

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY 14
DECEMBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM BY MS TEAMS**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mrs O Chesney
Mr J Lennon
Mr G Maguire
Mr P McElroy
Mr H Sinclair

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2020/9/1 Apologies

None.

2020/9/2 Declaration of Interests Pertaining to Agenda Items for Discussion

The Board agreed that none of the agenda items required any Board members to abstain from discussions.

**Compliance with the Management Statement & Financial Memorandum,
Sponsor Manual and Managing Public Money NI**

Confirmed.

2020/9/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 23 November 2020

The minutes of a meeting, held on 23 November 2020, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mrs O Chesney
Seconded: Mr J Lennon

2020/9/4 Matters Arising

- **AgriSearch**

Action Point: The Chief Executive will arrange for a briefing of the LMC Board by AgriSearch for the January 2021 Board meeting.

Signed _____
Chairman

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

2020/9/5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman commented on a number of current issues affecting LMC and the red meat industry and some take home messages from his participation in a series of meetings and events since the last meeting of the Board.

- A further Agricultural Flat Rate VAT Project steering group meeting;
- A Deloitte webinar on Responsible Production and Nutrition;
- An Oxford Farming event at the end of November on a Roadmap of Transformation for Farm Support; and
- DAERA EU Exit webex events in November and December which have been useful.

2020/9/6 Chief Executive's Report

- **PGI – Irish Grass Fed Beef**

The Board noted that the joint press release issued by LMC/NIMEA/UFU had created a bit of stir in the farming press and that it had been an important intervention to bring public clarity to Northern Ireland stakeholders' position and expectations. The Chief Executive gave the Board an update on discussions with industry and DAERA regarding the recent PGI application by the Irish government.

- **Agricultural Flat Rate VAT project**

The Chief Executive reported that a final meeting has been held with Grant Thornton who had been commissioned by LMC to carry out the work. Stakeholders are now being given the opportunity to scrutinise the draft report before publication.

- **Quarterly Meeting with Sponsor Branch – 24 November 2020**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the recent Quarterly Sponsor Branch meeting.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/9/7 Covid-19

The Board discussed latest developments regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. The vaccine is good news but industry and staff must continue to be vigilant for the foreseeable future.

2020/9/8 UK Exit from the EU

The Board discussed latest developments regarding the UK's exit from the EU as the end of the transition period is imminent. DAERA has been taking a practical approach to the challenges ahead.

2020/9/9 Risk Management/Health & Safety

- **Draft Risk Register**

The Board considered the updated risk register.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will draft a document summarising the key matters facing LMC. The Board agreed to have a separate meeting to discuss the document.

Action Point: The Board agreed that DAERA/LMC needed to find options for Board succession. The Chief Executive will prepare an options paper for discussion at the Board to aid development of a proposal to take to DAERA Sponsor Branch for consideration.

Action Point: The ARAC Chairman and members recommended the updated risk register to the Board for approval.

Proposed: Mr J Lennon

Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

Action Point: The Board approved the updated risk register.

2020/9/10 Any Other Business

- **Preparing for EU Exit – online events**

The Chairman has registered for these DAERA online information events. The final one is being held on 15 December 2020 and all Board Members are welcome to register.

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/9/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday 25 January 2021 at 10.00am on Microsoft teams.

The Board wished the staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Board meeting ended at 12.00pm.

Signed _____
Chairman