

**MINUTES
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 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, Luke McKelvie, Bob McCan

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.

Expressions of appreciation were exchanged as the terms for President, Ian McConnel and Ex-Officio, Bob McCan will conclude at the end of 2023.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by McConnel and seconded by McCan that the minutes of the November 7, 2023 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report / Pro forma / Roadmap Project Funding

Sherrard reviewed the November 30, 2023 Financial Report reflecting YTD \$759,160 in revenues and \$771,812 in expenses for a net deficit of \$12,652. Sherrard highlighted the \$10,000 in Project Funding was received from Elanco for GRSB's participation at CoP28. 2024 membership renewals that may soften the YTD Actuals at the close of this year. GRSB's cash position is good. There is a \$100K Treasury Bill that matures Dec. 14th, and the Board Specified Reserve is available to provide a break-even position; however, it will be depleted. This is a decision for the Board of Directors and incoming Executive Committee to make, as well as the decision to lower the Specified Reserve for a fixed period. Sherrard thinks fundraising should be directed to pay the 2nd half of The Context Network invoice (\$50,666.28 payment scheduled in 2024) before replenishing the Specified Reserve. Sherrard will connect with Petre and Stuart to discuss best options and present to the current Executive Committee for alignment prior to presenting on the December Board call for their approval.

It was moved by Sherrard and seconded by McCan that the November 30, 2023 Financial Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report

CoP28

Petre reported CoP28 overall was a more pleasant environment than the CoP27 as it was less noisy, and the Food & Agriculture activities were grouped in one pavilion, and Nature was next door and made for easier participation due to proximity. Some of Petre's participations included:

an online participation in the IICA Pavilion (1-week prior to CoP), together with the Minister for Agriculture from Uruguay and the Secretary of State for Innovation and Sustainability from Brazil, and Ernesto Viglizzo (National Agricultural Technology Institute, Argentina); the IICA Pavilion included presentations from both Beef and Dairy associations talking about industry commitments to climate mitigation and adaptation, etc.; A UNFCCC official side event was well attended and included presentations from Meat Livestock Australia, Beef+Lamb New Zealand and Canada, and as well as dairy representatives, and a Pro-Veg panel in the Food Pavilion organized by ILRI allowed for healthy discussions. Petre added he had other meetings with various members including Cargill, JBS and Elanco.

A question was asked about Corporate engagement. Petre stated while the Green Zone is open to all; the ideal Blue Zone is only accessible through association with a Chamber of Commerce or use of their government overflow badges. Corporations are encouraged to apply early for the Blue Zone pass as that is where the primary discussions take place.

Petre added FAO put out two different reports during COP on: (1) How to tackle livestock emissions with the increasing need and availability of meat and dairy by 2050, and included animal health, feeding practices, gestation and grazing management, and genetics, etc. and concluding that dietary change is the smallest contributor to reducing emission and that livestock can be part of the solution. (2) A Global Roadmap to SDG₂ without breaching 1.5C threshold (a full report can be found on FAO's website).

Regional Report

CoP28 – Eisele reported this year was a better experience primarily due to better understanding and expectations, as well as the proximity the activities were setup made for easier networking. Eisele felt encouraged to see the narrative changing with livestock being part of the solution and not so much as part of the problem and the shared emphasis on the role of fossil fuels. Overall, the climate was less defensive and more active towards real progress among all the industries. Some of Eisele's participations included: a panelist on agriculture livestock, and degradation and grass lands alongside representatives from WWF, CGIAR, SNV, a representative from the Kenya Government, Marcos Pereda Vice president of La Rural an Argentinian Producer Association, and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) which was very crucial regarding who's going to pay the bills and funding the repairs and projects. Other panel discussions organized by GRSB at the IICA Pavilion, was a joint panel with the U.S. Dairy Export Association on the multistakeholder process and our influence on sustainability, climate and negotiations.

Global Conference (GCSB) – Eisele reported GRSB just received notice that the global conference is now recognized of National Interest by the Tourist Minister of Uruguay. We are waiting on the same recognition from the Minister of Economy, which would then exempt GRSB from the 22% Value Added Tax, as well as offer transportation and translation resources and savings. Also, Eisele met the Minister of Agriculture, Uruguay, while at CoP and he stated he would be happy to accept our invitation to participate in either the conference opening or closing. We also invited Carlos Cherniak, chair of the Subcommittee on FAO's Livestock Committee on Agriculture.

The selection of restaurants and tours are in process.

Administrative Report

Executive Committee Nominations

Executive Committee nominations up for election include:

President: Bob Lowe

Vice President: Daniel Knoop, Justin Sherrard, Josh Merrill

Member at Large: Matthew Cleveland, Kevin Kester, Shari Westerfield, Josh Merrill

The new board will have their Executive Committee election call on December 14th and the election will approach one position at a time, starting with the President and each following position. Board registration is required to participate in the live polling.

Spring Board Meeting Dates and Location

There was discussion regarding the Spring Board Meeting which will take place at the end of the first quarter in 2024. Location options included: (1) Northern Italy where we can connect with GRSB's European members (Bolton, Inalca, Simenthal, ERBS), and also network with the Leather Industry, and EU Legislators, FAO, etc., and possibly incorporate Dairy. Also, in light of the latest EU Legislations on Deforestation, having a theme around Nature and Biodiversity could be fitting. (2) Costa Rica – there are no GRSB members with the exception IICA's Headquarters. They have a large ecotourism industry, and CATIE is a prominent research facility which could be a good tour option. It was concluded to present these two options to the new board on their Executive Committee Election Call, Dec. 14th.

New Members

Bob McCan shared about the new member consideration for *MPSC, Inc., Rinse & Chill*.

A correction to the proper constituency tier was noted as Allied Services & Industries (\$5-100MM) - \$12,500 dues.

It was moved by McCan supported by McKelvie to recommend *MPSC, Inc. Rinse & Chill* for GRSB membership. *Motion carried.*

Upcoming Events

- Board of Directors Meeting – December 20, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Central US/Canada

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on January 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30p.m. Central US / Canada.