

# CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA

## North American Support Group for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

*Host: Layne Coppock*

*Minutes prepared by Elena Dosamantes*

Time and Date: July 8, 2021 (1:00-2:30 MST)

### **Attendance:**

1. Barry Irving
2. Layne Coppock
3. Peter Ballerstedt
4. David Borre
5. Barbara Hutchinson
6. Kelly Hopping
7. Jurgen Hoth
8. Dale Weisbrot
9. Elisabeth Huber-Sannwald
10. Lauren Svejcar
11. Courtney Buchanan
12. Bill Payne
13. Lia Biondo
14. Christian Artuso
15. Maryam Niamir-Fuller
16. Elena Dosamantes

<u>Time</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
1:05	(1 min)	<b>Introductions and Changes to Agenda</b>  No new introductions and no changes to the agenda

**1:06 (04 min) Approvals of Previous Minutes**  
June 03 (Moved and seconded by participants)  
May 06 (Moved and seconded by participants)

**1:10 (50 min) North America Status Reports**

***Canada (Barry):***

- Canada continues a path to support IYRP. Written and verbal support from Canada was given at the FAO Conference.
- The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (Marie-Claude Bibeau, PC, M.P.) is the lead for Canada and has been a strong supporter for IYRP since the beginning.
- Minister Bibeau was asked to give a brief for UN High Level political forum; the request from the Government of Mongolia. Unfortunately, there was not sufficient time and Canada did not present.
- Upcoming Canadian election is expected to be called in August with a potential election in September; no expected change in support.

***Mexico (Jürgen):***

- Ministry for agriculture has received letters but has not responded officially to any letters, although they have expressed interest.
- Afforestation is happening on a grand scale in grasslands of northern and central Mexico.
- A lot of stakeholders (such as CONAFOR and other ministries) are seeing and portraying afforestation as good.

*(David Borré)* Efforts are being made by Pronatura to communicate with CONAFOR; trying to use same language

*(Jurgen)* Consider raising afforestation as a trilateral issue.

*(Elena)* Suggested Dr. Lynn Huntsinger (UC Berkeley) as a speaker.

*(Peter)* Seconds Elena on Dr. Lynn Huntsinger as a speaker.

*(Lauren)* It is not only an issue in Mexico or North America.

*(Elisabeth)* Make use of the decade for international restoration.

*(Barb)* Suggested webinar to talk about afforestation and deforestation, bringing a panel together. Possible task for the communications team.

### ***USA (Layne)***

- Stakeholder mobilization for the USA has been achieved, exceeding 50 different entities. These 50 endorsements have been added to the IYRP group letter prepared for State, Department of Interior, and USDA. These letters are intended to increase awareness for these agencies so when the UNGA votes on the IYRP proposal the agencies are better-equipped with background information to inform the US position (hopefully positive).
- Group letters went out in early June, but no feedback yet.
- A webinar was delivered on Monday June 7<sup>th</sup> to summarize various aspects of the IYRP concept and proposal. The webinar was mostly targeted to federal agencies as above. A link to the webinar is below (Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4a7IQ4UeaY>). There were some technical glitches in the webinar, but given over 100 views have already occurred, there are no plans for a revision.

*(Elena)* Request for everyone to send her information regarding future events for social media.

*(Barb)* Need to make current webinar video available at the IYRP website.

*(Layne)* Copies of the group agency letter also needs to be posted at the IYRP website.

*(Barb)* Added about 50 more logos from supportive stakeholder groups to the IYRP website.

*(Bill)* The HLPC (High Level Policy Forum) event video could also be used to support the webinar.

*(Barb)* <https://iyrp.info/un-sustainable-development-goals-un-sdgs> - The HLPC event web link.

(Lauren) Do we need to add more US universities to the stakeholder list? Offer to help.

(Bill) There is a mailing list to Deans and Directors at western land grant schools, but other schools that are not on the list are still welcome.

(Barb) Logos from universities supporting IYRP must be acquired.

### ***North America Communications Team (Barb)***

- New taglines have been sent to the group to comment and review.
- Awareness raising. Different members have suggested articles for newsletters.
- Trilateral partnership survey has been submitted.
- American Grasslands conference as an opportunity to present IYRP (Lekha Knuffman)
- NRCS contacts at State or National level; SRM might also be working on this.
- Instagram in the works.
- Wild horses suggested as one of the 12 topics for IYRP. Highly controversial issue.
- Elena's brother, Javier Dosamantes, is an illustrator and has offered to help us with graphics.

**2:00**            **(25 min)**            **Global Status Reports**

### ***Recent FAO Approval, Other Updates (Maryam, Layne, et al.)***

- FAO report states that IYRP will be brought to the table in 2021 UN General Assembly.
- Status on IYRP and its financing. Maryam to follow-up. Discussing with ambassador.
- What more information does each government need? How to reassure them? What information can we provide?

- Concerns: That there will be some money to get something going. Governments need to show that they have the money. Would some NGOs come forward to support other organizations in other countries?

*(Jurgen)* How much money is enough? Emphasize IYRP as an opportunity for alignment of existing policies and resources in favor of rangelands and grasslands, dependent more upon political will than on financial support. In this sense, Mexico is promoting mainstreaming for biodiversity conservation as a national policy, also presented at the tri-national scale.

*(Maryam)* Mainstreaming difficult to track. Will get a sense of how much money we need (as above).

### ***Global Branding***

*(Jurgen)* Taglines have been edited by Barry and Jurgen to be as inclusive as possible for all regions.

*(Maryam)* In terms of taglines, achieving consensus is important. They need to be ready soon for General Assembly.

### **2:25            (5 min)            Schedule Next Meeting and Host**

- Date: August 5, 2021
- Host: Barry Irving

### **Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn (Lauren and Elena)

**END OF MEETING**