

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY
27 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 11.00AM AT 1A LISSUE WALK, LISBURN.**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson

2017/10/1 Apologies

An apology had been received from Miss S Blain.

2017/10/2 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.

2017/10/3 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting, held on 23 October 2017, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mrs O Chesney

Seconded: Mr H Sinclair

2017/10/4 Matters Arising

(i) DAERA ALB Audit Chairs Forum

Mr P McElroy reported on a meeting he attended at DAERA on 24 October 2017 and provided a short briefing note for Board members on the main points of discussion. He also reported that he would be meeting with the Head of LMC Sponsor Branch on 05 December 2017 at the LMC office.

(ii) Remuneration Committee

Action Point: A meeting of the Remuneration Committee will be held on Monday 22 January 2018 at 09.00am

2017/10/5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on meetings / events he had attended since the last Board Meeting:

- **FQAS 25 Year Anniversary** (La Mon Hotel 07 November 2017) – the Chairman commended the staff at LMC for arranging such an excellent event which had been well supported by stakeholders and was a good reflection on LMC. Professor Patrick Wall's upbeat presentation went down very well and there has been very positive feedback and coverage in the media.
- **Stakeholder Meetings** - The Chairman and Chief Executive have begun a series of stakeholder meetings and since the last Board meeting had met with Linden Foods and ABP Northern Ireland. These timely meetings are helpful as LMC prepares its Strategic and Business Plans and some key issues coming up in discussions so far include Brexit readiness, market access, production efficiency, use of reserves and marketing support.
- **AgriSearch 20th Anniversary Event** (Riddell Hall QUB 22 November 2017) – One of the key issues noted from the event was the challenge of getting research close to farmers and implemented on the ground. The Chairman provided members with a copy of a new AgriSearch publication entitled 'Making a Difference for Generations' which LMC has been asked if we could help to circulate through our mailing list.

Action Point: The Board agreed that it would be not be prudent use of LMC levy payer funds to pay for widespread dissemination of hard copy of this publication but will explore options for electronic distribution.

2017/10/6 Chief Executive's Report

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

- (i) **Brexit:** The Board noted recent discussions with stakeholders on the LMC Report on the impact of WTO trading on the NI beef and sheep meat sector. Mr H Sinclair reported on the positive sentiment

of stakeholders to LMC's work in this area but flagged up the reputational challenge we had to address regarding negative perceptions of producers to the LMC text messaging of quotes and their accuracy in relation to paid prices.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will liaise with farming and processing stakeholders to discuss and coordinate LMC's follow up work to the WTO report and to consider the messages that stakeholders want communicated to put the price quotes in context.

- (ii) **UFU Centenary:** The Board agreed to sponsor the main course of NI FQAS beef at the UFU 100th anniversary dinner in March 2018.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will communicate the Board's decision to UFU.

- (iii) **SAI Platform:** The Board noted recent work by the SAI Beef Working Group and LMC's participation in important sustainability initiatives related to Antimicrobial Resistance and Livestock Genetics.

Action Point: The Board requested the Chief Executive to investigate potential LMC membership of the RUMA alliance.

- (iv) **FQAS Staff Resource:** The Board discussed current and upcoming workload in the FQAS portfolio and agreed that it would be prudent to managing this significant workload to extend the temporary fixed term contract of the FQAS Manager, who has been recruited for maternity cover, to the end of March 2018.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will advise the staff member on the extension of his temporary contract to end of the financial year.

- (v) *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

- (vi) **Management Accounts:** The Chief Executive briefed the Board on the main highlights of the summary management accounts for the financial year ending March 2017, which had been tabled at the meeting for discussion.

Action Point: The Board agreed to formally adopt the management accounts at the ARAC meeting in December 2017.

2017/10/7 Risk Management / Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

2017/10/8 Livestock Genetics

The Board considered the draft Strategic Outline Case for the proposed livestock genetics initiative in Northern Ireland. The Board agreed that bringing this programme to fruition is essential for the future of the beef and sheep meat sector and that a series of champions are needed from within industry to lead its development, funding and promotion.

2017/10/9 Management Statement & Financial Memorandum (MSFM)

The Board considered a series of revisions, which had been made by DAERA to the LMC MSFM following a recent review. The Board welcomed the updates to the delegated limits of authority, which had been formalised in the revised MSFM (on the back of the ongoing pilot arrangements)

Action Point: The Chief Executive will communicate with DAERA regarding a number of points of clarification sought by the Board with regard to wording of various paragraphs in the MSFM.

2017/10/10 LMC Financial Statements 2016-17

The Board considered the draft annual report and accounts (ARA) for LMC for 2016-17 which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. The Board was content to approve the draft.

Action Point: All Board members to review their pen pictures and declarations of significant interests record in the draft ARA and advise the Chief Executive as soon as possible of any amendments / additions.

2017/10/11 *Withheld – commercially sensitive***2017/10/12 Schedule of Board Meetings 2018**

The Board was provided with a draft outline schedule of meeting dates for 2018, which would be finalised at the December 2017 meeting.

2017/10/13 Strategic and Business Planning 2018-19

Action Point: The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday 08 January 2018 at 10.00am at LMC to discuss the strategic priorities for development of LMC plans and budgets and to discuss property matters arising from the insurance claim discussions arising under agenda item 2017/10/11.

2017/10/14 Any Other Business

None.

2017/10/15 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at 12.15pm on 11 December 2017 at Vic Ryn, Lisburn.