

MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2012 AT 10.00 AM AT RAMADA HOTEL, SHAW'S BRIDGE, BELFAST

Present:

Mr P O'Rourke (Chairman)
Mr P O'Neill
Mr J Noble
Mr K Sharkey
Mrs M McCormack
Mr I Mark

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2012/11/1 Apologies

None.

2012/11/2 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 27 November 2012, were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Noble
Seconded: Mr P O'Neill

2012/11/3 Matters arising

(i) *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

(ii) Livestock Rustling

The DARD Minister's response was circulated to Board Members.

(iii) Property Condition Report

The Chief Executive advised that gate lodge and grounds survey will be undertaken shortly.

(iv) Meeting with K Morrison (DARD)

The Chief Executive advised that Mr Morrison was leaving DARD at the end of January 2013. LMC will arrange a wash-up meeting before his departure.

Action Point: The Board agreed to send a letter to Mr Morrison to thank him for his support to LMC and wish him well in the future.

(v) Meeting with NI Meat Processors

The Board felt the memorandum of understanding signed by the NI Meat Processors regarding the Price Differential Project would be a useful template for a wider agreement with the processors.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will consider how to take this proposal forward.

Mr I Mark joined the meeting at 10.30am.

(vi) Price Differential Project

The Chief Executive advised that Oxford Economics had been appointed to undertake the project. A number of meetings had already taken place and a schedule was in place to deliver the final results by the end of March 2013.

The Board realised that the red meat industry had huge expectations from the research and LMC would need to manage these expectations.

(vii) LMC Board Terms of Reference

Action Point: The Board considered and approved the updated Terms of Reference including DARD amendments.

2012/11/4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on meetings he had attended since the last Board Meeting.

(i) RMSF Meeting

The Chairman advised that there had been a good attendance at the meeting. DARD had presented updated costings on Cost of Beef Production from the suckler herd and has agreed to update this on an annual basis.

The meeting had also agreed to have a further look at PGI. DARD undertook to speak to its counterparts in Ireland to see if there was the political will to take this forward.

(ii) Launch of LMC Schools Cookery Demonstration Programme.

The Chairman reported that the event had been very well organised with a

professional standard of delivery. Mr P O'Neill (NIMEA) and Mr R Elkin (UFU) had also attended on behalf of the red meat industry. The Board recorded its congratulations to the Education Services Manager for a excellent event.

(iii) LMC Board Size

The Chairman advised that Mrs J Garrett (DARD) had written to LMC about future size of the Board. The Board had previously agreed to reduce the Board size to five members.

Action Point: The Board agreed that the Chairman will discuss this issue at the meeting with Mr K Morrison as well as the impact of the timing of future retirements from the Board.

2012/11/5 Chief Executive's Report

(i) Planning Timetable

Action Point: The Board agreed to change the date of the next Board meeting in order to give the maximum time possible to agree a draft Strategic Plan for 2013/2016.

(ii) Internal Audit 2012/2013

The Chief Executive advised that DARD internal audit has completed its fieldwork. One area raised was the need to update Board conflict of interest forms

Action Point: The Board will be circulated with new conflict of interest forms to complete and return to LMC.

(iii) LMC Budget and Capital Spend 2012/2013

The Chief Executive advised of a couple of changes proposed to the approved budget.

FQAS Database

Difficulties in identifying a suitable procurement provider has resulted in new FQAS database being delayed. Technical specification of database will be completed by end of financial year with development taking place in the following year. Easement identified £40,000.

European Market Reports

A new report is being produced by GIRA on meat market opportunities in Russia. Following the recent opening of market access to the UK, LMC feels this report would be timely and beneficial to the NI red meat industry. Proposed £12,000 reallocation of budget from European Market reports.

Action Point: The Board approved the above amendments to the LMC budget 2012/2013.

2012/11/6 LMC Board Performance - Self-Assessment Checklist

Action Point: Board members will individually complete the self-assessment checklist. LMC will collate the responses in advance of the next Board meeting to facilitate a focussed discussion.

2012/11/7 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be Friday 25 January 2013 at Lissue House.

2012/11/8 Any Other Business

(i) LMC Strategic Plan 2013/2016

Action Point: The Board agreed to have a meeting to discuss the draft strategic plan. Date to be arranged.

The Meeting ended at 12.30pm