

**MINUTES
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE BEEF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 24, 2024**

The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Central US/Canada time.

Board Members Present:

Producer Constituency

Beef+Lamb NZ, Nicholas Jolly
Cattle Australia
Nat'l Cattlemen's Beef Assoc., Kevin Kester
Sol Dorado, Sebastian Olaso Aguirre

Processing Constituency

ABIEC, Fernando Sampaio
Harvest Road
Cargill

Retail Constituency

A&W Foods, Lisa Hughes
McDonald's, Andrew Brazier
Restaurant Brands Int'l, Tiago Pontes

Ex-officio Members Present:

Bob Lowe, President
Justin Sherrard, Vice President
Shari Westerfeld, Treasurer

Executive Committee Members Present:

Luke McKelvie, Member-at-Large
Matthew Cleveland, Member-at-Large

Civil Society Constituency

National Wildlife Federation, Karl Didier
The Nature Conservancy, Nancy Labbe
World Wildlife Fund

Allied Services and Industries Constituency

Breedr Ltd., Paige Savery for Ian Wheel
Rabobank, Shane Bownds
LSQA, Ana Varsi

Roundtable Constituency

CRSB (Canada), Ryan Beierbach
MPCS (Paraguay), Hugo Sanchez
ABSF (Australia)
MBCS (Bolivia)

GRSB Staff Members Present:

Ruaraidh Petre, Executive Director
Josefina Eisele, Regional Director, Latin America
Katie Ambrose, Director of Member Relations
Polly Welden, Communications Coordinator
Julie James, Office Administrator
Interpreters

Other Members Present:

Gail Tavill, OSI
Sam Werth, USRSB
Andrea White, CCA
Kristi Block, NAMI
Leopoldo Estol, Jose Lucero, MACS
Jose Bonica, INIA
Josh White, NCBA
Josh Merrill, Corteva
Roz Davis, ERBS
Monica Hadarits, CRSB
Walter Baethgen, INIA

Opening Remarks

A verbal affirmation of adherence to the GRSB Anti-Trust Policy was received from those on the call. New National Wildlife Federation Board representative, Karl Didier, was introduced.

Consideration of Minutes

It was moved by Kester and supported by Brazier that the minutes from the June 26, 2024 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Westerfeld briefly reported on the June 30, 2024 Financial Report highlighting the budget is on track, the loss in membership dues revenue should be offset by the new members coming in this year, and a call will be setup with GoChain to discuss options to continue or not given its' lower performance than previous years.

It was moved by Westerfeld and seconded by Labbe that the June 30, 2024 Financial Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Council and Working Group Updates

Climate – Sam Werth reported the next Climate Working Group meeting will be on July 29th, 2:00-3:00pm Central US/Canada. Brenna Grant will give an update on her analysis of the survey results for looking at the different on farm assessment tools to help members understanding their footprints. Sam will give updates on the Land Sector Removal Guidance statement, and the FAQ document around understanding the landscape around all of the different Climate Protocols. They are finalizing the Climate session of the global conference which will include representatives from Argentina, New Zealand, and the US. Brian Lindsay recommended to connect off-line to learn the various efforts and align as possible.

Nature Positive Production (NPP) – Josefina Eisele reported they are still working on the Land Management (formerly known as, Deforestation) Statement. Conversion will be included at a later stage. The statement has been modified to incorporate feedback from the first member distribution, and is currently on its 2nd distribution with some members requesting more time for feedback which should be closed the end of July. The updated version of the statement should be completed in early August and will reflect the position of the global roundtable, as well as include the regional perspectives/positions of the roundtables. Next step is an action plan in terms of deforestation/conversion, with the same expectation of the national roundtables in the future. Once feedback from the 2nd version is collated within the statement, the draft will be sent for member voting. Members may volunteer to have their logos reflected on the statement. GRSB will also support and help roundtables with establishing their local positions. There will be a GRSB webinar on July 25th on conversion and different tools that exist. Once there is more subject matter understanding, a Conversion Statement can be approached.

Communications Council – Andrea White reported the speakers for the Communications session of the conference have been confirmed. Amie Peck will moderate and speakers and topics include: Andrea White on Canada's National Beef Sustainability Assessment and launch in Canada, Fernando Sampaio

on the Brazilian Traceability Framework recently developed with the Brazilian Roundtable, and Jacob Betros on Australia's carbon neutral goals and producer resources. The Comms Council will be having mini webinars in their meetings this Fall to help members and roundtables with skill-building around their communications, particularly, with limited resources. Some topics brainstormed include: when to approach a needs assessment and when do you need a communications plan or not – and how to develop it, as well as, how to measure success/ROI. There will not be a formal Communications session at the conference; however, the Comms Council will be integrating closely with the National Roundtables on their agenda.

Animal Health & Welfare (AHW) – Josh White reported they have been working on their agendas for their working group and panel discussion at the global conference. Josh expressed appreciation to the other working groups for creating space to allow them to have two hours to conduct a workshop on key components that feed into the AHW goal (to reduce mortality/morbidity, cattle health and applicable training). They will also have a keynote speaker. They are also looking to have a webinar (ideally before the conference) with Jacob Betros to share their recent survey on animal care practices in Australia. Lastly, Josh will connect with Sebastian Olaso Aguirre to discuss potential opportunities on the tours to incorporate a handling demonstration or having their veterinarian talk about their biosecurity or vaccination or herd health.

Lindsay added that GASL's Animal Welfare working group recently published a policy document which highlighted the role of welfare and sustainable livestock production and food security.

Petre will share the recording from the recent Buiatrics Congress where he participated as a speaker.

Social Impact Goal – Ruaraidh Petre reported the feedback/comments from the member review is being collated and will be sent again, along with a Q&A for 30-days member review prior to voting in early September before the conference. Daniel Knoop is no longer the group chair due to Solidaridad's transitioning. Bradd Witt (University of Queensland) has volunteered to step into that role.

Producers – Ryan Beierbach reported the last call was focused on the Land Management Statement and where they agreed that Conversion should be separate from Deforestation to minimize complexities. They also discussed the statement to be set as goals rather than prescribed actions, and serve as a guidance for roundtables to monitor their efforts toward continuous improvement, and also a recognition of private property rights along with community land rights.

Allied Services and Industries (ASI) – No report.

Civil Society – No report.

Retail – No report.

National Roundtable – *The Regional Roundtable reports provided are attached.*

Monica Hadarits reported the last National Roundtable call was primarily focused on the Land Management Position Statement (formerly, Deforestation Statement) where discussion will continue during their August call to do a deeper dive with NRT members only. Florence briefly shared slides on the relaunch of the Southern Africa Roundtable where they are refocusing their strategy on research and development, climate change impacts on cattle and improving access to beef markets and finance for farmers, and essentially bring together the countries in the region under one umbrella. In an effort to avoid duplication and meeting overlaps, Roz has been working together with the working group co-chairs on the agenda for the pre-conference meetings on September 30th.

Executive Director Report

CoP29 – Petre reported GRSB submitted a side event proposal on Climate mitigation and methane reductions in the beef sector which will likely be combined with other groups such as Dairy and Rice with support from Kenya and Uruguay. GRSB has also submitted its complete list of names for badges and anticipates only 1-3 will be granted. Please let GRSB know if you or your organization will be attending CoP to help in planning for a possible side panel. If you would like to join the calls with Emerging Ag, please email julie.james@grsbeef.org.

FAO Subcommittee – Petre, Lowe and Lindsay attended the UN FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Subcommittee on Livestock meeting in Rome, where they discussed the livestock sector and potential improvements to FAO's program, highlighting cattle production in soil health and antimicrobial usage. Subsequently, there was also a meeting with the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) which now has a new chair who has an existing relationship with the private sector, as well as GRSB. It was suggested that GRSB take a more proactive role in establishing a strategy and any potential collaboration between GASL and GRSB.

Regional Director Report

EU Multistakeholder Platform (Deforestation) – Eisele reported on the last monthly meeting. They are working on providing various documents on FAQ to include clarifications on wooded land, legalities on forest degradation, and other guidance on benchmarking processes. In addition, they are working on classify countries as low/high deforestation risk and an information system for European operators. They are working with other markets in effort to align in regulations. The resource documents should be completed and made available soon. Also, they are going through a consultation process for defining, wooded lands and pilot testing the information system that will be used in Europe. The system will open in November for company registrations and be open for submission of the Due Diligence Statement by Dec. 2.

Administrative Report

Awards – Westerfeld acknowledged the significant support of Ian McConnel and Matthew Cleveland and Terry Ward, Kristy Block and Nancy Labbe, in helping to quickly rollout this first awards program for GRSB. Two awards available: President's Award (members-only) will be voted on by recent Past Presidents, and the Success Through Collaboration which award is open to members and non-members in the beef supply chain. Westerfeld encouraged members to submit their nominations via the recent email from GRSB. The nomination period will close July 31.

Global Conference – Eisele reported the conference agenda is being finalized and is working with the roundtables, emphasizing the importance of local participation and highlighting the coordination with a Uruguayan Roundtable for inviting their customers. There will also be a taste of local culture through a tango show at the Closing Dinner. There are still some sponsorship opportunities, particularly, the Monday night VIP Reception immediately following Alltech's *World Without Cows* premiere and panel discussion. Sebastian Olaso-Aguirre is helping to coordinate the farm tours. There will also be an invitation only side-event on Friday hosted by Solidaridad along with ProForest, Tropical Forest Alliance regarding the EUDR challenges and implementation.

New Member Considerations

It was moved by Labbe and supported by Jolly to recommend both *Asociacion Mundial De Ganaderia Sostenible (AMGS)* and *Regenagri* for GRSB membership. Motion carried.

AOB

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.