

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON FRIDAY
28 APRIL 2017 AT 09.30 AM AT 1A LISSUE WALK, LISBURN.**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson

*Messrs Colin Morrissey and Simon Hunter
joined the meeting at 09.30am.*

2017/4/1 *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

Messrs Colin Morrissey and Simon Hunter left the meeting at 10.45am

2017/4/2 **Apologies**

Mr G Maguire and Miss S Blain.

2017/4/3 **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.

2017/4/4 **Minutes**

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

Proposed: Mrs O Chesney
Seconded: Mr J Lennon

2017/4/5 **Matters Arising****(i) Supply Chain Tours**

The Chief Executive advised that publicity to invite farmer participation in the supply chain tour programme was imminent and that all plants had expressed their commitment to hosting groups throughout the year. The Board agreed that LMC should undertake some publicity to acknowledge its role in facilitating this worthwhile programme.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will invite Richard Halleron to attend a supply chain tour and write an article for the agriculture press.

(ii) Anuga 2017

The Chief Executive advised that he had discussed Anuga 2017 with the food and tourism team at Invest NI. Counter space on the Northern Ireland stand would be available to carry some FQAS information and a screen would be available to display background information if LMC wanted to produce a supply chain video showing assurance along the chain.

Action Point: The Board agreed that LMC should take up the opportunity to produce material for Anuga and requested the Chief Executive to explore accommodation options for LMC to have a presence at key times.

(iii) World Butchers Challenge Belfast 20-22 March 2018

The Chief Executive advised that he had been in touch with the organisers of the World Butchers Challenge 2018 to discuss options for LMC to support the supply of beef and lamb for the butchery competitions at the event. He reported that the organisers would welcome support from LMC for sponsoring the meat, the requirement for which would be 12 x Northern Irish Prime R3 - Angus or Hereford D/W 220kg - 260kg carcasses and 12 x Northern Irish Lamb R3L or E3L D/W 22 - 24kg carcasses.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will liaise with the organisers to finalise LMC sponsorship arrangements for supply of the meat.

(iv) Brexit

The Chief Executive reported that the red meat industry Brexit paper being prepared by LMC in conjunction with NIMEA and UFU is almost completed and consideration was now being given to the launch and communication of the paper. The Board agreed that the paper presented the red meat sector priorities very well and subject to some additional commentary around the section relating to the border the Board was content to ratify the paper. The Board also agreed that the research project that LMC was currently carrying out to assess the potential economic impact of WTO trading terms on the red meat industry would add further strength to the Brexit paper.

Action Point: After the General Election on 08 June 2017 the Board asked the Chief Executive to arrange a Northern Ireland launch of the red meat sector Brexit position paper and WTO project findings. This may need to be followed up by targeted briefings in London, Dublin and Brussels.

2017/4/6 **Chairman's Report**

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

- Launch of FQAS 25 year anniversary programme - 27 March 2017
- Ulster Farmers Union Annual Dinner - 31 March 2017
- Quarterly Assurance meeting at DAERA - 11 April 2017
- Meeting with Department for Economy - 11 April 2017
- Meeting with Breffni Carpenter – 20 April 2017. The Chairman thanked Messrs H Sinclair and J Lennon for attending this important discussion on behalf of the LMC Board.

Action Point: Mr H Sinclair to explore with UFU, for its centenary celebrations in 2018, if they would welcome an offer of sponsorship from LMC for the main course at their annual dinner in 2018.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will invite the Agri Food Strategy Board to meet with the LMC Board to discuss the Northern Ireland Food Marketing Association (NIFMA) proposal.

Action Point: The Chairman and Chief Executive will meet with Angela Reavey from the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) who is leading on the development of the business case for NIFMA on behalf of the Department for Economy.

2017/4/7 **Chief Executive's Report**

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

(i) **WTO Project**

Discussed under 2017/4/6

(ii) **Quarterly Assurance Meeting with DAERA**

Discussed under 2017/4/6

(iii) **UK Export Certification Partnership**

Action Point: The Board asked the Chief Executive to consider ways of ensuring that LMC Stakeholders are fully aware of the important work that LMC is undertaking in this area on their behalf.

(iv) Balmoral Show 2017

The Chief Executive informed the Board of plans for LMC's presence at Balmoral for the 4 days of the Show including the stakeholder audience with Dr Temple Grandin which LMC would be hosting in the President's Lounge on Thursday 11 May 2017. Mr J Lennon advised that he would be unavailable for the next 6 to 8 weeks and unfortunately couldn't attend the Show or the Temple Grandin event but had arranged (in his absence) for the CEO of Middletown Centre for Autism to bring Dr Grandin to the Show and work with LMC on the logistics.

Action Point: Mr J Lennon to advise the Chief Executive of relevant contact points in Middletown Centre for Autism and confirm Dr Temple Grandin's itinerary.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will issue an invitation to the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland to send a representative to the audience with Dr Temple Grandin.

2017/4/8 *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2017/4/9 Northern Ireland Food Marketing Association (NIFMA)

The Board agreed that the excerpt on LMC in the NIFMA proposal document undersold LMC's role in providing the foundation work for marketing of the NI red meat industry and its products in export markets as well as in domestic markets.

Action Point: The Chairman and Chief Executive will fully brief Angela Reavey from SIB when a meeting is arranged on LMC's role and seek to clarify the indicative budget spend on veterinary staff in the business case.

2017/4/10 LMC Business Monitor to End of Quarter 4 2016-17

The Board welcomed the achievements recorded by LMC for 2016-17, particularly given the challenges mid-year with the fire at Lissue House.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will include the WTO project in the Business Monitor under Business Objective 5.

2017/4/11 Risk Management / Health and Safety

Action Point: The LMC Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) Chairman will circulate his draft annual report on the work of the Committee during 2016-17 to other LMC members on ARAC for sign off and will then submit the report to the LMC Board at its next meeting.

2017/4/12 Any Other Business

(i) **Quarterly Reports from LMC Business Sections**

The Chief Executive provided copies of Quarter 4 reports from each of LMC's business sections and welcomed any feedback or clarification required by Board Members by email after the meeting.

2017/4/13 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at 10.00am on Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 1A Lissue Walk.

Meeting ended at 12.30pm