

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY
30 MAY 2017 AT 10.00 AM AT 1A LISSUE WALK, LISBURN**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson

*Messrs Barclay Bell and Wesley Aston joined
the meeting at 10.00am.*

**2017/5/1 Discussion with Mr Barclay Bell (President) and Mr Wesley Aston
(Chief Executive) from Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU)**

The Chairman welcomed Messrs Bell and Aston to the meeting. The Ulster Farmers' Union is the largest representative body for farmers in Northern Ireland and the Board was keen to engage with UFU about the recently issued UFU discussion document on options for a new domestic agricultural policy, as the UK prepares to exit the European Union.

Mr Bell thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet with them to discuss this important matter. Mr Bell outlined the background to the discussion document. He reported that UFU was keen to move the debate on from trade, regulation and labour (which have been getting significant attention from a wide range of lobby groups) and that UFU was now concentrating its efforts on future agricultural policy. Recognising that any future NI/UK agricultural policy will need strong justification he advised that the proposed UFU support system with baseline and modular measures (targeted at shaping a productive, progressive, sustainable and profitable farming sector) should help to unify industry opinion and provide a strong platform for justifying public support.

Mr Aston added that UFU was engaging widely with NI and GB stakeholders to try and get an agreed position by the autumn. UFU is planning to consult widely within its membership and would be working to put some costings against the range of measures in the discussion document which could then be prioritised.

The Board thanked the UFU representatives for their briefing and for the production of an excellent discussion paper on this crucial matter for the future of the local beef and sheep meat industry. A good discussion ensued on the areas of efficiency of farming and its speed of response to market change; driving forward the genetic improvement of livestock; the proper

resourcing of market access/development work; the necessary engagement with retailers and the general public to create awareness of the value of public goods delivered by the industry; the need to get policy makers away from the concept of a cheap food policy for the UK; the marketing of the region and its products, and; the need for all stakeholders to be together in championing Northern Ireland as a region of excellence.

Action Point: A further meeting between UFU and LMC will be arranged to discuss the future of NI agri-food marketing and potential utilisation of LMC reserves. The Chief Executive will liaise with UFU to arrange.

Messrs Barclay Bell and Wesley Aston left the meeting at 11.30am

2017/5/2 Apologies

Mr J Lennon and Miss S Blain

2017/5/3 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.

2017/5/4 Minutes of DAERA/LMC Board Meeting

The minutes of a joint DAERA/LMC Board meeting held on 22 March 2017 were noted.

Action Point: The Board agreed that the Chief Executive would write to LMC's key stakeholders when the delegated limits pilot has been reviewed and the position confirmed by DAERA going forward.

2017/5/5 Minutes of Commission Meeting

The minutes of a Commission meeting, held on 28 April 2017, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mrs O Chesney
Seconded: Mr H Sinclair

2017/5/6 Matters Arising

(i) Supply Chain Tours

The Chief Executive advised that the programme of tours had commenced on Monday 29 May 2017 with a group attending Linden Foods in Dungannon and a group attending WD Meats in Coleraine.

Action Point: When available dates for other tours are confirmed Mr G McGivern and Mr P McElroy will participate in a supply chain tour in their respective localities.

(ii) Anuga 2017

Action Point: The Board requested the Chief Executive to plan for LMC attendance at the Anuga Trade Fair in Cologne for the two key days of Sunday 08 October and Monday 09 October 2017.

(iii) Northern Ireland Food Marketing Association (NIFMA)

The Board agreed that the action point from the last meeting to invite the Agri Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to meet with the LMC Board should be put on hold pending clarification on the future of AFSB, whose term was due to terminate at the end of May 2017.

2017/5/7

Chairman's Report

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

- AFSB Livestock Genetics Group Meeting at AFBI - 05 May 2017
- Angela Reavey, Strategic Investment Board - 15 May 2017 at LMC
- Balmoral Show – 09 to 12 May 2017 at Balmoral Park

The Chairman reflected on a very successful Balmoral Show for LMC. He recorded his appreciation to staff and Board members for the team effort over the 4 days, for the impressive stand presented by LMC, for the excellent demonstrations and resources available on the stand, for the audience with Temple Grandin hosted by LMC and for the opportunity to engage with many stakeholders on the LMC stand and at the numerous off-stand events that LMC was invited to attend during the show.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will contact Angela Reavey regarding the potential provision to LMC of a joint departmental paper on NIFMA which was agreed by DfE and DAERA Ministers in February 2017.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will contact the Irish Farmers' Journal to try and arrange the September 2017 LMC Board meeting to take in a visit to one of the Better Beef Challenge Farms following the launch of this important programme at Balmoral Show.

2017/5/8 Chief Executive's Report

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

(i) International Meat Secretariat (IMS) World Meat Congress

Withheld – commercially sensitive

(ii) Livestock Genetics Project

Discussed under 2017/5/7

(iii) BSE Negligible Risk

The Board welcomed the confirmation from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) that Northern Ireland had achieved negligible risk status for BSE. The Board agreed that there needed to be an amplification of this important status in the media outside Northern Ireland.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will liaise with Richard Halleron to arrange a press briefing (ideally in the first week of July 2017) on a farm in Northern Ireland for the GB farming and meat trade media to attend in order to highlight 25 years of FQAS and BSE Negligible Risk attainment

2017/5/9 *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2017/5/10 Risk Management / Health and Safety

(i) Annual Report of ARAC

Members of the LMC Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) had convened a short meeting immediately before the Board meeting to finalise the ARAC report for the financial year 2016-17. The ARAC Chairman presented the report to the Board which was adopted.

(ii) Data Security

The ARAC Chairman advised the Board that a new General Data Protection Regulation (which will replace the Data Protection Act 1998) will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018 and will place more emphasis on accountability and transparency of organisations in their storage and handling of personal data.

(iii) LMC Staff Team

The ARAC Chairman highlighted the potential risk to LMC operations if a member or members of the small senior management team were to leave the organisation. The Board agreed this was a significant risk (given the specialisms of each role) but was difficult to mitigate against in a small organisation like LMC.

2017/5/11 Senior Management Minutes

The Board noted the minutes of the Senior Management Team meeting held on 13 April 2017

2017/5/12 Any Other Business

(i) Advanced On Board Training

An advanced on board training programme has been scheduled for the LMC Board for Monday 12 June 2017 and will be delivered at LMC by On Board Training and Consultancy Ltd.

(ii) Brexit

The Chief Executive advised the Board that the LMC commissioned project to assess the potential impact of WTO trading conditions on the red meat sector in Northern Ireland was nearing completion.

Action Point: The Chairman and Mr H Sinclair will accompany the Chief Executive to a meeting with the Director of DAERA's Brexit Division on 06 June 2017 and will discuss options for launching the WTO project findings and the Northern Ireland red meat sector policy priorities.

(iii) Third Country Export Certification

The Chief Executive advised that feedback had been generally good from the study tour of UK beef production controls by the General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China from 7 – 19 May 2017.

2017/5/13 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at 10.00am on Monday 26 June 2017 at 1A Lissue Walk.

Meeting ended at 1.45pm