

**MINUTES  
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 9, 2023**

The Executive Committee meeting of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Central U.S. / Canada time.

Members Present: Ian McConnel, Bob Lowe, Justin Sherrard, Lucas McKelvie, Luiza Bruscato

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.

McConnel advised of his departure from Tyson Foods; however, he would like to carry out his term as GRSB President. The Executive Committee agreed.

It was reported a 404 Error Message was received when opening the Tactics Worksheet and GRSB will troubleshoot.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by McConnel and seconded by McKelvie that the minutes of the April 11, 2023 GRSB Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports**

Sherrard reviewed the April 30, 2023 Financial Report reflecting YTD \$571,303 in revenues and \$250,964 in expenses for a net surplus of \$320,340.

Ambrose reviewed the list of outstanding membership dues and non-renewals. Eisele will follow-up with Indunor and ADM; McConnel will follow-up with AgTrade; Ambrose will follow-up with NEOGEN and A. Toto, and all other outstanding dues are expected to be received.

Sherrard stated there are a couple of US Treasury Bills that will mature soon and Sherrard, Petre and Stuart will discuss best uses including a portion going into the Operating Account. Stuart stated that the deposit with Beal Bank is fully insured under FDIC.

Petre stated \$5-6,000 of his travel will be reimbursed by two organizations.

It was moved by Sherrard and seconded by Lowe that the April 30, 2022 Financial Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

### Project Funding

McConnel stated there are a number of significant projects for the working groups that GRSB can add value to the global industry, particularly, around carbon and forest. GRSB could invest and take a leadership role in providing guidance around low carbon supply chains and helping with global rules translations such as SBTi, carbon markets, etc., as well as deforestation free supply chains and help develop credible pathways for members and industry to meet social and regulatory guidelines.

This funding opportunity will target members and industry organizations with a goal of \$500,000 plus. GRSB will have a more deliberate approach by bringing larger corporate members together for discussion. The fund would be similar to the former Acceleration Fund and will be allocated to projects as agreed by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

A request will be made to the Board to approve increasing the current \$100K Goals Projects budget, as well as the various projects.

#### **ACTION:**

McConnel stated that the Executive Committee will take the next week to ten days to draft an outline of what this mechanism could look like for the Executive Committee to review prior to presenting to the Board for input on the next call on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 10:30 am Central US/Canada.

### Executive Director Report

#### Emerging Ag / COP28

Ambrose reported that the \$30K revised contract with Emerging Ag has been received and the first COP meeting will be scheduled in May.

#### Monitoring and Reporting

Update was not available.

#### Global to Local Roundtable Cooperation

McConnel gave an update that the National Roundtables have opted to pause the revision of the Global to Local Roundtable Cooperation until further notice while the goal setting continues with the work of SureHarvest.

#### Social Impact Goal

McConnel reported the Social Drafting Group has completed the draft revision of the Principle and Criteria which will be presented to the Social Working Group on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Once approved, the drafting group will begin working on drafting the goal.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting / Communicators Summit

Update was not available.

## **Regional Report**

### **Recent Travels**

Eisele reported on her recent trip to Brazil with Textile Exchange regarding their Leather Impact Accelerator which establishes minimum requirements in the supply chain and incentivizes farmers and producers to comply. The trip was very fruitful with the various fashion brands learning about the realities of the region.

Eisele also attended the Future of Food at the Innovation Forum event in Amsterdam. The event was very anti-beef claiming beef cannot be sustainable. Conversely, Lowe shared the recent report from FAO which concluded that “Meat, eggs and milk are essential sources of nutrients.”

Lastly, Eisele reported learning of a public communication unsupportive of GRSB’s Global Goals that was recently circulated by the Paraguayan Roundtable. This communication was written by some Producers and was not voted upon by the other constituents of the National Roundtable. The Paraguayan Roundtable will review the communication internally and may issue a revised statement.

## **Administrative Report**

### **2024 Global Conference for Sustainable Beef**

It was discussed if Paraguay is the best region for the next global conference, particularly, in light of varying misalignments with the GRSB Global Goals. It was agreed for Eisele to schedule a call with Alfred Fast along with Bob Lowe and Bob McCann (both Producers, and Executive Committee members) to discuss further.

### **New Member**

New member consideration was presented for Wilson Flying Diamond Ranch.

It was moved by McConnel and supported by Lowe to approve Wilson Flying Diamond Ranch as a new GRSB member. Motion carried.

### **Hillary Fenrich Proposal**

Hillary Fenrich’s proposal for Nature Positive project work was discussed, as well as the necessary budgetary reallocations to fund. Governance concern was addressed that typically this position is voluntary; however, this scope and capacity would accelerate the work for Nature Positive which would better position a volunteer to continue once Fenrich departs. The proposal is outside of the current budget; however, there is \$20K spared from the Emerging Ag contract. While there are variables to Fenrich’s ongoing availability, it was agreed to have Fenrich get started on items A-E of the proposal; Eisele will contact accordingly.

**Other Business**

Lowé asked if full Board meetings every month are effective and McConnel advised GRSB governance does require them; however, agendas can be more strategic and targeted.

Eisele will be traveling to Uruguay to meet the various actors to establish the Uruguayan Roundtable.

Adjourned 4:37pm.

**The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on June 13, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30p.m. Central US / Canada.**