

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
MONDAY 26 JULY 2021 AT 10.00AM BY MS TEAMS**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mr J Lennon
Mr G Maguire
Mr H Sinclair
Mr J Stewart

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2021/7/1 Apologies

An apology had been received from Mrs O Chesney.

2021/7/2 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.

2021/7/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 28 June 2021

The minutes of a meeting, held on 28 June 2021, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Stewart
Seconded: Mr J Lennon

2021/7/4 Matters Arising

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

Signed _____
Chairman

- **Balmoral Show**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the plans for Balmoral Show.

- **Conflict of Interest Forms**

Action Point: Board members are reminded to forward any outstanding forms to the Chief Executive.

- **Internal Recruitment Trawl**

The Chief Executive was pleased to advise that Mrs Gillian Davis has been appointed as FQAS Manager and Mrs Lauren Patterson has been appointed as Marketing and Communications Manager.

2021/7/5

Chairman's Report

The Chairman and Board wished to acknowledge the passing of Mr Paddy McElroy, a former Board member, earlier in the month. He had done much to develop the positive relationship LMC enjoys with its sponsor DAERA. He had been a true gentleman whose positive and calming influence was greatly missed by all who had known and worked with him.

The Chairman then updated the Board on a number of issues affecting LMC and the red meat industry.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*
- **Staffing Issues-** The Chairman and Chief Executive updated the Board on some imminent staff absences which will put pressure on the provision of LMC services. Workforce planning over the coming months will be very challenging and every effort will be made to keep service outputs and public facing activities going as much as possible.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will seek to arrange a meeting with the new Head of Sponsor Branch to alert them to the current staffing pressures.

Withheld – Commercially Sensitive

2021/7/6

Chief Executive's Report

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

Signed _____
Chairman

- **Climate Change**

The Chief Executive advised that LMC has submitted a written response to the AERA Committee and received an acknowledgment.

The Board has also been circulated with a draft copy of the KPMG report which will be submitted to the AERA Committee once finalised, as additional evidence from the Northern Ireland agri-food industry. A media plan for launch of the report is also being finalised with the other stakeholder partners who commissioned this report.

- **Guild of Agricultural Journalists**

LMC arranged a briefing to the Guild of Agricultural Journalists in Northern Ireland on the Andersons Centre report on Future Policy Options for Supporting the Suckler Beef and Sheep Sectors in Northern Ireland. There had been good coverage in the local agricultural media and feedback from LMC stakeholders.

- **PGI for Irish Grass Fed Beef**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the latest progress of the PGI application by Bord Bia and when Northern Ireland can submit a constructive opposition to the geographic scope of the PGI. As this process is going on LMC is working through a very detailed technical process to get a grass-fed verification system up and running in Northern Ireland.

- **Livestock Genetics**

The Chairman had attended a meeting on 9 July 2021 (2021/6/6). The engagement had been very positive, and a summary of the agreed action points had been provided to the Board for information. LMC is progressing the action points allocated to it.

- **LMC Board Succession**

The Chief Executive advised that he had received an email from DAERA to acknowledge LMC's letter regarding proposal of extending terms of some Board members. There has been no further feedback received to date from DAERA.

2021/7/7 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The ARAC Chairman gave a verbal report on an ARAC meeting held on 1 July 2021.

The ARAC Committee had approved:

-The Governance Statement in the draft Annual Report and Accounts; and

Signed _____
Chairman

-The Report to Those Charged with Governance.

The ARAC Committee had also recommended the Annual Report and Accounts for approval by the Board. Approval was sought and received from all Board members via email.

The Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 have now been approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General with a clean audit opinion.

2021/7/8 Updated Policies and Procedures for Consideration and Approval

The following LMC policy had been updated:

- LMC Recruitment and Selection Policy

Action Point: The Board approved the updated policies.

2021/7/9 LMC Business Monitor to end of Quarter 1 – for review and noting.

Noted.

2021/7/10 LMC Quarterly Section Reports for review and noting

Noted.

2021/7/11 Any Other Business

DAERA TB Strategy Consultation

Action Point: The Board agreed that LMC will submit a response to the consultation by the closing date of 10 September 2021.

2021/7/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday 27 September 2021 at 10.00am on Microsoft Teams.

The Board meeting ended at 12.10pm

Signed _____
Chairman