

MINUTES
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

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: Justin Sherrard, Shari Westerfeld, Luke McKelvie, Brian Lindsay, Matthew Cleveland

Staff/Other Present: Ruaraidh Petre, 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 Sherrard and seconded by Lindsay that the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Westerfeld reviewed the January 31, 2024 Financial Report reflecting YTD \$364,483 in revenues and \$84,445 in expenses for a net surplus of \$278,038. Revenue highlights include: the significant reduction of work for Eisele with Textile Exchange due to their growth and restructuring; however, there is a new project from the Soft Commodity Forum (soy trading initiative) desiring Brazilian input. Eisele connected them with Solidaridad which will bring in \$12,000. GRSB's role will be to disseminate the results. Expense highlights include: Communications is over budget due to the publishing/printing of the Annual Report, as is the Global Conference expense due to the hotel venue deposit that was made.

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

Executive Director Report

Beef Sustainability Roadmap - Petre reported that he and Ambrose met with many members regarding the Roadmap Fund while attending the USRSB meeting in Orlando where Sherrard and Lowe were also in attendance. They talked to members about the RFP (put together by Brenna Grant and Sam Werth) which has become more of a project proposal or concept note which will be sent on to the members for their feedback. Also discussed was having a multi-year commitment rather than a one-off commitment, as this fund will continue to bring in new projects. Therefore, their feedback on the proposals will be needed as we progress, thus, the need for continual funding for at least 3 years. Once we receive feedback on the proposal, and

discuss funding commitments, etc., our goal is to have the Project Roadmap Fund ready to roll-out by May 1st. Sherrard suggested that the April meeting in Bologna would be an opportune time to socialize the climate project proposal. Ambrose will circulate the proposal to the Executive Committee.

Membership Renewals and Dues - Petre stated the National Roundtables do not pay membership dues; however, they are the workforce for reporting. NGOs were given lower dues in exchange for project recommendations and funding which both have been low in recent years. It was stated that expectations may not be properly relayed through transitions of roles in an organization. On the next Civil Society Constituency call, Eisele will address this, along with how to bring on more NGO members for GRSB. Membership dues can often be a barrier for companies. There was consensus to focus efforts for more funding through additional projects emphasizing the savings to the member than doing it alone.

There was discussion on the membership dues gaps among some of the constituency tiers, i.e., Retailer. Stuart shared that the current membership dues structure was voted on and approved by the board in 2022. Stuart will forward the meeting minutes to the Executive Committee. This can be readdressed with the Board for change in 2025.

Upcoming Engagements - Petre reported he will be attending:

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), February 21-22 in Paris. This will be a roundtable discussion on traceability in the leather industry and compliance with the EUDR.
- GRSB meetings, April 2-4 in Bologna, IT.
- USRSB General Assembly, April 30 – May 2 in Saint Louis, MO. USRSB will help support Petre's travel cost for their meeting.
- The World Buiatrics Congress, May 20-24 in Cancun, MX. Hopefully, there will be GRSB farmer and veterinary members in attendance that could enable a GRSB side meeting to discuss project ideas and their engagement with Animal Health and Welfare.

Regional Report

Global Conference (GCSB) – Eisele reported she had a successful trip to Punta del Este, Uruguay to help prepare logistical arrangements for the global conference. The next area of focus will be on speakers, particularly, high-profile speakers that can help draw attendees. We have received a lot of support from the Uruguayan Government and Latin American organizations. Petre added that the first sustainability report from SureHarvest on measuring and reporting will be available for presentation at the conference. We will have the schedule annotated for each moderator/NRT panelists to know exactly what we would like to get out of each particular session. Although it may be difficult to fit in the schedule, suggestions were made to show the documentary, *A World Without Cows* and possibly have a panel discussion. Mark Lyons, Alltech CEO, was suggested as the closing speaker along with Sherrard helping to facilitate.

Solidaridad– Eisele reported we are waiting for the contract from Solidaridad which they are currently reviewing.

EUDR Project – Eisele reported on her discussion with GRSB member, LIDL (German supermarket) to further explore their interest in GRSB specific to the retail sector, and the big

outcome was about deforestation free and the EUDR. They proposed that GRSB could help to provide some kind of a benchmark or guideline on analyzing the existing solutions, and advise the beef companies on these new regulations. WWF has a similar project. Eisele and Hillary Fenrich are preparing a concept note to present for funding to share with LIDL for feedback. This will also be shared with the NPP working group and the retailers since they will be using the guidance and hopefully funding the project. Emer Fardi (Hilton Food Group) was recommended to include in the review for feedback.

Upcoming Engagements – Eisele reported she will be attending the Future of Food and Beverage Conference in Minneapolis, MN, May 2-3.

Administrative Report

Spring Board Meeting, April 3-5, 2024 – Bologna, IT

Petre reviewed the draft agenda where the working groups and National Roundtables will be meeting on the first day, Wednesday. The main discussions will be on Thursday, and will include presenters from Italy, Bord Bia, European Roundtable members, and Dominik Wisser, who is the GLEAM coordinator with FAO. It would be good to have a discussion about the use of the GLEAM tool for our reporting. There is also potential for GRSB to contribute data collected by our national roundtables that they can use to update some of their country information. The Board of Directors Business & Strategy session will be on Thursday afternoon, followed by a dinner for all. Friday's tour schedule includes: Mastrotto Leather, a Biomenthan plant, and the Bonifiche Feraresi Feedlot. It was suggested to change the session name from Board Strategy Session to GRSB Strategy Session rather to help attract more participants outside of the Board, although all of GRSB Board meetings are open to all members.

New Member Considerations

It was moved by McKelvie and supported by Sherrard to recommend Beef Shorthorn for GRSB membership. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Directors Meeting – February 28, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Central US/Canada

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30p.m. Central US / Canada.**