

MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2013 AT 1.30PM AT GREENMOUNT, ANTRIM

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2013/10/1 Apologies

None.

2013/10/2 Minutes

The minutes of a Meeting held on 23 October 2013 were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Noble
Seconded: Mrs M McCormack

2013/10/3 Matters arising

Withheld – Commercially Sensitive

(ii) DARD/LMC Joint Event

The Board complimented all staff involved in the successful event held at Greenmount on the 27th of November 2013.

Action Point: The Board agreed to discuss future strategy at the December Board Meeting. Members were encouraged by the Chairman to come to the meeting with developed thinking on any strategic ideas they may have for consideration.

(iii) GB/NI Price Differential Project

The launch date has been agreed as 17th December 2013.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will invite the DARD Minister to the launch of the report.

(iv) Live Export Levy

The Chief Executive advised the Board of guidance received from C Fletcher (DARD) on a number of issues relating to live export levy.

Action Point: The Board agreed that the live export levy will be included in the new MIDS application. NIMEA will be advised of this decision.

LMC has not yet received information from DARD regarding the potential cost of export certificates, if industry were to be charged for their provision.

(v) Electronic Sheep Tagging Information

Action Point: The Chief Executive will seek to arrange an industry meeting about information available from electronic sheep tagging, and related issues that could potentially be made available to producers.

2013/10/4 Chairman's Report

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

(i) Meeting with NIMEA 15th November 2013

The Chairman and Chief Executive met with NIMEA to discuss a proposed Service Level Agreement (SLA) between LMC and NIMEA.

Action Point: NIMEA agreed to provide an outline proposal, and LMC hopes to finalise an SLA by the end of December 2013.

(ii) UK Levy Body Forum 18th November 2013

The Chairman and Chief Executive reported that a draft memorandum of understanding had been drawn up.

Action Point: The Board agreed that LMC would sign up to the memorandum of understanding.

(iii) Board Recruitment

The Chairman advised that the recruitment process had been concluded, and that the new Board Member should be announced in the first weeks of December 2013.

2013/10/5 Chief Executive's Report

(i) Reform of CAP

The Board discussed the options on CAP reform Pillar 1 presented at the stakeholder conference held at Greenmount.

Action Point: The Board would support an incentive payment for farmers to improve the genetics, traceability, and quality of product in the red meat industry. The Chief Executive will convey LMC's position to DARD.

(ii) Potential Options for Livestock Systems at CAFRE Abbey Farm

The Chief Executive had a meeting with CAFRE officials to discuss options for the future of CAFRE Abbey Farm.

Action Point: The Board concluded that LMC's opinion was that both the suckler herd and dairy origin beef operations should be continued at CAFRE Abbey Farm, but that the organic operation should cease (if choices had to be made over the future of existing systems at the farm).

The Chief Executive will advise CAFRE officials of the LMC Board's opinion.

(iii) Export Certification Meeting 8 November 2013

The Chief Executive reported that LMC had hosted a meeting between LMC, NIMEA and DARD. A letter had been drafted and sent to DEFRA Food Policy.

A copy of the letter was circulated to the Board.

2013/10/6 LMC Risk Register

The Audit Committee had recommended the draft LMC Risk Register for approval.

Action Point: The Board approved the draft LMC risk register.

2013/10/7 Minutes of Senior Management Team Meeting

Noted.

2013/10/8 Any Other Business

(i) DARD Planning Timetable

The Chief Executive advised the Board of DARD's planning timetable in respect of business and strategic plans.

(ii) Bank Facilities

The Ulster Bank had offered to renew and make available to LMC certain facilities under the terms and conditions contained in a facility letter dated 25 September 2013. The Board considered the terms of the letter.

Action Point: The Board approved the terms of the facility letter, and agreed that any two Board Members were authorised to do such acts, to take such steps, and execute such documents as they in their absolute discretion consider fit in connection to the facility letter.

Proposed: Mr J Noble

Seconded: Mrs M McCormack

2013/10/9 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at 10.00am at Edenmore Country Club, Magheralin.