

Michigan Bison Association Conference Call  
Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

Present

Kevin MacRitchie (president)  
Rich Sangster (Director)  
Corry Bala (Secretary)  
Todde Hoppe

Not Present

Brad Bannon (Treasurer)

Meeting in session at 7:04pm.

Reports

President: None

Vice President: N/A

Secretary: None

Treasurer: N/A

Director: None

Old Business:

**Coop** - MSU Extension Office has overfunded it's agricultural grants for 2015. As a result, more money will be funded for projects such as our Coop in early 2016. In the interim, board members have agreed to come up with questions/ issues to be addressed in January of 2016, to move forward with the creation of the Coop. In addition, MacRitchie will follow up with Molly Wood of MSU to determine whether legal services for the Coop have been covered.

**Former Website** - Discussion took place regarding eliminating the old website. The former webmaster has still been uncooperative. Bala and MacRitchie will get with Todd Hoppe on this matter as well.

**CD** - Discussion took place regarding the \$2,000 CD that is still in the possession of the previous MiBA president. Bala will attempt one more communication via email, before consulting with Todd Hoppe on the matter.

**Logo** - Discussion took place regarding the design of a new MiBA logo. MacRitchie will continue to look into this.

New Business:

**Legal Services** - Discussion took place regarding Todd Hoppe (Attorney), and specifically, making sure he gets paid for time spent on updating Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. These updates were approved (through vote) by members and board at fall meeting in August. To finalize, they will be signed by MacRitchie, and submitted by Hoppe to the appropriate governing agencies.

**State of Michigan** - to remain current regarding IRS filing obligations, Todd Hoppe recommends that we establish a relationship with a CPA.

**Communication with members** - Discussion took place regarding the improvement of member communication. Bala will develop a monthly “newsletter” email to members, in addition to a member email distribution list. In addition, the board agreed to develop a more frequent and routine monthly meeting schedule.

**Hay Coop** - MacRitchie (New Beginnings Ranch) has signed up with a hay coop/exchange. He will report back whether he feels this could be beneficial to the MiBA. In addition, discussion took place regarding the potential of fodder exchange. Rich will look into this.

**Expenses** - Discussion took place regarding the fall meeting/educational series & events. Some expenses remain and still need to be addressed. Possible solution to compensate for Bison Bash loss would be to offer lifetime memberships to debtors. Discussion to be continued next meeting.

**Membership levels** - Discussion took place regarding values of membership (Associate vs. Producer vs. Lifetime). Board members will reflect on this topic and return with ideas at the next meeting.

**Spring Meeting** - Discussion took place regarding details for this. Bala offered The South Lyon Hotel banquet room to host the meeting. This meeting will take place in early March. It was also discussed that money would be collected only for dues, and that food and drinks would be offered and paid for individually, to save room in the budget for future MiBA business.

**Vacant MiBA Office Positions** - An announcement will be made in the first newsletter (January) regarding our available positions. Discussion took place regarding potential candidates.

**Raffle** - Sangster continues to pursue the development of the Bison raffle fundraiser. Todd Hoppe has recommended that we involve the Michigan Lottery Commission to ensure that everything is done thoroughly and cleanly. Emphasis was placed on the notion of the new logo being accepted in order to begin the printing of tickets, marketing posters, etc.

**Motion to adjourn made by Sangster, seconded by Bala. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.