

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY
28 JANUARY 2019 AT 11.30AM AT LINDEN FOODS, GRANVILLE
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DUNGANNON.**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

Prior to the commencement of the Commission meeting the Board hosted a meeting for key industry stakeholders with Martin Williams (Export Certification Limited) to discuss market access work, future priorities and Brexit preparations.

2019/1/1 Apologies

An apology had been received from Mr J Lennon.

2019/1/2 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.

2019/1/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 17 December 2018

The minutes of a meeting, held on 17 December 2018, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr H Sinclair
Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

2019/1/4 Matters Arising

None.

2019/1/5 Chairman's Report

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

- **Oxford Farming Conference**

The Chairman and Chief Executive attended the conference at the beginning of January. It had been a good networking event with a wide variety of presentations. The Chief Executive issued a press release on LMC's attendance at the event and updated LMC social media on key messages during the conference.

- **Irish Farmers Journal Dinner**

The Chairman and Chief Executive attended the Irish Farmers Journal dinner at the Irish Farmers' Centre in Dublin. Justin McCarthy had been the guest speaker.

- **Quarterly Assurance Meeting with DAERA**

The Chairman and Chief Executive attended the quarterly assurance meeting with DAERA. DAERA advised that secondary legislation was being considered to make Board appointments in the absence of a Minister.

2019/1/6 Chief Executive's Report

- **Brexit**

The Chief Executive had attended a DAERA Brexit contingency Planning Stakeholder Group meeting on 9 January. He reported to the Board the issues discussed relating to a "No Deal" and what government can realistically do to assist the agri-food industry. DAERA is taking the lead on food contingency planning and whilst food shortages are not foreseen in Northern Ireland under the reasonable worst case planning scenario, No Deal would give rise to considerable disruption and DAERA is keen to work with industry to help mitigate the impacts.

- **FQAS Matters**

The Chief Executive reported on the initial meeting of a finance sub-group of the FQAS Industry Board. The LMC Board considered a number of issues.

Action Point: The Board agreed to support a proposal from UFU to increase annual FQAS producer membership fees by £5 from 1 April 2019.

Action Point: The Board agreed that a designated reserve should be maintained for FQAS. An appropriate level of reserve was felt to be £100k.

- **EAT-Lancet Report**

The Chief Executive advised that LMC, working in partnership with the Meat Matters initiative, had issued a press statement countering some of the main arguments in the EAT-Lancet Commission report and got good media coverage including air time on BBC radio 'Farm Gate'.

- **Quarterly Assurance Meeting**

The Chief Executive gave an update on the recent quarterly assurance discussion with the DAERA Sponsorship team held on 14 January.

- **Livestock Genetics**

The Chief Executive attended the livestock genetics working group meeting on 22 January at Greenmount which met with Andrew Cromie from ICBF to discuss the latest developments in livestock genetic improvements in Ireland.

- **Outlook for NI Agriculture**

LMC is going to partner up with IFJ to sponsor a seminar by the Andersons Centre in Northern Ireland. It will be held on 11 April 2019 at the Seagoe Hotel.

Action Point: Board members are to advise the Chief Executive if they wish to attend.

- **Financials**

The Chief Executive provided the Board with an update on resource cover agreed with DAERA for the financial year ending 31 March 2019.

2019/1/7 *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2019/1/8 LMC Policies for Board Review and Approval

The following policies were reviewed by the Board:

- Recruitment and Selection
- Anti-Bribery

Action Point: The Board approved both policies

2019/1/9 Quarterly Business Monitor and Departmental Reports for Noting

Noted.

2019/1/10 Risk Management/Health & Safety

Internal Business Case

Action Point: The ARAC Chairman advised that an internal business case for Assured Food Standards membership would be circulated to ARAC members for consideration and approval. This will be formally recorded at the next Board meeting.

2019/1/11 Any Other Business

None.

2019/1/12 Date of Next Meetings

The ARAC will meet on 4 February 2019 at 10.00am at Lissue Walk

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 26 February 2019 at Lissue Walk.

The meeting ended at 1.00pm