

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY
27 MARCH 2017 AT 10.00AM AT 1A LISSUE WALK, LISBURN.**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mrs O Chesney
Mr J Lennon
Mr P McElroy
Mr G Maguire
Mr H Sinclair

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2017/3/1 Apologies and Condolences

No apologies had been received.

2017/3/2 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.

2017/3/3 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting, held on 27 February 2017, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Lennon
Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

2017/3/4 Matters Arising**(i) Supply Chain Tours**

The Chief Executive advised that dates for supply chain tours were not yet finalised, but that each of the 7 main slaughter plants had committed their support to hosting 6 visits each throughout the year.

(ii) School Cookery Demonstrations

Mrs Chesney and Mr H Sinclair had both attended LMC school cookery demonstrations and commented on the excellent presentations by the LMC cookery demonstrators.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will extend an invitation to the Chair of the UFU Beef and Lamb Committee to attend a future cookery demonstration.

(iii) Anuga 2017

Withheld – commercially sensitive

Action Point: The Chief Executive will request wall space on the Anuga stand to promote the 25 years of Farm Quality Assurance Scheme, an important marketing tool for NI red meat processors.

Dr Steven Morrison joined the meeting at 10.15am.

2017/3/5 Presentation from, and discussion with, Dr Steven Morrison (AFBI/Agrisearch) on the NI Livestock Industries Datahub Project

The Chairman welcomed Dr Morrison to the meeting. LMC has been a supporter to the genomics initiative and the Board was keen to hear about progress on the project.

Dr Morrison thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak to them. He briefly outlined the background to the initiative and brought the Board up to date with the current position regarding the business case.

Following his presentation, Dr Morrison welcomed any questions and discussion from the Board.

The Chairman thanked Dr Morrison for attending the meeting and giving the Board a comprehensive update on the project.

Action Point: Dr Morrison will send an electronic copy of his presentation to the Chief Executive for distribution to the Board. The contents of the presentation are confidential and not for any further distribution.

Dr Steven Morrison left the meeting at 11.40am.

2017/3/6 Chairman's Report

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

- Meeting with UFU President and Chief Executive - 7 March 2017
- Meeting with DAERA Permanent Secretary and DAERA officials - 16 March 2017

For action points see 2017/03/8

- Meeting with Sinn Fein Agricultural Team - 21 March 2017
- NIFDA Awards Dinner - 24 March 2017

2017/3/7 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive had provided a written report in the Board papers for the meeting.

(i) World Butchers' Challenge 20-22 Mar 2018

Action Point: The Chief Executive will investigate providing the product for the butchery skills showcases. Any proposals will be brought to the Board for approval.

(ii) LMC Board Strategy Statement

The Chief Executive reported that the strategy statement had been submitted to DAERA. There has been no response from the department.

2017/3/8 Reflection on DAERA/LMC Board meeting on 22 March 2017

The Board recorded that it had been a useful meeting with the DAERA Board and felt that it reflected the ongoing engagement between the department and LMC.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will contact UFU and NIMEA to arrange a tri-partite meeting to discuss a 3 year plan for the utilisation of LMC reserves and the agri-food marketing body. The Board agreed this is a priority issue for LMC.

Action Point: The Board asked the Chief Executive to arrange a meeting with the Public Appointments Commissioner to discuss the appointment process for future Board members.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will request a copy of the letter sent by DAERA to Andrea Leadsom, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Mr G Maguire left the meeting at 12.45pm.

2017/3/9 Consideration of LMC Brexit paper on priorities for red meat sector

The Chief Executive advised that LMC had held a joint meeting with UFU and NIMEA from which a draft Brexit paper had been developed. UFU has made some comments on the draft, NIMEA has yet to make any written comment.

The Board discussed the draft paper and made some additional comments.

Action Point: The Board agreed that the final document when agreed should be published on the website and in leaflet form. LMC should aim to have it available for Balmoral Show.

2017/3/10 *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2017/3/11 Discussion of LMC Board Self-Assessment Exercise Outcome

The Board discussed responses which were rated 3 or 4 on the self-assessment document.

Action Point: The Board agreed to include an agenda item for June or July Board meetings to review/update its annual strategy and policy decisions.

Action Point: The Chairman will email each Board member encouraging them to contact him personally if there are issues or concerns they wish to discuss outside of the group environment.

The Chairman was encouraged by the results in the self-assessment document.

2017/3/12 Risk Management/Health & Safety

Draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meeting held on 27 February 2017 had been circulated to the Board.

2017/3/13 Any Other Business**(i) Launch of the 25th year anniversary plans of Farm Quality Assurance Scheme**

The launch event will be held at Carson's farm, Downpatrick on 27 March 2017. Board members have been invited to attend.

2017/3/14 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at 10.00am on 28 April 2017 at 1A Lissue Walk.

Action Point: The Board agreed that all Board papers should be emailed to members, with hard copies available at the meeting.

Meeting ended at 1.35pm