Dear Friend,

American Prairie Reserve recognizes the importance of growing the organization’s volunteer-led leadership. Our vibrant National Board of Directors provides strategic guidance and introduces us to new audiences who come to love the prairie just as you do. We are pleased to celebrate the addition of three leaders: Jeff Talpins and Mara Talpins, who were elected in 2018, and Roland Parrish, who joined the National Board of Directors at the start of 2019.

Jeffrey Talpins is the Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer of Element Capital Management in New York City. Mr. Talpins also runs a family charitable foundation, which seeks to make a difference in the world through improving career opportunities for inner city children, supporting long-term prosperity for Israel, and conserving both open spaces and wildlife. Mr. Talpins graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa) from Yale University with Distinction in Economics and Applied Mathematics (focus in Finance), and presently lives in New York with his wife, Mara, their two children, and family dog.

Mara Talpins’ lifelong passion for wildlife began as a child and she has been actively involved with the Wildlife Conservation Society for almost 20 years, originally as a volunteer at the Central Park Zoo and now on their Council. She believes that educating children to appreciate wildlife is a key to society’s long-term support for the co-existence of humans with wildlife and wild spaces. Mrs. Talpins devotes the majority of her time to raising her two wonderful children and Italian Water Dog in New York, and over the years has volunteered at various education initiatives and also has traveled extensively to experience wildlife and cultures in developing nations.

Roland Parrish is President, CEO/Owner of Parrish Restaurants, Ltd., which owns 23 McDonald’s in North Texas, and is immediate Past Chairman/CEO of the National Black McDonald’s Owner/Operators Association. Parrish Restaurants, Ltd., is consistently listed as one of the Top 100 Black Owned Businesses in the U.S. by Black Enterprise Magazine. Mr. Parrish earned a Bachelor and MBA at Purdue University’s Krannert School of Business, where he was team captain and two-time MVP for the Purdue Track and Field team. Support of his alma mater resulted in the naming of the Roland G. Parrish Library of Management and Economics. Mr. Parrish lives in Dallas, Texas with his wife of 40 years, Jewel, and three children– Rowland, Wesley, and Jade.

I think you will agree that American Prairie Reserve is fortunate to have developed close relationships with some of the world’s greatest philanthropists and visionaries. We are proud to also now count Jeff and Mara Talpins, and Roland Parrish among them.

Sincerely,

Alison Fox
CEO, American Prairie Reserve