

Responsible Leather Initiative Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, March 29th, 2017

Agenda:

1. News & Updates
2. Names/Terminology
3. In-person meetings
4. Climate Smart Ag - David Bennell of WBCSD
5. Task Groups
 1. Structure & Mandate
 2. Traceability Options
 3. Scopes Prioritizations
6. Funding

News & Updates

- **[BLC & APLF Hong Kong Leather Sustainability Conference Hailed 'the Best so far'](#)**
 - The Sustainability in the Leather Supply Chain Conference was held at the APLF Leather & Materials+ Exhibition in Hong Kong on 15th March 2018.
- **[CSCB and ICEC sign sustainability partnership agreement](#)**
 - March 14, 2018 Brazil's Leather Certification of Sustainability (CSCB) programme and Italy's Institute of Quality Certification for the Leather Sector (ICEC) have signed the Partner Agreement for mutual recognition of certifications dealing with sustainability.
- **[Leather Pipeline - Leather industry must unite to appeal to consumers](#)**
 - The latest edition of the market intelligence report, Leather Pipeline, brings a warning that there is an urgent need for a trigger to restore leather's popularity as a material. There needs to be more emphasis placed on the functionality and durability of leather, as well as on its sustainability.
- **[Leather Naturally calls for industry unity to fight for leather](#)**
 - Leather Naturally, the initiative to promote a positive and truthful image of the global leather manufacturing industry, met for a breakfast meeting during the APLF in Hong Kong on March 15 to outline its recent work and to listen to new ideas around the future steps the initiative should take.
 - Leather Naturally Video: <https://youtu.be/TbtvtwGXvB0>

Names/Terminology

Roundtable Name – help us choose the final option:

- Roundtable for Responsible Leather (RLR), or
- Global Roundtable for Responsible Leather (GRRL)

The term we will use for what we will develop is:

- **Assessment Tool** (received 60%+ of votes in survey)

In-person Meeting Options

North America Option:

Sustainable Brands – Vancouver, Canada: June 4-7 (before or after)

Europe Option:

GRSB Bi-annual Meeting – Kilkenny, Ireland: September 9-12
or

Lineappelle – Milan, Italy: September 25-27 (before or after)
and/or

TE Conference – Milan, Italy: RLR Meeting (October 22)

Bonus!

Italian Leather Tanneries “Texcursion” after TE Conference in Milan (Oct 25 or 26)

Climate SmartAg – Presentation by David Bennell of WBCSD
Slides 18-27

Task Groups

Roundtable Mandate & Structure Task Group

First meeting took place on Tuesday, March 27th

Objectives: (Blue is what we covered in the first meeting)

- Wording for the mission & vision of the Roundtable
- The main goals of the Roundtable
- The main activities of the Roundtable (developing assessment tool, etc.)
- Definitions of sector members and voting allocation/weighting
- Roles & responsibilities of Textile Exchange and Roundtable Members
- Code of Conduct for participants
- Funding model for membership
- Roundtable Charter

Mission (choose one)

1. **Ensure** responsibility and continuous improvement in the global leather value chain through leadership, science, advocacy, and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.
2. **Ensure** a more responsible and sustainable global leather value chain through continuous improvement, leadership, science, advocacy, and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

Vision (choose one)

1. We **envision** a world in which all aspects of the leather value chain are environmentally and socially responsible, with a focus on animal welfare, while being economically viable.
2. We **envision** a world in which all aspects of the leather value chain are environmentally and

socially responsible, **ensures** the welfare of animals, and is economically viable.

Need input on the term “ensure”, other options include “support”, “encourage”, “promote”

Main Goals – The Roundtable will be: (Give input on the below points)

- A platform for stakeholders in the leather industry to engage with each other, share information, and identify common challenges and opportunities.
- A common voice that represents the interests of the leather value chain.
- A structure for interacting with other organizations and government bodies.
- A forum to agree on priority issues and desired solutions to advance our mission and vision.

Main Activities – These may include, but will not be restricted to: (Give input on the below point – more to come later)

- Combine the knowledge and expertise of all stakeholders **to map out existing projects and initiatives**, and **compliment/add value** to them by putting them into a **common framework** that the leather industry can use.

Scopes Prioritization Task Group

To look at which issues we should try to address through the verification system, and which we can address through separate roundtable activities. We will identify the “why” behind each issue, so that we can clearly articulate the importance of each verification scope. We can use the results from the last survey, consider a new one, and look at what is most practical to ensure we have success. We can also discuss whether there should be multiple tiers allowed (eg: bronze, silver, gold).

See slides #35-38

What should we take into consideration when setting the priorities?

- Cost and complexity of implementation
- Scalability
- Urgency of the issue
- Low-hanging fruit
- Relevance to brands to drive commitment
- Existing initiative and programs we can leverage
- Other?

Traceability Options Task Group

Take Doodle Poll to join this group: <https://doodle.com/poll/mky76pqk6vzaei6a>

We are now ready to start looking more deeply at the traceability options: book & claim (certificate trading), mass balance, and full chain of custody. We will talk examine what other organizations

such as RSPO have done, talk to the technology providers about what is possible, and look at which options will best meet our needs.

See slides #40-48

Funding Update

Already Raised: \$46,600

Need to Meet Goal of \$250,000: **\$203,400**

Next Meeting

Monday, April 9th – 10 AM EST

Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/#register/3883427080361043202>

Guest Presenters on next call:

Peter Hughes, *Sustainability Lead at BLC*

Gemma Tovey, *Sustainability Analyst at BLC*

- Presenting facts and figures from the LWG's research on animal welfare