

## Responsible Leather Round Table – June Meeting

June 26, 2018

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Website: <https://responsibleleather.org/>

### Agenda:

1. Industry news
2. RLRT Charter
3. Ireland Meeting
4. Updates: 1st RLA IWG meeting
5. Updates: Task Group meetings

### 1. Industry News

- New COTANCE President calls for more unity
  - <http://www.aplf.com/en-us/leather-fashion-news-and-blog/news/38705/europe-new-cotance-president-calls-for-more-unity>
- Kanpur tanneries threatened with three-month closure
  - <https://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=148186>
- Two more tanneries join Brazil's CSCB programme
  - <https://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=148305>
- Stahl and partners launch new Ethiopia tanning initiative
  - <https://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=148333>
- News from Members: if you have any news you would like us to share with the Round Table, please send to us before the end of the month so that we can share during our meeting.

### 2. RLRT Charter – All participants in the RLRT must sign and return the Charter

Download here: <https://responsibleleather.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/RLRT-CharterFillable.pdf>

### 3. Ireland Meeting

Planning for our meeting in conjunction with the [GRSB's Global Conference on Sustainable Beef](#) is underway!

- Booked meeting space at the Lyrath (venue where GRSB event is being held)
- Joint meetings with GRSB meetings planned
- Save the dates: Thursday Oct 11 – Friday Oct 12
- Registration coming soon!

### \*\*\*Task Group Opportunity\*\*\*

#### RLRT-GRSB Meeting Agenda Task Group

*Help develop the agenda for our RLRT meeting during this event*

Date: Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM EST

Meeting link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/824050637>

#### 4. Updates: 1st RLA IWG meeting

The Responsible Leather Assessment tool International Working Group (RLA IWG) met for the first time on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting covered the structure of the group and took an initial look at the RLA Terms of Reference.

#### RLA IWG Structure:

- Steering Committee: These members must commit to attending a minimum 50% of IWG meetings; aiming for balanced sector representation within this group; will guide direction of RLA development; strives for consensus; welcome to join Task Groups.
- Advisory Group: The remaining members of the IWG; no minimum participation commitment; open to all RLRT members; welcome to join Task Groups.
- Task Groups: open to all RLA IWG members.

#### RLA IWG Task Groups

- Task Groups under the RLA IWG are aimed at covering topics/issues as they relate to the Responsible Leather Assessment tool (RLA).
- Currently open Task Groups (email us to join):
  - RLA IWG Animal Welfare Task Group (met 1x so far)
  - RLA IWG Land Use Change Task Group (met 1x so far)
  - RLA IWG Tool Design Task Group (1<sup>st</sup> meeting TBD)

#### IWG/Steering Committee – Representation

- We are looking to have balanced representation from all sectors within the RLRT. In particular, we would like a minimum of 2 representatives from each sector group to join the Steering Committee. *All members of the IWG & SC must sign the RLRT Charter!*
- See slide 13 of presentation for current representation
- We are looking for members from the Producer and Supply Chain sectors, as well as automotive brands.

#### Terms of Reference (draft)

- The RLA IWG began reviewing the draft document.
- Intended to be guiding principles describing what we are doing so that everyone is align and working towards a common vision.
- Please email us if you are interested in reviewing the draft ToR document.

#### 4. Updates: RLA IWG Task Group meetings

##### RLA IWG Animal Welfare Task Group – met on June 13, 2018

- Reviewed Certificate Trading/Book & Claim platform and how it could be used to address traceability issues at the farm level (due to difficulty at this stage in the supply chain).
- Proposed Solution: see slide #19
  - 1 cow = 1 hide = 1 credit
  - Credits could be split 3 ways and applied as follows:
    - 1/3 to farm for meeting minimum animal welfare (as set by the RLA)
    - 1/3 to farm for meeting minimum environmental welfare (as set by the RLA)

- 1/3 to address critical issues
  - The IWG would discuss more deeply how the credits would be applied to both animal welfare and environmental aspects at the farm level.

### **RLA IWG Land Use Change Task Group** – met on June 19, 2018

- Focus is initially on Deforestation at the farm level
- What do we need to do?
  - Choose which issues to address in V1
  - Determine what definitions and targets to use
  - Determine who to work and align with? (see slide #24)
  - Decide on the traceability model(s) – use certificate trading?
  - Look at how we will verify
- Moving forward:
  1. What do we evaluate?
  2. How do we verify?
  3. How do we reward?

### **RLRT member suggestions, questions, comments, etc.**

*We would like to know who else is on the call (currently GoToWebinar only shows meeting organizers)*

We use GoToWebinar as a means to protect the identity of our members and adhere to the Chatham House Rule, therefore as a solution to this issues, we propose the following:

- We will ask everyone who feels comfortable identifying themselves to type their name and organization/company into the chat box at the start of the meeting
- We will send a list in our follow-up of who attended the call

*We should think of more ways to promote the RLRT to the leather industry*

- We will create a RLRT Communications & Marketing Task Group to discuss different options/solutions for gaining more visibility
- We hope to attend more events in the future, but current budget prohibits us.
  1. If you would like us to attend an event to present about the RLRT or set up a booth and can provide financial support to do so, please let us know!
  2. If you would like to represent the RLRT or share information about our group, please let us know. We can provide you with printable materials to share or give you talk points.

*What are the current gaps in financial and human resources/capacity?*

- We have temporarily stopped asking for financial contributions as we were focused on developing our work and being able to set-up a solid work plan and framework in order to give our members confidence in us moving forward.
- We are at a point now where we have considerable momentum and a clearer vision to move forward; requests for financial support will resume.
- We will give updates during our monthly meeting as to where we stand financially.