

Michigan Bison Association
Spring Board Meeting Minutes
February 26th, 2017

Call to Order

Meeting in session at 11:55 a.m.

Present:

Kevin MacRitchie, President

Corry Bala, Secretary

Brad Bannon, Treasurer

Opening Remarks:

President MacRitchie welcomes all in attendance and looks forward to working with all members toward a great future for the MiBA.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions of all attendees

Reports:

President

Membership – our 2016 membership was as high as it’s ever been. MacRitchie spoke of the importance of individual procurement of future members as it pertains to achieving our goals with greater numbers.

Member Meetings - To keep communication regular, the board will have by-monthly conference calls, during which all members are encouraged to participate. The intention with this is to promote a constant discussion of events and issues throughout the year as they present themselves.

Agritourism - Various options and opportunities in the State of Michigan exist to involve individual bison ranches in Agritourism. Specifically, President MacRitchie showed the publication “Discover Michigan Farm Fun”, as an example to help boost interest in our ranches, as well our industry as a whole.

NBA State & Regional – MacRitchie continues to update all relevant NBA parties on our workings and progress. He will also continue to forward emailed updates from the NBA to our MiBA members.

Partnerships – MacRitchie spoke about the importance of utilizing our relationships. The driving force behind all of what we do as a board revolves around the notion that we are all partners in a common industry. Our ability to work together will give us a great advantage in our own businesses. Taking advantage of the specialties of our partners will promote individual greatness as well as advancing growth in our Michigan industry as a whole.

Vice President

n/a

Secretary

Website – Bala spoke on some of the possibilities within our website. Ideas were exchanged regarding the addition of an interactive bison owners' map. Bala will continue to work with our webhost, WebMatters, to develop the site. Members are encouraged to become involved in the evolution of the site as we grow.

Newsletter – Bala will work with WebMatters to produce a by-monthly MiBA newsletter, to be generated from our site. In addition, paper copies will be produced and mailed to members.

Treasurer

Bills – All bills have been paid throughout the year, as approved unanimously by the board during our monthly conference calls.

Checking Account – the board presently has roughly \$2,000 in the account.

Director

Director Rich Sangster has resigned from his position. Discussion of fundraising opportunities will continue among the board during future conference calls.

Old Business:

Legal Matters - Over the last two years, the board has worked with attorney Todd Hoppe, of Foster & Swift, to update our 501C3 status and other mandatory filings that had previously lapsed. We have also worked to update our bylaws & Articles of Incorporation, with guidance from the NBA. It is believed that we are currently up to date and in good status as a legal entity.

Legal Matters II - Discussion took place regarding the missing CD, as noted in previous meetings. It was stated that former president Jim Pohl recently contacted current Treasurer Brad Bannon to declare that he and his wife Krista (also a former president) are holding this money in a private account, and refuses to return it unless he is refunded his 2015 membership dues, as well as the dues of two other former members. Various potential paths of resolution were discussed. As in previous conference calls, the board has unanimously decided to pursue this matter legally with the aid of attorney Todd Hoppe. As a result, a letter from Hoppe has been sent to Pohl explaining that the immediate return of our money is required to avoid penalty. The board will continue to work diligently on this matter until it is resolved.

Great Lakes Bison Co-Op - Discussion took place regarding updates and development thus far. The name "Great Lakes" was adopted to broaden our potential member base, as opposed to making the name exclusive to our state. It was discussed that the many advantages of producers working together to maximize buying power would be a valuable benefit to members. In addition, it is thought that keeping the co-op as an extension of the MiBA (although not mandatory to members) would aid in growing our membership. A meeting will take place in Lansing in the near future at a specific date and time to be determined regarding the future development of the co-op. Members will be notified and are encouraged to attend.

New Business:

None

Member Comments:

None

Guest Speaker:

Kristie Shelly, of WebMatters, spoke further about the tools that can be utilized from our website. In addition, she spoke about the importance of network marketing, and specifically about the development of an MiBA Facebook page. She has volunteered to take us on as a client at a reduced rate. She will work with Secretary Bala on this in the future.

Elections:

Available positions are Vice President and three directors.

Motion to elect Clayton Farrer as Vice President made by Bannon, seconded by MacRitchie. Motion carried.

Motion to elect Jane Hawkins as Director made by Bannon, seconded by MacRitchie. Motion carried.

Motion to elect David Kirby as Director made by Bannon, seconded by Bala. Motion carried.

Motion to elect Helen Walters as Director made by Bannon, seconded by MacRitchie. Motion carried.

Congratulations, new board members! We look forward to working with you!

Motion To Adjourn made by MacRitchie, seconded by Sangster at 2:35 pm. Motion carried.

Fun Auction:

Our fun auction had 12 items donated that auctioned off for a total of \$305.00!