

MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2013 AT 11.15AM EDENMORE COUNTRY CLUB, MAGHERALIN

Present:

Mr P O'Rourke (Chairman)
Mrs M McCormack
Mr K Sharkey
Mr I Mark
Mr J Noble
Mr P O'Neill

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2013/11 /1 Apologies

None.

2013/11/2 Minutes

The minutes of a Meeting held on 27 November 2013 were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr I Mark
Seconded: Mr J Noble

2013/11/3 Matters arising

(i) GB/NI Price Differential Project

The Chief Executive reported that the final report had been launched on 17th December 2013.

The DARD Minister had been invited to the launch, but was unable to attend. Hard copies of the report have been sent to the Minister, The Assembly Agriculture Committee, and the Agri-Food Strategy Board.

The Board commented on a successful report launch, and that the experts were able to answer all questions asked.

Action Point: The Board agreed to seek a meeting with the Minister to discuss the report's recommendations, and other issues. The Chief Executive will arrange.

2013/11/4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on meetings he had attended since the last Board Meeting.

2013/11/5 Chief Executive's Report

(i) Meeting with Eblex on 2 December 2013

The Chief Executive had circulated notes on the meeting to the Board.

(ii) NILGOSC Correspondence

The Chief Executive advised the Board of recent correspondence received from NILGOSC relating to annual employer updates, and future employer contributions.

(iii) Small Claim Against LMC

The Chief Executive updated the Board on a small claim application against LMC.

Action Point: The Board agreed to dispute the claim and lodge an objection.

(iv) World Meat Congress 2014

The Chief Executive informed the Board that the IMS World Meat Congress 2014 would be held in Beijing in June 2014.

Action Point: The Board was generally in agreement to provide support for the NI red meat industry to attend this event, but agreed that LMC must receive some dividend, if support was provided.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will explore all options, and potential benefits of attendance at the IMS World Meat Congress 2014.

(v) Property

The Chief Executive advised the Board that the Departmental Solicitors Office had clarified that LMC owned the property at Lissue House.

2013/11/6 *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

2013/11/7 Development of LMC Strategic Plan 2014-17

The Board had been circulated with a copy of the current 2013-2016 Strategic Plan.

The Board discussed a number of areas which LMC may include in the new Strategic Plan.

The areas included:

- Recognition that despite a prolonged period of time of price rises, sections of the industry at farm level were still not sustainable.
- Critically review all current activities undertaken by LMC.
- Reflect Agri-Food Strategy Board growth targets in Strategic Plan
- Main sources of product are from Dairy and Suckler Herds – are there areas of synergy, we can develop further?
- How can we influence, or manipulate the re-structuring of our industry, to enable improvement in product specification?
- Feasibility study to consider what LMC can do, or should do to improve herd genetics in conjunction with industry partners.
- Technological advances and changes to industry structure should be developed in tandem with each other.
- Improved engagement with stakeholders, and publicise LMC's activities.
- Development of strategy to promote the Northern Ireland's industry's environmental credentials.
- Access funds from Government to assist the delivery of the Agri-Food Strategy Board recommendations.
- Joint projects with other UK parties to maximise impact, or effectiveness.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will seek to develop a draft Strategic Plan for discussion at the next Board Meeting.

2013/11/8 Any Other Business

None.

2013/11/9 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Board Meeting would be held at 10.00am at Lissue House on Wednesday 29th January 2014.

The Meeting ended at 1.25pm