

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
TUESDAY 29 MARCH 2022 AT 11.00AM AT CROWNE PLAZA, SHAWS BRIDGE**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mr J Lennon
Mr H Sinclair
Mr J Stewart
Mrs O Chesney

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2022/3/1 Apologies

An apology had been received from Mr G Maguire.

2022/3/2 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.

2022/3/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 28 February 2022

The minutes of a meeting, held on 28 February 2022, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Lennon
Seconded: Mr H Sinclair

2022/3/4 Matters Arising

- **Board meeting with LMC staff**

Action Point: The Chief Executive will confirm a venue for a staff meeting with the Board on 3 May 2022.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector**

Action Point: The Chairman and Chief Executive will contact the UFU President, NIMEA Chairman and their respective Chief Executives to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to discuss the report issued by the independent strategic review and current thinking within industry regarding the Sustainability Body recommendation.

2022/3/5 Chairman's Report

- **NIFDA Awards** – The Chairman thanked the Board members for attending the NIFDA Awards ceremony.
- **Ukraine War** - The tragic events in Ukraine are still occupying our minds and presents challenges across the global economy.
- **Soil Nutrient Health Scheme** – The Chairman attended the launch of the Scheme at AFBI Hillsborough on 22 March 2022.

2022/3/6 Chief Executive's Report

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

- **Agri-Food Stakeholder Forum**

The Chief Executive advised that the Agri-Food Stakeholder Forum on Covid-19 has been re-purposed by DAERA to enable Industry and Government to share information and discuss actions that can be taken to help alleviate the serious supply chain cost and availability issues that are being experienced at the present time.

- **PGI for Irish Grass Fed Beef**

The Chief Executive reported that he is still waiting to hear if the European Commission will uphold the opposition from Northern Ireland parties to the Irish Grass Fed Beef application. LMC is continuing its work to develop a grass-fed beef verification system for Northern Ireland.

- **Carbon Auditing Project**

The Chief Executive advised that key decisions are required from the industry on a clear way forward for this project in terms of data gathering, funding, carbon audit tool and what goes back to the farm by way of follow up information and support.

Signed _____
Chairman

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*
- **Common Framework with Red Tractor, QMS and WLBP**

The Chief Executive reported that a positive meeting had been held on 24 March 2022 between all the parties. He was hopeful that a common framework document could be signed in the next couple of weeks.

- **FQAS Industry Board Meeting 16 March 2022**

The FQAS Industry Board has suggested a joint meeting with the new LMC Board when it is appointed.

- **Business Planning for 2022/2023 Financial Year**

The Chief Executive advised that the senior management team has produced a detailed list of business activities (to support Business and Strategic Outcomes) to be incorporated into the draft budget subject to available funding. The Board discussed LMC's current reserve position and the conditions and requirements of the MSFM regarding reserves.

Action Point: A draft budget will be circulated to the Board as soon as completed.

2022/3/7 Board Self-Assessment

The Board had been circulated with Self-Assessment document with the Board papers.

Action Point: Board members are requested to forward their individually completed documents to the Chief Executive by 4 April 2022 for collation.

2022/3/8 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The ARAC Chairman gave a verbal report on the ARAC meeting held on 29 March 2022.

- **Updated Risk Register**

The ARAC had considered the updated Risk Register and recommended an amendment to a risk level.

Action Point: The amended Risk Register will be circulated to the Board for approval.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **Draft Internal Audit Report**

The draft Internal Audit Report has given an overall satisfactory audit opinion. There were a few priority 2 and 3 recommendations which have been accepted or commented on. The ARAC has approved the draft report and responses.

- **Draft External Audit Strategy 2021/2022**

The ARAC had approved the draft External Audit Strategy 2021/2022.

2022/3/9 Policy Updates for Board Approval

- **Information Asset Register**

Action Point: The Board approved the updated Information Asset Register.

2022/3/10 Any Other Business

None.

2022/3/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next LMC Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at Belmont House Hotel.

The Board meeting ended at 1.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairman