



GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF

National Roundtables Minutes September 21, 2023

GRSB Members Present:

Monica Hadarits (CRSB); Louisa Icke (NZRSB), Caterine Forero (MRGSM); Sam Werth (USRSB); Hugo Sanchez (MPCS); Hillary Fenrich (McDonald's); Roz Davis (ERBS) Leopoldo and Jose (Argentina); Edward (Bolivia); Luiza (Brazil)

GRSB Staff Present: Josefina Eisele, Katie Ambrose, Kellie Lasack, Interpreter

1. Welcome

Monica reviewed the agenda for the day.

2. Updates from GRSB

Sam shared an update about the progress of the meetings with Context, noting they were on track to meet their goal of conducting 30 interviews. Katie expressed satisfaction with the information gathered so far and highlighted that GRSB was held in high regard by its members due to its proactive efforts. The team also discussed the carbon scoping project, with plans for a workshop at the upcoming in-person meeting. Additionally, Josefina emphasized the need for everyone to be aligned with the forthcoming discussions in San Diego, particularly concerning the social goals framework. She also mentioned scheduling one-on-one meetings with Josh (animal welfare) and herself (nature positive) on Wednesday morning to discuss the goals reporting further.

Josefina also brought up a new revision of the Social Principle and Criteria draft that was distributed for roundtables feedback. Some roundtable representatives indicated they did not receive it. GRSB will re-send it to ensure all the NRTs receive it. Monica urged the team to review it and provide feedback by the due date of Thursday, September 28.

Josefina also mentioned that the Colombia roundtable would be standing down for the foreseeable future due to a lack of staff and funding.

3. Core Topics for NRT workplan

Chair Rotation

The team discussed a simplified approach to volunteer rotation and chairing responsibilities. Monica suggested that if more than two volunteers step forward, a strategy like drawing names from a hat could be employed. The aim was to ensure all national roundtables had an opportunity to chair. Roz and Samantha agreed that this approach seemed feasible and inclusive, allowing for commitment adjustments if needed. Louisa also expressed support for the simple strategy.

Monica and Roz expressed their willingness to continue leading the discussion, but also offered to hand-off the responsibility if others were interested. The team decided to have a call to determine if anyone wanted to volunteer. If no one volunteered, Monica and Roz will continue.

Meeting time rotation

The new meeting rotation to accommodate different time zones was discussed. Although there were some concerns about the timing, most people were in favor of this approach.

October 4th meeting agenda

Monica discussed the draft agenda for their upcoming hybrid meeting in San Diego, highlighting that they will have more time, courtesy of the GRSB team. She mentioned that they had not planned for a break in the agenda but attendees could leave to get coffee, etc.

Polo highlighted the perception of pain management and how a discussion on this would be helpful.

There was feedback to allocate more time on the agenda to communications, the NRT workplan and funding opportunities for NRTs.

Monica will take that back and make the revisions.

NRT updates

Monica facilitated a discussion where the roundtables shared their challenges and achievements. Katie confirmed the presence of a team member from Bolivia, and Monica congratulated Edward on his progress report. Monica also praised the collaboration among team members and highlighted the importance of learning from each other. She expressed excitement over the progress made by the Argentina team and congratulated them. Lastly, Monica acknowledged the absence of a team member from Brazil and planned to include her in the next meeting.

Bolivia, Argentina, Mexico, New Zealand, Europe, US provided their updates.

Bolivia

Edward reported progress on the governance structure, with bylaws being approved. They are working on animal welfare and training with vets and other sectors of the roundtable.

This is a way to reach producers. There are five members attending the GRSB meeting in San Diego.

Argentina

Polo mentioned the roundtable has been working for five years. Indicators have been presented to the Board. They are having challenges with producer responses and have been working with other roundtables. They also have an important tradeshow in Palermo and looking to build momentum.

Mexican

Cat discussed the challenges and progress of the Mexican Roundtable this year. She mentioned that they faced a lack of interest from partners at the beginning of the year, but were able to reengage them and make progress towards their goals. However, securing funding remains a significant challenge. Additionally, they expanded the roundtable to include members related to pork and soy production, which provided an opportunity to participate in the development of sustainability standards for pork production. Roz expressed interest in learning more about this partnership.

New Zealand

Louisa shared that despite some progress, their work often feels slow, and their visibility remains a concern. Louisa also discussed the challenges of navigating the dominant beef industry in New Zealand, where the team is working to market their individual initiatives amidst time constraints and part-time volunteer availability. She highlighted the importance of fitting "funny shaped puzzle pieces" together rather than shaping them herself. Monica acknowledged the difficulty of the situation, congratulating Louisa on her progress thus far. Monica also introduced the idea brought forward of focusing on projects for their next meeting to facilitate deeper discussions and learnings.

Europe

Roz discussed the five-year anniversary of the European Roundtable and the progress reporting work carried out across six countries over the past year. She expressed excitement over the tangible outputs this work has produced, which can be used to increase awareness of the roundtable's impact. Roz highlighted the challenge of gaining support for the roundtable's outcome targets in all countries, as well as the significant difficulties related to data availability and quality.

United States

Sam, who joined the roundtable discussions just over a year and a half ago, shared her experience of understanding the roundtable's operations and the progress made towards the roundtable's goals since their launch in 2022. She also noted the ongoing struggle of ensuring all members have a clear understanding of the targets set for each sector.

Southern Africa, Brazil, Paraguay, Australia, Canada will be on the next agenda.

Next Steps

- GRSB will send an email to see if anyone is interested in volunteering for the co-chair rotation.

- GRSB will send out the meeting agenda and links in advance of the October 4th meeting.

Next National Roundtable Hybrid Meeting – October 4, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (US Central / Canada time)