

**MINUTES  
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

The Executive Committee meeting of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef was called to order at 3:01 p.m. Central U.S. / Canada time.

Members Present: Ian McConnel, Bob Lowe, Justin Sherrard, Lucas McKelvie, Jeannette Ferran Astorga, Bob McCan

Staff/Other Present: Ruaraidh Petre, Josefina Eisele, Scott Stuart, Julie James

**Opening Remarks/Executive Committee Report**

A verbal affirmation of adherence to the GRSB Anti-Trust Policy was received from those on the call.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Lowe and seconded by Sherrard that the minutes of the January 10, 2023 GRSB Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports**

Sherrard reported an update to the December 31, 2022 Financial Report. Since the last Executive Committee meeting, GRSB has received a \$56,855 invoice from the Hilton Hotel for the Global Conference Food & Beverage charges that were inadvertently omitted in the original invoicing due to a billing glitch. GRSB's budget has been negatively impacted by \$50-\$60K due to three unexpected invoices from Emerging Ag and MHP, as well as the Hilton, all of which will be expensed in 2023, affecting the available funds for projects in 2023. After negotiations, Emerging Ag agreed to reduce their invoice \$7,500, MHP agreed to bill for only one month of severance instead of three plus produce work for GRSB in January, and the Hilton Hotel agreed to a 30% invoice reduction. This Hilton invoice increases the Global Conference expense approximately \$40,000, and with all three invoices mentioned, the 2022 financial position is at a net deficit of \$84,899. Thereby reducing the Retained Earnings available to bring forward in 2023. The Colorado Event grant can potentially net approximately \$25,000 and will be reflected once the reward is finalized.

Sherrard recommended adjustments be made to the 2023 Budget rather than affecting the Board Specified Reserve which circumstances don't necessarily warrant, and would require Board approval. Stuart stated that along with Petre and Sherrard, some small adjustments have been made to the 2023 Proposed Budget to help absorb some of the impact. Petre highlighted lessons learned: 1) Emerging Ag: structure contracts by activity requiring individual approval before expenditure; 2) MHP: GRSB stands in the right; however, the cost to contest in the U.K. is far greater than to pay the reduction to one month's severance. Stuart highlighted the Hilton billing was a hotel billing glitch affecting a full day's hotel

invoicing for Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. As this was discovered by GRSB, Hilton agreed to a 30% reduction.

Stuart added SureHarvest provides a model contract tying invoices specifically to deliverables and dates. Petre and Stuart have agreed to meet monthly reviewing all current contract status, reviewing services completed and corresponding payments. Ultimately, the Global Conference netted approximately \$70,000. McCan recommended a mid-year budget reconciliation discussion prioritizing Communications and CoP to get more aligned with expansion of these projects from previous years.

Sherrard reviewed the updated Proposed budget highlighting:

Revenue:

- Additional \$23-\$25K coming in from the Colorado Events Grant.
- Lightly increased Membership Revenue due to anticipated increase in new members.

Expenses:

- Travel Expense was slightly reduced for both Petre and Eisele and is hoped to be offset by travel expenses covered by the soliciting party or organization.
- \$4,550 was moved out of Communications and into Subscriptions for more accurate reflection as it is for the Wild Apricot Membership web hosting.
- Contract Expense for CoP28 was reduced \$25,000 due to not needing the same level of support in this second year versus the first. Recommendation was made to leverage member support and industry partners such as Dairy.

It was moved by McKelvie and seconded by McCan to accept the Revised 2022 Financial Report and the Revised 2023 Proposed Budget to present to the Board for approval as presented. Motion carried.

McConnel commented having interest in learning how GRSB can help the National Roundtables access grant funding opportunities around measuring and implementing the goals, particularly, with NGO support and in-kind efforts.

## **Administrative Report**

### 2023 Annual Plan

Petre presented the 2023 Annual Plan outlining the priorities and objectives in accordance with feedback from the recent Regional Roundtable Annual Plan Input calls, along with a corresponding Tactics Worksheet which will be hosted on the GRSB website under Member Resources. This worksheet will aid as a reporting framework to the Annual Plan.

Some highlights include:

- Developing a Social Goal which may be spearheaded by Daniel Knoop (Solidaridad).
- Restructuring the Goals Working Groups to include smaller (<10) Core Groups of global experts focusing on measuring and delivering outputs and to provide feedback with the broader working groups.

- Develop new Terms of Reference for each of the new Core Working Groups.
- Continued engagement with SureHarvest and the roundtables.
- Incorporate Ecosystem-based Adaptation / Resilience within Nature Positive Production
- Translate the Life Cycle Assessment Tool into Portuguese and Spanish, and present by webinar.
- Plan 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting, and 2024 Global Conference (Dates/Locations).

Petre clarified GRSB efforts will be focused on supporting alignments and demonstrating progress with existing roundtables rather than establishing new roundtables. Eisele reported that WWF stated interest in working with GRSB on the China Roundtable, and McConnel added we should not be closed to new roundtable opportunities (such as China or Japan), if there will be member support to help share the load (such as WWF's stated interest in the China Roundtable). Sherrard suggested revamping expectations of new member applicants requiring more input and resources to bring to the table. Sherrard added while there is some room in the budget for some of these action items, many items will require support from partners and beneficiaries. Eisele added developing Impact Incentives for Beef (modeled by Textile Exchange for Leather) would be an additional income stream and potentially attractive for the Retail constituency.

The Annual Plan and Tactics Worksheet will be updated to include inputs submitted by Eisele, as well as the 2023 Communications Plan, to be presented for approval at the next Board of Directors meeting.

#### Regional 1:1 Calls

Most of the 1:1 calls have been completed with only a couple remaining on schedule. All notes and feedback will be forwarded to SureHarvest for input into the Framework. These 1:1 calls have been very beneficial and will be conducted every 4-6 months as a check-in.

#### North American Meat Institute (NAMI) – Protein Pact

Petre shared request was made for GRSB's endorsement of the NAMI Protein Pact. NAMI is a new GRSB member and has set goals that align with GRSB's Global Goals.

It was moved by Lowe and supported by McCann to approve GRSB endorsement of the Protein Pact. Motion carried.

#### AIM Climate Summit, May 8-10, Washington DC

Petre asked if GRSB should be represented at the upcoming AIM Climate Summit or if any Executive Committee members plan on attending. Ferran Astorga affirmed the event and stated Zoetis will participate at some level. McCan recommended contacting NCBA in Washington D.C. for any potential collaboration.

#### GRSB Webinar

Petre reported the next GRSB webinar, "Setting Climate Targets: Measuring Progress Across the Supply Chain" will be on February 23, 1:00-2:30 pm Central US/Canada, and moderated by WWF's Alex Bjork and USRSB's Sam Werth.

### New Prospective GRSB Member

Eisele presented background on the New Member Consideration for Angus Society Uruguay.

It was moved by Sherrard and supported by Ferran Astorga to recommend approval of Angus Society Uruguay for GRSB membership. Motion carried.

### Regional Report

#### Colombian Innovation Tour, Cartagena – March 27-31, 2023

Eisele reported registration is open, and encouraged the Executive Committee to register if attending. The event is a public event and open to all. German Serrano is expecting 300 for the Symposium and 100 for the Innovation Tour. Serrano will be doing a complete site visit of the tour and facilities in advance to ensure a smooth process. Sponsorships are being solicited and presently include contributions from Minerva, EcoSecurities, Grupo Exitó, as well as expected from the National Roundtables. Eisele asked for members to send local representation. The Board meeting will be available virtually.

### Other Business

Sherrard commented on the idea mentioned to reformulate the Communications Committee and suggested the idea of starting a GRSB podcast series showcasing progress, best practices, etc. to help stir conversation and inspire reporting. McKelvie commented the importance of being mindful of GRSB's target audience in any approach being considered. Petre added Lasack will be introducing Petre and Eisele as guests on other podcasts. McConnel suggested interviews with Lasack and Executive Committee members. Further discussions to be presented to the Comms Council.

**The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on March 14, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30p.m. Central US / Canada.**