

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH JULY 2007 AT 9.00AM AT LISSUE HOUSE.

Present

Mr Owen Brennan (Chairman)
Mrs P Kane
Mr G McCollum
Mr J McGaughey
Mr N McLaughlin

In attendance

Mr D Rutledge
Miss S Blain
Dr M Tempest

2007/07/1 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance had been received from Mr C Tweedie and Mr R Watson. The Chief Executive was asked to convey the best wishes of the Board to Mrs Waite on the birth of her daughter.

2007/07/2 Minutes

The Board agreed the following amendments:

2007/06/04 Amendment in line 4.
Change “to AFS” to “by AFS”

2007/06/08 *[WITHHELD – COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE]*

Subject to these amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2007 were approved by the commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr N McLaughlin

Seconded: Mr G McCollum

2007/07/3 Matters Arising

(i) *Weanling Exports*

The Technical Director updated the Board on developments in regard to weanling exports to Europe.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AND APPROVAL

2007/07/04 [WITHHELD – COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE]

2007/07/5 Ministerial Meeting

The Board members and executive who attended the meeting with the Minister reported to the rest of the Board.

The Board felt it had been a very useful meeting with the Minister being well informed about current issues in the red meat industry. The McKinsey work was well presented and the Minister recognised the grave situation the industry is in.

The Board members did feel that there was a lack of political appetite to get involved in the 'level playing field' debate.

Action Point: The Board asked the Chief Executive to consider how to follow up on this first meeting with the minister.

2007/07/6 Annual Report and Accounts

Action Point: The Board agreed to defer agreeing a launch date to the next board meeting, pending an OFMDFM decision regarding the laying of documents in the NIA recess.

2007/07/7 [WITHHELD – COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE]

2007/07/8 [WITHHELD – COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE]

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NOTING:

2007/07/9 LMC Business Monitor

The Business Monitor for quarter 1 had been circulated. The Chief Executive highlighted item 4.2.6 regarding LMC's unsuccessful bid for EU funding.

Action Point: The Board requested the Marketing Manager to provide a follow up note on why funding was refused and what impact it will have on planned LMC's activities.

Action Point: The Chairman will circulate copies of PGI correspondence to the Board.

2007/07/10 Conflicts of Interests Paper

Noted

2007/07/11 Draft Audit Committee Minutes from 7th June 2007

Noted

2007/07/12 Reports

The following reports were noted:

Marketing
Financial
Classification Services
Agency Services
Technical

Action Point: The Board agreed to include marketing, financial and technical reports in agenda items for action and approval for future board meetings.

(i) Marketing

Media Report

Action Point: The Technical Director will check Belfast Telegraph entry 4th June 2007 which purports to originate from LMC. The Technical Director will re-circulate to Board members bulletin article on exports.

PGI Status

Action Point: The Marketing Manager will research fully PGI protocol and brief the Board at the next meeting.

(ii) Classification Services

Action Point: The Technical Director will liaise with the Classification Manager to enable the range of weights to be produced each month.

(iii) Technical

Industry Efficiencies

Action Point: The Technical Director will update his paper detailing potential efficiencies in the industry to reflect current research and figures.

IRG on the OTM

Action Point: The Board asked the Technical Director to circulate his briefing documents to LMC stakeholders and invite comments and opinion.

FSA

Action Point: The Board agreed that LMC should continue to pursue FSA on the issues regarding third country product. The Chief Executive and Technical Director will carry this forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

2007/07/13 Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed that the date of the next meeting of the Commission would be on 15th August 2007 at 10am.

2007/07/14 Any Other Business

(i) NIAPA

LMC had received correspondence from NIAPA requesting a meeting

Action Point: The Chairman and Chief Executive will follow up this request.

(ii) Classification Charges

The Chief Executive reported that LMC had received a letter from the UFU expressing concern at the increase in classification charges. LMC has provided a comprehensive reply to the concerns raised.

(iii) Assured Food Standards

The Chief Executive reported that a brief acknowledgement had been received from AFS regarding LMC's agreement to provide funding.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will write again to AFS to follow up the restructuring proposal and increases in funding.

The meeting ended at 2:15pm