



GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF

National Roundtables Minutes August 17, 2023

GRSB Members Present:

Andrea White (CRSB); Edward Bolivia (MBCS); Louisa Icke (NZRSB), Caterine Forero (MRGSM); Sam Werth (USRSB); Hugo Sanchez (MPCS); Leopoldo Estol (MACS); Hillary Fenrich (McDonald's); Andrea Fabi Luciano (TNC); Josh White (NCBA); O'Campo (Grupo Exito);

GRSB Staff Present: Josefina Eisele, Katie Ambrose, Kellie Lasack, Julie James, Interpreter Christian Reyes

Others Present: Eric Harris, SureHarvest

Updates from Board, Working Groups and Comms Council to NRT

An update on GRSB's FAO side event proposal was that it was denied.

Eric Harris gave an update that the final reporting template is very close to being completed as some edits were made under Nature Positive. Eisele added that the edits were made to ensure all the national roundtables are reporting on at least one of the following areas and activities: deforestation and conversion, a size-based land management practices, land degradation, incentives, and producer reporting. This is not a new version but rather a hybrid of versions 1 and 2, restructured to offer more guidance, as well as ensure alignment with the reporting framework document previously approved by the Board, members, and by the National Roundtables.

The template should be ready to circulate by the end of August, with the goal of having reporting from the roundtables through the month of September and provided back to SureHarvest back by the end of September. Roundtables are encouraged you to simply start the reporting and enter the best they can and send it to the working group leads for help. Werth reiterated the working group chairs are happy to support the roundtables in filling out that template once they receive it. Eisele also encouraged the roundtables to connect with other regional roundtables to share ideas and learn from those that are further along and to help those that are not.

Roundtable one-on-one calls will be setup in the coming weeks to include GRSB and the working group chairs. Eisele recommended to get the most out of this time, for each roundtable to try to fill out the template the best they could which may prompt additional questions for those calls. The template will also be available in Spanish. Please contact Josefina.eisele@grsbeef.org or hillary.fenrich@us.mcd.com with any questions or needed assistance with the reporting template.

Eisele provided an update on the Beef Sustainability Roadmap Fund. GRSB and Context Network are working on phase one of the climate project, and the NPP working group is developing a proposal for funding NPP projects. One idea with a lot of interest from the working group is related to the nature positive commitments (including zero deforestation) that many organizations have made, and the different goals they are working on in relation to land practices. Also, identifying what regenerative is, minimum requirements to be considered, methodology for verification to claim credit, and GRSB can help to develop this methodology. There will be a small drafting group within the NPP group to develop this in more detail starting with analyzing all the NPP commitments or goals that other companies, GRSB members and non-members have made, to include the type of claims, solutions, and any gaps. Members interested in participating in this small drafting group are welcome.

Eisele added there will be a new GRSB Uruguayan Roundtable launching in September.

White gave an update from the Communications Council. There will be a GRSB webinar, "Cultivated Conversations" on Monday, August 21st, 4:00-5:30pm Central. This discussion will be about cultivated meat and how to talk to each other when there's potentially opposing views. The Comms Summit Working Group is working on finalizing the questions for the panel discussions and workshop activities, as well as trying to finalize some of the consumer research questions to go forward with in the coming year.

Werth reported the tour is finalized, and while it will be a long day, it will be well worth it! The tour's first stop is in the Imperial Valley to see one of the big feed yards (staying on the bus for biosecurity concerns). The Imperial Valley is a very dry desert climate with some interesting water rights and water issues factored into their considerations for how they produce their animals in a sustainable manner. Then another 15 minutes away is U.C. University of California Research and Extension Center to take a deep dive into research happening in the area including how they grow more drought, tolerant crops. They also have a small research feed yard and feed mill on site. Then on down to Jamul to see a ranch that is on land owned by the San Diego Conservation District which is all public land but contracted with a local rancher to graze cattle. The rancher has done a lot in terms of enhancing conservation practices on that land, and being able to improve habitat for different endangered species there. Werth met the rancher in person and found he has a lot to communicate on challenges and lessons learned based on how he's been able to be successful in an area that is typically not thought of as a cattle ranching community.

Global Goals Reporting Package

Werth summarized the next steps of the Goals Reporting Package which will be available once the final reporting template is ready by the end of August. The reporting package will include guidelines for the template, timeline for completions, completed examples for each section of the template for each goal area, as well as a slide summarizing the overarching intent behind each which a preview was provided for AHW and NPP.

Agenda items for NRT Meeting on Oct. 4th

The NRT meeting in San Diego will be co-led. Sam Werth and Andrea White will be present. Monica Hadarits will not be attending; however, Ryan Beierbach will and he also led the last in-person NRT meeting in Colombia.

The NRT discussed various topic ideas for the meeting agenda. One idea is to discuss the NPP project alignment, and share commonalities as applicable across all roundtables for something to build out a project for, and similarly, for Animal Health & Welfare. Continuing a more in-depth discussion on *regenerative* from the last in-person meeting in Colombia would be beneficial for the

NPP group, as well as the NRT members. Suggestion was made since Bradd Witt will be attending, it would be beneficial to have him facilitate another discussion on *regenerative*.

Another suggestion was made to have effective modes of producer focused education & trainings on Animal Health & Welfare (AHW). Josh White is a leader on beef quality assurance in the U.S. will be at the meeting and could share on experience on successful producer trainings. Ryan Beierbach would also be able to contribute.

SureHarvest will be at the meeting and will be available for those who want to spend any one-on-one time to ask questions or have better understanding in some areas of the reporting template.

Eisele added after CoP15, there were commitments made from financial institutions at a global level. It would be good to have someone who could present these global and regional funding opportunities at that meeting which would help roundtables to collaborate and apply jointly as applicable.

Another topic that Monica had brought up was potentially having a speaker in relation to each goal, to outline the current state of science around the goal topics, and have the ability to have group breakouts to really discuss those topics, and maybe what future needs are which could help provide a little direction towards where to invest the energy, time, and funds for research.

White stated there is not a budget to bring in new people to speak so pulling from attendance, as there is a lot of expertise within the GRSB membership that could speak on the various topics. Ambrose added if there was someone really of interest to the group, GRSB would make every effort to find sponsorship for that person, and in which case, such speaker would need to be identified as soon as possible.

Another idea is to have an active discussion, with every roundtable everyone making a commitment of what they're going to do, and leave with action plan to go home and work with their members on.

Werth will provide this list of topic ideas to Monica and Roz, and there will be a follow-up email to everyone summarizing today's discussion, and a few key next steps to prepare to bring to the September meeting to finalize the October agenda in a way that optimizes the time together. If you think of anything else, feel free to email Sam, Monica or Roz.

Also, allow for general updates from each roundtable on their current activities.

NRT Meeting Times

Werth stated that this meeting time is not ideal for some and it is important to have as many regions possible to be able to participate on these monthly calls. An idea was to maybe set three different time slots (1. North/South America, 2. Europe, 3. New Zealand/Australia) and rotate each month to capture everyone as fairly as possible. Please share any ideas or opposition to the idea of time rotations. This will be decided on the next call so a new schedule can be established.

Open Space / Key Milestones

Reminders of upcoming member events open to all:

- CRSB, Annual Meeting, Sept 26-28, Toronto
- GTPS Forum, Sept 28, San

The USRSB has a producer focused grazing management plan module live on its website resources page, www.usrsb.org. It is focused on helping producers with a very base level, low barrier to entry development of a grazing management plan to help them create goals for their grazing strategy and understand what their resource needs and availability are. A fillable template is also available.

A question was asked how other members structure their annual meetings – to be as effective as possible and maximizing the time members are face-to-face, do other roundtables identify a theme and focus or target a particular area, or is the agenda left more broad. The consensus was doing both, as applicable at that time.

Ambrose added that September's communications theme is Animal Health & Welfare and to be sure to send kellie.lasack@grsbeef.org your related content to be posted.

Agenda items for next meeting in September

- Closeout of points to help the NRTs to make a success of the pilot of the goals reporting
- Discuss a simple approach and process for appointing co-chairs for the NRT community to ensure everyone has an opportunity.
- Run through the updated reporting template and review any updates from SureHarvest
- Finalize the agenda for the in-person meeting in October.
- Solidifying how to proceed with different meeting times.

Next National Roundtable Meeting – September 21, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (US Central / Canada Time)