

**MINUTES
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

The Executive Committee meeting of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Central U.S. / Canada time.

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

Staff/Other Present: Ruaraidh Petre, Josefina Eisele, Scott Stuart, Katie Ambrose

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 McConnel and seconded by McKelvie that the minutes of the October 4, 2023. Motion carried.

Financial Report / Pro forma / Roadmap Project Funding

Sherrard reviewed the October 31, 2023 Financial Report reflecting YTD \$780,000 in revenues and \$683,104 in expenses for a net surplus of \$96,896. The income lag is largely due to being behind with the project funding which also contributes to the anticipated \$100K loss at year end as reflected in the pro forma. Sherrard suggested a call with Stuart and Petre to discuss opportunities to narrow this gap although there is sufficient liquidity for the balance of this year. Sherrard added the climate work completed by The Context Network was agreed upon to pursue despite not having raised the funding beforehand, emphasizing the need for progress despite financial challenges. The Context report has been valuable in greater defining the Roadmap Fund. Petre has had several calls with interested members and a concerted effort will be made in 2024. Ambrose will setup a follow-up call to additional organizations and NGOs to approach. With the need to raise a million plus, some other suggestions include: presenting the Roadmap Fund on the individual constituency group calls, as well as the board; and inquiring if there are any unused budget allocations for 2023 from corporate members (McKelvie will inquire with McDonald's); and considering more flexibility with various contribution levels. It was also discussed to re-evaluate the membership dues structure in the first half of 2024 to be established in time when organizations prepare their budgets for 2025.

It was moved by Sherrard and seconded by Lowe that the October 31, 2023 Financial Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Beef Sustainability Roadmap

Context Network has completed its initial project phase and provided a final report which was summarized in the last issue of *Connect*. The report reflects GRSB member consensus validating GRSB's role to gather information and create principles and criteria for reporting against commitments. This project outcome positions GRSB to be more definitive in its ask to the members for funding. The report was sent to the Executive Committee.

Emerging Ag / CoP28

GRSB will be hosting a side event to include ILRI, FAO & IICA. GRSB will also participate at IICA's and WWF's side events, and Petre will be speaking at the Global Dairy Platform event. GRSB is coordinating amongst its members to ensure adequate coverage for the various days and events. A business card with key messaging will be developed to share at CoP28.

2024 Global Conference for Sustainable Beef

Petre gave an update that the contract for the rooms only at The Grand Hotel has been signed and the contract for the Food & Beverage will be finalized by the end of this year. The venue anticipates a 15% increase in food costs in 2024 and the budget will be adjusted accordingly. Eisele added that the hotel is the newest in the city which is a popular vacation destination with many hotels and restaurants nearby. Petre stated there will be tiered registration fees to help make it more affordable for the locals who may opt only to participate in the day meetings and not meals. McConnel suggested to start considering organizations and resources that can help enable broader attendance with producers, youth delegates, etc., where costs can prohibit their participation. Ambrose stated the second planning committee call is scheduled for next week. The conference dates are September 30 to October 4.

Petre shared that Joel Makower (GreenBiz) is doing a follow-up article from 10 years ago and is conducting various interviews on the progress, lessons learned, etc. since then. GreenBiz' Bob Langert will be at CoP28 if any wish to seek him out.

Regional Report

Latin American Platform IICA/IDB

Eisele reported having initiated a project to set up a Latin American platform for data collection and narrative development, involving national roundtable representatives from five Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay & Uruguay). There was discussion about potential collaboration with organizations like the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, as well as the possibility of engaging with GASL regional leaders. Josefina also highlighted her efforts to collaborate with local contacts from various countries, including Brazil and Argentina, and mentioned GASL and IICA as being reliable partners with notable progress.

Uruguayan Roundtable Kick-off Meeting

Eisele reported the Uruguayan Roundtable had its' official Kick-off meeting today with 30 participants. IICA (a neutral organization) will serve as the roundtable secretariat. The roundtable currently has a legal representative helping to develop their Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

Initiatives vs Roundtables

Eisele reported on a large number of farmers in Peru that are working together on a regenerative farming project in the Amazon which is mostly funded by the British Embassy and TNC. Eisele asked if this project should be identified as a roundtable or an initiative. This was discussed amongst the committee members with the primary concern being smaller countries in a particular region potentially having a disproportionate voice and the risk of a single constituency dominating a vote. Considerations were given to managing voting rights and weighted votes based on scale, and possibly having a regional representative roundtable, and also require voting. It was emphasized that the best way to influence the agenda is to be actively engaged in the working groups.

Petre reported that the Social Goal is incorporating gender balance in its goal, and that GRSB should also advocate that gender balance be appropriated amongst the Board of Directors. Petre proposed an idea for Board members to identify two representatives (male/female). While there was discussion, there was not enough female representation available to help set this target and this may be revisited at a later time.

Administrative Report

2024 Board Elections

The 2024 board election results were reviewed to include the following newly elected members: Beef+Lamb NZ & Cattle AU (Producers); Breedr & LSQA (Allied Services & Industries); ABIEC (Processing); A&W (Retail); The Nature Conservancy (Civil Society); Australia and Canada (Roundtables).

Voting Percentages

It was noted that while the actual voting percentage from this last election was not ideal, it was the highest percentage (70%) of members voting. It is essential that all members vote, and implementing a member voting requirement was discussed.

Executive Committee Elections

Nominations will be open until November 30. The new 2024 Board will have their first meeting in early December to vote for its Executive Committee.

Member Sustainability Reports

Petre shared the idea of requesting sustainability reports from our members as stated in the Letter of Agreement, where reporting would be required at some point. Petre suggested this process could be done gradually, starting with the reports that the members are already producing. An interim solution was proposed to consider developing a survey to collect specific information including case studies from the members and build a framework to share with members. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next Board discussion.

Spring Board Meeting Dates and Location

There was discussion around ideas for the next in-person board meeting and Innovation Tour and it was agreed to discuss with the new board and Executive Committee to determine their preferences.

New Member Consideration

It was moved by McConnel and supported by Sherrard to approve *Uruguay* as a *Provisional Roundtable* of the GRSB although they are unable to vote until their legal formalities are completed. *Motion carried.*

Upcoming Events

- Board of Directors Meeting – November 15, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Central US/Canada

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on December 12, 2023, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30p.m. Central US / Canada.