

**MINUTES
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

The Executive Committee meeting of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Central U.S. / Canada time.

Members Present: Ian McConnel, Bob Lowe, Justin Sherrard, Lucas McKelvie, Jeannette Ferran Astorga; Luiza Bruscato

Staff/Other Present: Josefina Eisele, Scott Stuart, Katie Ambrose, 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 August 8, 2023 GRSB Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

Sherrard reviewed the August 31, 2023 Financial Report reflecting YTD \$725,768 in revenues and \$489,185 in expenses for a net surplus of \$236,583. Sherrard highlighted a couple treasury/bank bills had just matured, and Scott stated that they have been rolled into separate treasuries, earning more than 5%, and the GoChain has started to generate more interest recently. There was discussion on process of exchanging these assets for cash. It was agreed to consider \$20,000 or \$25,000 as a trigger for a point of action. A question was asked about the increased bank charges and Stuart stated, they are mainly attributed to fees associated with wire transfers and the registration system for the meetings in San Diego.

It was moved by Sherrard and seconded by Lowe that the August 31, 2022 Financial Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Beef Sustainability Roadmap

Project funding is behind. Ambrose will setup calls with potential members and the Executive Committee agreed to be available in support of these efforts.

Emerging Ag / CoP28

McConnel reported GRSB/members will nominate as many members as possible to increase chances for increased allotment of tickets to COP, and designation of actual attendees would be determined at a later time. Eisele suggested using local government tickets where available. McConnel inquired about Luiza joining from Brazil, which she confirmed was uncertain due to a lack of Brazilian tickets. Eisele recalled Brazilian pavilions from the

previous year and advised Luiza to contact the Foreign Affairs Office, but Luiza reported there has been no response from multiple institutions and organizations they reached out to for assistance.

There was discussion on the thematic negotiations scheduled for December 9 and 10 focusing on Food, Agriculture, and Water. There was concern that Food and Agriculture issues might not be prioritized during the conference which may be an opportunity to avoid overemphasis on carbon issues.

Social Impact Goal

The draft social goal is expected to be ready for review the following week. Sherrard suggested that the group could socialize the draft goal during their face-to-face meeting in October, potentially saving time.

Eisele reported she would be attending the *Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence* in Berlin just before San Diego, emphasizing the importance of these concepts, especially in light of the new EU regulation. The team agreed that the EU regulation and an upcoming webinar would provide opportunities to clarify the concept of Human Rights Diligence.

2024 Global Conference for Sustainable Beef

Eisele reported she had visited three potential venues and was seeking the best options for a Latin American audience. Eisele suggested that a conference registration fee capped at \$300 would be more attainable for Latin Americans. Eisele will also inquire about assistance for producers to attend. The preferred dates are September 30th – October 5, and the second option would be October 16th or 18th. Ambrose emphasized the need to provide ample time for the working groups and the National Roundtables as they have requested to have a full day.

Sherrard suggested sponsorship and grant opportunities to offset the fundraising burden on members for the Roadmap Fund continuing into 2024. Eisele shared that McDonald's had asked about sponsorship prices, indicating they are planning for the 2024 budget. The team decided to provide a sponsorship package outline based on the global conference in Denver, with the understanding that final prices may change.

Regional Report

Colombia Update – Eisele reported there has been a lack of progress with the Colombian Roundtable. There is not any leadership in place since the departure of the Technical Coordinator. Eisele suggested to put the Columbia Roundtable on standby until they can regroup and restructure, expressing concern about the lack of dedicated funding for such a role. McConnel and Ambrose asked if there was a role for them in supporting, but Eisele requested more time to discuss with key individuals.

Uruguay Update – Eisele reported on her recent trip to attend the official launch of the Uruguayan Roundtable, which was well-attended despite heavy rain. Eisele gave recognition for the support that Olaso Aguirre and other members of the roundtable gave to GRSB, and are also being instrumental in planning the next global conference.

Administrative Report

Communicators Summit / Board Meeting

Ambrose asked who would be attending the Communicators Dinner, and the Nami reception or conference. The Executive Committee will attend the Communicators Dinner, and McConnel and Sherrard confirmed for NAMI.

Ambrose advised she is actively seeking a retailer to fill a last-minute spot in a panel discussion. She reached out to several contacts and welcomed suggestions, including Colorado Cattlemen's & A&W. The team also discussed potential speakers from the finance sector or with knowledge of Proposition 12, a new California sustainability law. Some names mentioned were: Ashley McDonald (has left the pork industry), Sam Werth, Lisa Hughes, Kevin Kester, and Darren Williams. The team agreed to continue exploring options.

Board Nominations

Board Nominations and Elections Update

Stuart provided an update on the board nominations stating that the call for nominations had been sent out to Primary voting contacts. The list of voting members is generally updated each year; however, there can be exceptions, and therefore only the primary member is sent the email notice. There was a suggestion to send a reminder via 'Connect' to inform members about this. Stuart advised that terms ending include: OSI Group, Cargill and Harvest Road. Terms eligible for re-election include: Corteva and Textile Exchange; McDonald's and RBI (Burger King); and Texas A&M Animal Science Department and National Wildlife Federation. A&W Canada had expressed interest in joining.

Once the new board is in place, elections for the Executive Committee will be held and terms for both McConnel and Lowe are ending. Sherrard will continue as Treasurer and Ferran-Astorga's, Member at Large will be up for election. The new elections should be completed by mid-November for budget planning and the formation of the new Executive Committee. Ambrose shared the suggestion for Shari Westerfeld to take Ferran-Astorga's place on the Executive Committee, but this would require a formal nomination and election by the new board.

It was agreed to cancel the September board meeting due to the meeting in person in San Diego on the 27th.

Legal Update

Stuart reported on the subpoena that GRSB received from the Federal Court in Minnesota, that is related to a litigation involving several beef producers. Stuart detailed the steps taken to comply with the requests, including providing over 1,600 pages of information and cost a little over \$1,000 in legal fees.

Upcoming Events

- GRSB Webinar, " New Approaches to Tracking Claimability and Traceability in Scope 3 Programs," September 28, 5:00 – 6:30pm Central US

- Board of Directors Meeting – September 27, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Central US/Canada
- Sustainable Livestock Forum (Brazilian Roundtable), Sept. 28, Rio Preto
- CRSB Annual General Meeting, Sept 26-28, Toronto
- Communicators Summit / Board Meeting, Oct. 2-4, San Diego

Any Other Business

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on October 10, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30p.m. Central US / Canada.