoff reserves, and the 5% designated reserves. Bella Selko is working with
25 the NBA bookkeeper to implement those changes. Amil Kleinert made a motion to accept the
26 Financial Review as presented. Said motion was seconded and carried.

27 The board reviewed the announcement of two grant awards for the organization. The
28 National Bison Association received notification in late July that it was awarded \$103,675
29 through the North Central SARE (Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education) program to
30 conduct our Bison Advantage Outreach and Education Program. Mr. Matheson reported that the
31 funds will be used:

- 1 • To create a bison-specific curriculum that agricultural educators, particularly
- 2 extension agents, can utilize to educate the next generation of producers.
- 3 • to support bison-specific research on pasture management protocols with partner
- 4 ranches; and
- 5 • to develop a Best Practices manual for producers to utilize in the production of their
- 6 animals.

7 The NBA was one of nine awardees out of 26 proposals that were invited to be submitted to
8 SARE.

9 The National Bison Association has also tentatively been approved for a \$61,001 grant
10 through the Risk Management Agency's Billings office. This project will focus heavily on
11 developing bison production benchmarks, developing additional bison curriculum, and
12 conducting outreach workshops throughout the region. Final awarding of this project was subject
13 to our providing RMA with some additional budget detail. This project will also begin October
14 1st.

15 Russ Miller asked about the procedures used to track the grant funds, and how those
16 funds would impact the NBA's finances. Mr. Matheson noted that the RMA grant requires
17 quarterly reporting compliance. Mr. Carter reported that the funds will not be a profit center for
18 the association, but will expand the association's capacity to conduct outreach to producers and
19 perspective producers.

20 The Chair called on Jim Matheson to provide a membership report. The membership
21 report distributed with the board packet showed that the current membership count of 1,044 is
22 down from our May 31 level of 1061 members. Mr. Matheson reported that the membership as
23 of August 28th is 1,055.

24 Mr. Matheson reported that the association is conducting a campaign to reach out to
25 prospective members. That campaign will include the 2013 Annual Report document that was
26 developed as per the new Strategic Plan.

27 Chairman Cook called upon Mr. Carter to review the NBA Strategic Plan. Mr. Carter
28 reported that he has developed a format that will be able to track the association's progress
29 toward achieving the strategic plan goals. Mr. Carter reviewed that document with the Board.

1 The Chair called upon Mr. Carter for a report on the NBA Washington Roundup,
2 scheduled for September 10-12. Mr. Carter reported that 12 NBA members are scheduled to
3 participate, along Jim Stone and Ervin Carlson of the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council. He reviewed
4 the schedule of appointments, and the issues to be discussed during the roundup.

5 Mr. Carter also reported on the implementation of the Bison 2014 Project through the
6 U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will be
7 issuing an extensive questionnaire in the coming weeks to the 2,714 producers who reported
8 owning bison in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The first survey responses will be due by
9 September 30. After that, they will begin to follow up with producers who have not returned
10 their survey. Mr. Carter urged board members to encourage full participation among producers in
11 their regions.

12 Mr. Carter noted that he had reported at the June meeting that he had been appointed to
13 the USDA Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Animals and Animal Products, pending
14 completion of the security clearance. That process has been completed, and the appointment has
15 been finalized.

16 Mr. Matheson reported that the winter conference planning committee has been hard at work
17 developing the agenda for the 2015 conference, scheduled for 21 – 24th. The committee is working to get
18 a tentative agenda together by the first week in September. The theme for the 2015 conference is: *20/20*
19 *Vision to the Future*. Also, the committee is requesting guidance from the board concerning any
20 budget for a keynote speaker at the conference. Last year, the board authorized \$5,000 for a
21 keynote speaker. Roy Liedtke noted that a good keynote speaker can be very helpful in building
22 attendance at a conference. Russ Miller made a motion to include \$5,000 in the 2014 winter
23 conference for a keynote speaker. Said motion was seconded by Amil Kleinert. Discussion was
24 held. Said motion was seconded and carried.

25 The Chair called upon Roy Liedtke to provide a report on the 2015 Summer Conference.
26 The Texas Bison Association (TBA) has agreed to serve as the host for the 2015 NBA Summer
27 Conference, and is recommending Fort Worth as a location. He said that members of the TBA
28 are actively working to come up with ideas for activities for the conference. He noted that the
29 TBA is looking at incorporating its annual conference with the NBA summer conference.
30 Accordingly, consideration will need to be given to the allocation of fundraising from the events.
31 He suggested that the conference be held round the dates of Jun 10th – 14th. A motion was made

1 by Peter Kohl that the National Bison Association hold its summer conference 2015 in Fort
2 Worth, TX, and that the NBA work with the Texas Bison Association to plan the event. Said
3 motion was seconded and carried.

4 Mr. Carter reported that the staff is beginning preliminary work on the 2017
5 International Bison Conference in Bozeman. He has contacted Terry Kremeniuk of the Canadian
6 Bison Association to start developing an IBC Planning Committee. He noted that he and
7 President Anderson are recommending that the U.S. member of the committee include: Andrew
8 Bardwell of Montana, a representative of Turner Enterprises, Inc., Gaylynn Flocchini of
9 Wyoming, Roy Liedtke of Texas and Karen Conley of South Dakota. Lodging will be the
10 primary challenge here because Bozeman does not have a conference center hotel. Mr. Matheson
11 is starting to work on the lodging and conference logistics.

12 Mr. Carter reported that the elections will be held in September for directors from
13 Regions I, III, V and VII. There are contested races for Regions I and V. He reported that the
14 NBA is establishing a procedure to assure that the votes are tabulated by an impartial third party.
15 Balloting will begin via email September 8, and will continue through the end of September.

16 Mr. Carter also noted that the Board of Directors is authorized to nominate a slate of
17 candidates for the positions of Officers, and Director at Large.

18 The Chair directed the board's attention to committee reports.

19 The newly organize Conservation Committee held its initial meeting on August 27th.
20 The committee had an excellent discussion and is working to develop a Mission statement. They
21 will also be working with the NABR to coordinate the conservation herd program through the
22 Registry.

23 Dick Gehring and Dr. Gerald Parsons provided a report on the North American Bison
24 Registry. Mr. Gehring noted that the NABR working group is working to incorporate feedback
25 from the on-line survey into their process. Jim Matheson reported that 344 animals have been
26 registered in the NABR through the Conservation Herd program authorized by the board in June.
27 He noted that the working group will be working through the pricing structure. Roy Liedtke
28 reported that the working group will be working with the conservation committee to incorporate
29 a best practices component. Discussion was held. As per the June board meeting, the NABR is
30 cleared to begin registering herds into the conservation registry. Gerald Parsons said that he has
31 informed the people enrolling in the Registry that they would be grandfathered under the

1 published rules. Discussion ensued. Russ Miller questioned whether the grandfathering would
2 alleviate members enrolling in the registry now from agreeing to adhere with any Best Practices
3 guidelines developed by the association. Mr. Carter noted that the 81 percent of the members
4 responding to the on-line survey felt that a commitment to adhere to a bison best practices
5 standard should be part of the Registry. He also said that nonprofit law does not allow a
6 committee to make commitments that will bind the organization without the consent of the full
7 board of directors. President Anderson said that he felt that issues surrounding conservation
8 would include genetics, animal husbandry practices, and rangeland management. Mr. Carter
9 recommended that the minutes reflect a consensus that the registry not promise to grandfather
10 participants, but that any changes in the registry requirements will be done with full
11 consideration of any impact of the herds that have been previously registered. No objection was
12 given.

13 Karen Conley provided a report of the Gold Trophy Show and Sale Committee
14 meeting on August 4th. She reported that the committee is struggling to make decisions regarding
15 changes in the show and sale format to improve participation and profitability. She said that the
16 concept of holding a video auction may not be implemented. She said that the committee will
17 continue to look at changes. Bruce Anderson suggested that the committee consider how to
18 better utilize the NBA Trading Board as a vehicle to buy and sell animals.

19 Mr. Carter noted that the Commercial marketers' Committee is scheduled to meet on
20 September 4th. He reviewed the use of checkoff funds, including a \$10,000 sponsorship of the
21 Chef's Collaborative National Summit (which part of that sponsorship offset by Durham Ranch).

22 Mr. Matheson reported that the State/Regional Committee met a few weeks ago to
23 finalize plans for the Leadership Gathering, set for October 11-12 in Kansas City. Bob Fitch,
24 principal of Cain Consulting Group, will facilitate a large portion of the two-day workshop with
25 a focus on *Building the Board Team*. The primary focus of the session this year will be to build
26 capacity within the respective associations. Mr. Carter encouraged board members to participate
27 in that gathering.

28 The Chair called upon directors for reports from their regions.
29 Region I --- Russ Miller expressed thanks on behalf of his region for the work conducted by the
30 NBA staff.

1 Region II – Dave Carter reported that the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association will be holding
2 its fall meeting September 26-27, and that the association hosted booths at the Colorado State
3 Fair and the Boulder County Fair.

4 Region III – Karen Conley reported that DTBA and NBA will be cooperating on a booth at
5 Custer Roundup.

6 Region IV – Dick Gehring reported that conditions are getting dry in his area. The Kansas Bison
7 Association will be having its 20th anniversary sale later this year.

8 Region V – No report.

9 Region VI –Peter Kohl reported that the Missouri Bison Association will be hosting a booth at
10 the Farm Fest in Springfield. Bison produces in Michigan are holding a Bison Bash in
11 Cheboygan, MI over Labor Day weekend. Mr. Carter will be attending that event on behalf the
12 the National Bison Association. The newly-organized Illinois Indiana Bison Association is
13 planning a Midwest Bison Symposium at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago on November 20-21

14 Region VII and VIII --- No report

15 International – Marvin Moore reported that the Canadian-EU trade agreement is being
16 implemented. He said that this agreement can perhaps serve as a blueprint for the U.S./EU Free
17 Trade agreement concerning bison.

18 Mr. Carter provided a brief report from the Executive Director.

19 The next meeting of the Board of Directors was set for 5 p.m. MDT, Thursday, October
20 16, 2014 via telephone conference call.

21 The being no additional business to discuss, and upon motion made, seconded and
22 carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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24 Respectfully Submitted,

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27 Jason Moore, Secretary-Treasurer

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31 David E. Carter, Recording Secretary