

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY 23rd
MAY 2016 AT 11.00AM AT LISSUE HOUSE, LISBURN.**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mr H Sinclair
Mr J Lennon
Mr P McElroy

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2016/5/1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mrs O Chesney & Mr G Maguire.

2016/5/2 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.

2016/5/3 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting, held on 25th April 2016, were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr P McElroy
Seconded: Mr H Sinclair

2016/5/4 Matters arising

(i) LMC Reserves

The Chief Executive advised the Board that DARD Sponsor Branch had submitted a paper supporting LMC's bid for access to reserves under the June monitoring round. The Senior Management Team had identified some indicative headings for potential longer term strategic projects where access to reserves may be required, including: the NI datahub project (to advance livestock genetic improvement initiatives); lifetime farm quality assurance developments; agri-food marketing initiatives outside Northern Ireland in collaboration with partners in the emerging agri-food marketing body.

(ii) Delegated Limits

The Chief Executive reported on a meeting with the Head of Sponsor Branch on 5th May 2016 regarding the next steps to be undertaken in the process towards raising LMC's delegated limits.

(iii) Price Differential Report

The Board noted and welcomed that a seminar on livestock export opportunities was being arranged by LMC for the end of June 2016. The seminar would address the regulatory and animal health environment (DAERA speaker); market opportunities (Bord Bia and LMC speakers) and the logistics of participating in the trade (live exporter speaker).

(iv) Joint Working with Invest NI

The Chief Executive advised that a meeting with Invest NI's Food Marketing Team was held at Lissue House on 5th May 2016. Excellent coverage of the March visit to Northern Ireland by an Italian trade delegation was carried in the Italian trade magazines Eurocarni and FoodMeat with Invest NI, LMC and local meat exporters getting good coverage throughout the features. The meeting with INI was held to review further opportunities to work together including a dinner at SIAL 2016.

Action Point: Chief Executive will liaise with Invest NI to issue letters to stakeholders for the dinner at SIAL 2016 as soon as possible, to try and get early commitment of attendance

2016/5/5 Correspondence – DEO Letter of 10 March 2016

The Chairman briefed the Board on correspondence received from DFP regarding the Remuneration of Chairmen & Members of Public Bodies 2015/16. The Chairman recommended to members that a decision on whether to take the 1% uplift in remuneration that is available to members from 1 August 2015 should be deferred to the next meeting when all members were present.

Action Point: The Board agreed to discuss this item at the next Board meeting.

2016/5/6 Chairman's Report

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

- **Meat Management Industry Awards**

The Chairman reported on his attendance along with the Chief Executive at the Meat Management Industry awards in London on 20th May 2016. The awards had represented a good opportunity to meet with other UK levy body representatives in attendance including AHDB and the Chairman of HCC Wales. The Board agreed with the recommendation

from the Chairman and CEO that it would be hard to demonstrate value for money to NI levy payers for sponsoring an award at this event and that we would not take up the offer to do so in 2017.

- **Balmoral Show**

The Chairman thanked Board members and LMC staff for their significant contribution of time and effort in making the 2016 show another successful event for LMC.

2016/5/7 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

(i) Programme for Government:

The Chief Executive briefed the Board on a Programme for Government (PfG) workshop held on 12th May 2016 at the Wellington Park Hotel in Belfast.

Action Point: The Board agreed that it would be useful to have an early engagement with DAERA on this issue and that it could be one of the topics for discussion with the new Deputy Secretary of Food and Farming when he is able to attend a meeting with the Board

(ii) Management Accounts to 31 March 2016:

Action Point: The Chief Executive briefed the Board on the accounts to the end of March 2016. The Board noted the accounts and welcomed the end of year financial position.

2016/5/8 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) meeting was held on 23rd May 2016. The ARAC Chairman, Mr P McElroy provided a verbal report to the Board.

The ARAC had discussed and recommended the following documents for approval by the LMC Board:

- Draft LMC Annual Report and Accounts for 2015/16
- Draft Governance Statement
- Revised Risk Management Strategy for LMC
- Revised Risk Register for LMC

Action Point: The draft Annual Report and Accounts including the Governance Statement was approved by the Board, subject to a few small amendments, as recommended by the ARAC.

Action Point: The Board approved the revised Risk Management strategy and Risk Register for LMC.

2016/5/9 Any Other Business

None

2016/5/10 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be held at 10.00am on Monday 27th June 2016 at Lissue House.

Meeting ended at 1.00pm.