

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY 25
JANUARY 2021 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

2021/1/1 Apologies

None.

2021/1/2 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.

2021/1/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 14 December 2020

The minutes of a meeting, held on 14 December 2020, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mrs O Chesney
Seconded: Mr P McElroy

2021/1/4 Matters Arising

- **PGI – Irish Grass Fed Beef**

The Chief Executive advised that a meeting will be held following this Board meeting with stakeholders to discuss what the NI red meat industry should do to gather the data

Signed _____
Chairman

required for verification of grass fed beef. He also advised that a cross border meeting of government and industry representatives would be taking place on Tuesday 26 January 2021 to discuss all-island cooperation on grass fed beef and PGI.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

2021/1/5 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.

- DAERA EU Exit webex event on 15 December 20 was useful. In particular there was a good presentation from R Huey, Chief Veterinary Officer;
- Attended a FQAS Board meeting on 22 December 2020;
- Meeting with Minister Poots on 13 January 2021, to discuss agricultural policy following LMC's submission of options report for industry support; and
- An induction meeting with new Board Member, Mr Joe Stewart.

The Chairman reported that this was Mr McElroy's last Board meeting. On behalf of the Board and LMC, the Chairman thanked Mr McElroy for his valuable contribution to the LMC Board during his tenure as a Board member.

In response, Mr McElroy thanked the Chairman for his comments and remarked that he had enjoyed his term as a Board member and it had been great to reconnect with the industry and individuals in LMC. He advised that he would provide an ARAC Chairman's report covering the period April 2020 to January 2021.

2021/1/6 Chief Executive's Report

In advance of the meeting the Chief Executive had circulated a written report relating to this section of the meeting.

- **Covid – 19**

The Chief Executive provided an update on the current working arrangements within LMC and its service areas.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **EU Exit**

The Board hope that the early teething problems will be sorted quickly. The beginning of April 2021 will be a challenge for retail goods when the grace period ends.

- **Future Agricultural Policy**

The Chief Executive had provided an update on the recent meeting with Minister Poots. The Minister had welcomed the LMC commissioned report on Options for Supporting the Suckler Beef and Sheep Sectors in Northern Ireland. He felt it was an important piece of work to help develop a new Agricultural Policy for Northern Ireland.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

- **Strategic and Business Planning Timetable**

The Chief Executive advised that LMC should aim to have stakeholder engagement on LMC future strategy, prior to the draft strategic and business plans being prepared for consideration at the March 2021 Board meeting.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will arrange a meeting between the Board and stakeholders at which LMC will deliver a professional presentation on a future strategy.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

2021/1/7 Board Succession Planning Discussion

A discussion paper had been circulated to the Board outlining the current situation and why Board succession-planning matters. The Board debated some potential options to consider for a succession-planning proposition to DAERA.

Action Point: The Board agreed that the Chairman would send a letter to S McGrade-DAERA to set out potential options to mitigate the risks of LMC Board succession.

2021/1/8 Updated Board Code of Practice (for review and approval)

Action Point: The Board approved the updated Board Code of Practice.

Signed _____
Chairman

2021/1/9 Risk Management/Health & Safety

- **Annual ARAC Chairman's Report**

Action Point: Mr P McElroy advised that he would provide an ARAC Chairman's report covering the period April 2020 to January 2021.

- **Internal Audit**

The Chief Executive advised the Internal Audit fieldwork has been completed by DAERA and a draft report issued which indicates a satisfactory opinion.

2021/1/10 Business Monitor to end of Q3 (for review and noting)

Noted.

2021/1/11 Quarterly Reports from LMC Business Sections (for review and noting)

Noted.

2021/1/12 AOB

None.

2021/1/13 Date of Next Meeting and Schedule of Meetings for 2021

A stakeholder engagement event will be held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 8.00am on Microsoft Teams in place of the February Board meeting. If there are any issues needing Board discussion in February a quick follow on meeting can be held once the stakeholder engagement event ends.

The Chief Executive had circulated a draft schedule of dates for Board meetings for the remainder of 2021.

Action Point: The Board agreed the schedule of dates for 2021 Board meetings.

Mr Jason Rankin from Agrisearch joined the meeting at 11.30am

Signed _____
Chairman

2021/1/14 Presentation by Agrisearch General Manager and Discussion of Future Strategy

The Chairman welcomed Mr Rankin to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation to the Board.

Mr Rankin thanked the Board for the invitation to speak to them and proceeded to give an informative presentation on the current work and future strategy of Agrisearch. The Board appreciated the opportunity to get to know how much Agrisearch was doing and encouraged Mr Rankin to keep up the contact with the LMC Chief Executive.

The Board meeting ended at 12.00pm.

Signed _____
Chairman