

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2022 AT 2.00PM AT CROWNE PLAZA, BELFAST**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson

2022/10/1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Messrs. J Lennon and G Maguire and Miss S Blain.

2022/10/2 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.

2022/10/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 28 November 2022

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

Proposed: Mr J Stewart
Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

2022/10/4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that would not be considered later in the agenda.

Signed _____
Chairman

2022/10/5 Chairman's Report

- **Board Appointments** – The Chairman reported that two appointment panels have now been established, one for the 4 Members to be recruited and one for the Chairman position. The Chairman advised that he would be chairing the Member Panel alongside LMC's Senior Sponsor in DAERA, Kathryn Clarke and a representative from CPANI. He would not be involved in the panel for recruitment of the new Chairman. He also advised that a 'critical path' had been agreed to ensure new appointments would be in place for June 2023 and that advertisement of positions was anticipated for January 2023.
- *Withheld – commercially sensitive.*
- **Sustainability Body** – Further to discussion at the last Board meeting the Chairman reported on recent developments regarding the potential establishment of a Sustainability Body for Northern Ireland (SBNI). The Chairman advised members that correspondence had been received from the Chief Executive of UFU in response to his letter of 07 November 2022 on the Carbon Audit Pilot Programme and SBNI.

Withheld – commercially sensitive.

The Chairman also informed the Board that a meeting had taken place earlier that morning involving the LMC Chairman and Chief Executive with the CE's of UFU and NIMEA to discuss the issues raised by the LMC Board at the last meeting in November 2022.

Withheld – commercially sensitive.

2022/10/6 Chief Executive's Report

In advance of the meeting the Chief Executive had circulated several papers relating to this section of the meeting.

- **Quarterly Assurance Meeting** – The Board noted the very comprehensive summary record of the meeting with Sponsor Branch on 01 November 2022 which had been provided by DAERA.
- **Draft Annual Engagement Plan** – The first draft of an Annual Engagement Plan between DAERA and LMC had been circulated by Sponsor Branch for consideration by LMC (as a first step in the development of a Partnership Agreement to replace the current MSFM).

Action Point: The Board agreed to look at this in more detail at the next meeting.

- **NI Sheep Industry Taskforce** - The Board noted that the Ulster Farmers Union

Signed _____
Chairman

had recently established a Northern Ireland sheep sector task force group to commission an independent robust evidence-based report outlining the industry's vision for the NI sheep sector as part of new agriculture policy. The LMC Chief Executive is participating in the group and LMC is supporting the costs of project delivery.

Withheld – commercially sensitive.

Action Point: The Board emphasised the importance of sheep genetic improvement featuring in the vision and that it was essential that the contractor for this project engaged with Sheep Ireland as well as Signet in GB as LambPlus was delivering some good outcomes for sheep farmers using this performance recording service. Chief Executive to communicate the Board's views to the task force.

- **LMC Business Continuity Plan 2022-23** - The Board considered the comprehensive nature of the plan and noted its contentment with the BCP.

2022/10/7 *Withheld – commercially sensitive.*

2022/10/8 Carbon Steering Group & Pilot Project Development

The Board noted that the first meeting of the Carbon Steering Group (CSG) had taken place earlier that morning at UFU Headquarters and that UFU President David Brown had chaired the meeting. LMC Chairman and Chief Executive attended the first meeting of the CSG and the important role that LMC is playing in helping to deliver the whole farm carbon audit pilot programme was very evident from discussions.

2022/10/9 Northern Ireland Sustainability Body

Already considered under agenda item 2022/10/5.

2022/10/10 Risk Management / Health & Safety

- **ARAC Chairs Meeting** – Mr J Stewart advised that an ARAC Chairs meeting had been arranged by DAERA for Thursday 22 December 2022 and that he would report back on this engagement at the next LMC Board meeting
- **Internal Business Case** – Mr J Stewart advised that all ARAC members had now considered the internal economic appraisal for the 2022-23 LMC Information Campaign and were happy to recommend its approval to the Board, which was duly accepted.

Signed _____
Chairman

2022/10/11 Any Other Business

- *Withheld – commercially sensitive.*
- **Meeting Dates for 2023**

Action Point: Chief Executive to circulate Board meeting dates for the first six months of 2023 for consideration.

2022/10/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next LMC Board meeting will be held on Monday 23 January 2022 at 10.00am in Lissue Walk.

The Board meeting ended at 3.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairman