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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION  
September 22nd, 2022  
Via Zoom**

7 A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Bison Association was convened at 5  
8 p.m. MST, Thursday, September 22nd, 2022, via the Zoom virtual platform pursuant to the  
9 bylaws and at the request of the NBA President and Executive Director.

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11 **Board Members Present:**

12 Donnis Baggett            Chad Kremer  
13 Robert Johnson        Boyd Meyer  
14 Elizabeth Riffle        Mimi Hillenbrand  
15 Jeremy Allemann       Moritz Espy  
16 Carie Starr            Mary Adams  
17 Stuart Schrag         Kevin Leier

18  
19 **Board Members Absent/Excused:**

20 Ken Klemm

21  
22 **Staff Present:**

23 Jim Matheson            Lydia Whitman  
24 Karen Conley

25  
26 **Call to Order Board Meeting**

27 Donnis Baggett called the September 22, 2022 regular Executive Board meeting to order at  
28 5:10pm.

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30 **Roll Call**

31 Roll call was conducted by Jim Matheson.

32  
33 **President's Report**

34 President's reported delivered by Chad Kremer. Reported on DC trip, staff onboarding, and  
35 upcoming elections for NBA and outlook for upcoming months for NBA and general bison  
36 activities. Welcomed Stuart for joining first meeting, and thanked directors and officers for  
37 service.

38  
39 **Approval of the Minutes**

40 Three minutes were reviewed by board: July 20, 2022 Board Minutes (Attachment A), Finance  
41 Committee August 3, 2022 (Attachment B), Finance Committee August 23, 2022 (Attachment C).  
42 No additions or corrections identified.

43

44 Motion to approve July 20th Board Minutes, August 3<sup>rd</sup> Finance Committee and August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
45 Finance Committee Minutes made by Mimi Hillenbrand, second by Mary Adams. Motion  
46 approved unanimously.

47

#### 48 **Treasurer's Report**

49 Reviewed July YTD Financial Report (Attachment D). Update provide by Jim Matheson regarding  
50 2021 Audit.

51

52 Update on Raymond James proposal. Executive board discussion ensued- decision to invite  
53 formal presentation to full board at Winter Conference then proceed to vote.

54

55 New phone system presented by Jim Matheson. Staff will be compensated \$40/ month for cell  
56 phone use. NBA calls will be forwarded to staff phones using Grasshopper application. Total cost  
57 of Grasshopper and staff compensation for cell phones equals previous phone service.

58

59 2023 Budget Process beginning. Jim Matheson presented format will be 12 month budget  
60 instead of 3 and 9 month budgets.

61

#### 62 **Membership Report**

63 Year to Date Membership count pulled September 17<sup>th</sup> and reflected in Attachment E. Jim  
64 Matheson reported membership trending upwards since last July. Gained 10 members. Gained  
65 one more supporter member.

66

67 Fall Membership Drive discussed. Fall Regional Webinar Series discussed.

68

69 Clover Tree Discount Goods Offer per request of NBA Member Ken Colgate. Board discussed at  
70 suggested IF a discount goods program were to be offered to membership, it should be decided  
71 after evaluating several proposals side by side to guarantee membership received the best  
72 possible product.

73

#### 74 **Grants**

75 NCSARE – Regenerative Field Days progress reported. Third event will be in Illinois October 15<sup>th</sup>,  
76 2022.

77

78 Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Proposal (Attachment F) presented, application will be  
79 submitted by October 6<sup>th</sup>.

80

81 Climate Smart Ag Grant – SDSU (Attachment G) award announcement received. Waiting for  
82 primary recipient to present strategy for implementation of grant. Grant entitled: Climate Smart-  
83 Grass is Greener on the Other Side. Includes beef and bison. Total grant is 80 million \$. Portion  
84 is \$3.8 million for Bison. Most money will go to growers. Start in October. Includes about  
85 \$85,000 per year towards salaries/ staff time.

86

87

88 **Committee Reports**

89

90 Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) – Boyd Meyer: Boyd not on call. Jim Matheson reported that  
91 auctioneer is confirmed, working on judges next. Reported on yard crew, media day at the yards,  
92 National Western Stock Show to tie in a lunch and activity.

93

94 Winter Conference – Beverly Brown: Beverly reported on progress in conference planning. State  
95 that theme is: Bison Benefit. Good for you, good for the planet. Keynote, Nicole Masters, with  
96 thanks to Mimi Hillenbrand for underwriting. Theme- The Bison Benefit. Good presentations,  
97 two Turner presentation studies. Working on mentoring session. Contest- video contest. Youth  
98 and adult divisions. Night of banquet, focus on thank you to foundations and possibly do a  
99 fundraiser for them. Ken Burns’ production, Native movie, may do sneak preview at benefit  
100 auction.

101

102 NABR-Connor Elliott: Conner not on call. Jim Matheson reported NABR committee reviewed  
103 contract with UC Davis. 3 year contract. Committee discussed it, looked at options, recommends  
104 staying with UC Davis. Let new technologies settle for a bit before changing labs.

105

106 Science & Research – Carter Kruse: Carter not on call. Jim Mathewson reported no meeting  
107 since last board meeting. Dr. Carter Kruse, Jim and Chad met. Covered possibilities for what to  
108 cover now that COE is going.

109

110 Commercial Marketers – Dick Gehring: Dick not on call. Jim Matheson reported pursuing the  
111 Google ads campaign and utilizing growth fund. (Attachment H). Discussed outreach upcoming-  
112 related to growth fund. Next big event is the world food championship- lots of promotion with  
113 help of Karen. Turner enterprises has their annual sale first weekend of January. Last time they  
114 included a marketers meeting for NBA. Working with committee determining if we want a  
115 marketers meeting.

116

117 Conservation – Ken Klemm: Ken not on call. Jim Matheson reported no new news.

118

119 State-Regional – John Graves: John not on call. Jim Matheson stated nothing new to report, next  
120 State Regional meeting scheduled in October.

121

122 **Program Manager Report**

123 Update provided by Lydia Whitman. Reported on orientation, Washington D.C. Trip, and  
124 progress coordinating GLCI grant.

125

126 **Winter Conference Update**

127 Jim Matheson presented goal to acknowledge how the foundation is literally funding the  
128 research at the Center of Excellence to date. Give some history, possibly Throlson too. Reported  
129 ITBC committed to having a board meeting at winter conference. Continental Bison Working  
130 Group, essentially what used to be the American Bison Society. May tag along and do something

131 Tuesday or Wednesday, before conference starts- 50-70 people. Utilize welcome reception for  
132 all groups to gather and mingle.

133

#### 134 **Next International Bison Conference**

135 Jim Matheson reported IBC has New Executive Director, Carl Flis. Discussion by board regarding  
136 hosting of next International Bison Conference. Discussion on timing- used to be 7 years apart.  
137 Switched to every 5 years. Canada just held event. Very expensive to put on. Only profit due to  
138 sponsorship. Government supports the success in Canada. Chad- recommend a shift back to  
139 every 7 years. Most labor intensive was the fundraising. Bid for it 5 years out- to regional  
140 associations.

141

142 Presented that 2<sup>nd</sup> International Bison Health Symposium proposed for June 2024 at SDSU  
143 focusing on practitioners and researchers. Potential funding through NIFA/USDA.

144

#### 145 **Regional Reports**

146 Region 1 Mary Adams- Reported on weather and current local trends.

147

148 Region 2 Boyd Meyer- Not on call. Jim Matheson reported Rocky Mountain Fall Get Together at  
149 Durham Ranch upcoming weekend.

150

151 Region 3 Moritz Espy- Good field day. Plant moving away that was causing trouble. South Dakota  
152 Stock growers against ITBC, talked with the different folks and working at stomping out the bad  
153 pr. Couple cases of M. bovis, USDA shipped out test kit.

154

155 Region 4 Campbell Burgess- Not on call. Donnis Baggett reported Texas Bison working on fall  
156 meeting coming up in a few weeks in Canyon. Visit a state inspected plant.

157

158 Region 5 Jeremy Allerman- Reported on weather and current local trends.

159

160 Region 6

161

162 Region 7 Carie Starr- Reported on NC region conference- 25, new or people interested for about  
163 half. Focus on agritourism, insurance agent and attorney there. Greg Ruhter passed away,  
164 helping get animals ready for auction on Monday especially in Ohio.

165

166 Region 8 Elizabeth Riffle- Reported prepping to store hay for the winter. Jim keeps sending in  
167 members for Liz.

168

169 Region 4 Stuart Schrag not much hay produced. Drought impacts. Only two cuttings off of the  
170 alfalfa. KBA booth at state fair. Maxwell auction coming up with 80-90 head getting sold due to  
171 the drought. Prices down the last couple years, but still need to sell. KBA auction Dec. 3. Figure  
172 out how to connect with folks from the region.

173

174 Robert Johnson- Harvest in full swing. First frost already. May see a lot of drought induced  
175 dispersals, or economics, or both. How much bison consumption will be impacted by recession.  
176 Carl, new executive director. Terry available, but officially retired.

177

178 ITBC Update – Mike Faith- Not on call.

179 Jim presented on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). ITBC/NBA MOU (Attachment I)

180

181 Jim highlighted the following changes:

182 Page 1, paragraph 2, changed “nonprofit organization comprised of 1,050 bison producers” to “  
183 nonprofit organization comprised of 1,200 bison producers.”

184

185 Page 1, bottom of page, and page 2, top of page, added new points for collaborative work as  
186 follow:

- 187 • To work together to inform public on Yellowstone NPS/APHIS Quarantine Program and for  
188 the continued translocation of live Yellowstone National Park bison to Indian Tribes; and
- 189 • To work together to ensure consistent application of import/export requirements; and
- 190 • To work together to support efforts to allow buffalo to range as wildlife on the landscape;  
191 and
- 192 • To work together to oppose listing Yellowstone buffalo as an endangered species; and
- 193 • To work together to oppose any genetic alteration of buffalo; and

194

195 Jim Matheson reported consulting ITBC legal counsel regarding point stating: “To work together  
196 to support efforts to allow buffalo to range as wildlife on the landscape; and...” Reported that  
197 ITBC was uncertain on origin of statement, and suggested statement may be the result of  
198 ongoing discussions with the American Prairie Reserve in Montana. ITBC legal counsel reported  
199 this point can be removed if removal is deemed acceptable to both MOU participant groups.

200 Discussion was held by Executive Committee. Discussion focused on risk to public and  
201 management if bison ranged freely across all landscapes. Identified respect for tribal sovereignty  
202 and management of bison as they deem appropriate on the lands they manage. Identified risk of  
203 interpretation that bison are designated as wildlife and can be allowed freedom to roam.

204 Recommendation by board chair to Jim Matheson to explore change of language or removal of  
205 the point stating: “To work together to support efforts to allow buffalo to range as wildlife on the  
206 landscape; and...” Executive board will revisit MOU when a new version is available.

## 207 **Legislative and Regulatory Update**

208 Jim Matheson reported great trip to Washington DC. 18 congressional meetings, 10 USDA  
209 meetings, 1 US Trade meeting. Jim provided meeting highlights. (Attachment J) NBA board  
210 discussed retaining Dave Carter on ATC position. Term ends June 2023. New application for NBA/  
211 Jim Matheson to join will be November 2022.

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213 Motion to allow Dave Carter to finish out term, and pursue Jim Matheson as new representative,  
214 motioned by Kevin Leier, Seconded by Moritz Espy. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Foundations Update**

Update on Foundation resources provided by Jim Matheson. Reported Eloise’s old laptop, shipped to Lydia to use. NBA paying back foundations for the 75% of the cost of the laptop.

**Communications Report**

Karen Connelly reported last issue of Bison World well received. Lots of advertising. Good shape going into winter issue. Targeting a few new advertisers. Good feedback on cover photos and content. Social media tracking well. Excited to go to food championship and develop media material. Try to get some stuff picked up by associated press.

**Executive Director Report**

Jim Matheson provided report (Attachment K). Reported would be hosting a staff retreat to explore strategic plan, assign duties, put together due dates for a real action plan for strategic plan. Briefing papers will go on the website for members to access. New fulfilment situation- did get rid of store inventory. Shipping will Riskin’s up on offer to do distribution.

**Other Business**

None

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Carie Starr, Seconded by Mimi, Hillenbrand, Motion passed unanimously. Meeting closed at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Leier, Secretary

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Lydia Whitman  
Recording Secretary