

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY
24 FEBRUARY 2020 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
Miss S Blain

2020/2/1 Apologies

None.

2020/2/2 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.

**Compliance with the Management Statement & Financial
Memorandum, Sponsor Manual and Managing Public Money NI**

Confirmed.

2020/2/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 27 January 2020

The minutes of a meeting, held on 27 January 2020, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr P McElroy
Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

2020/2/4 Matters Arising

➤ **Dairy Council Alternative Proposal for a NI Marketing Model**

The Chief Executive advised that the dairy proposal had not attracted widespread support. The Board felt that business leaders had to get together to see the bigger picture and decide what they really want with regard to a new agri-food marketing approach for Northern Ireland.

Signed _____
Chairman

Action Point: The Board agreed to offer to provide some support for facilitation if it is needed to help move forward any discussions with NI red meat processors and producers to get to an agreed position.

2020/2/5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the following events which will be reported on by the Chief Executive:

- Guild of Agricultural Journalists (GAJ) Event
- Quarterly Sponsor Branch Meeting
- LMC Suckler Beef and Sheep Study.

➤ **Meeting with Chair of AFBI**

The Chairman met the new Chair of AFBI, Mr Colin Coffey. They discussed sharing invitations, continuing to build a good working relationship and an invitation from AFBI to host a future LMC Board meeting.

2020/2/6 Chief Executive's Report

➤ **Guild of Agricultural Journalists Event at LMC 28 January 2020**

The Chief Executive reported that this had been a well-attended event at which the Chairman and senior LMC staff had made presentations. There had been a good level of questioning from the attendees and the GAJ is keen to repeat this event in the future.

➤ **Quarterly Sponsor Branch Meeting 6 February 2020**

The Chief Executive had circulated minutes of the meeting to the Board members. He advised that the joint Board meeting would be held on 23 June 2020 at Ballykelly.

➤ **FQAS Industry Board Meeting 11 February 2020**

The Chief Executive circulated draft minutes of the meeting.

➤ **LMC Suckler Beef and Sheep Study**

The Chief Executive reported that Andersons hoped to have a draft report with LMC by the end of the month. There will then be time to consider the proposals.

Signed _____
Chairman

➤ *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

➤ **Affiliate Award for LMC from Farm Safety Partnership**

LMC had received some good publicity following receipt of the award.

➤ **IMS World Meat Congress 10-12 June 2020**

Action Point: The Board agreed that a member of staff and a Board member should attend the Congress. Board members were asked to contact the Chairman if they were interested in attending.

➤ **Financial Update**

The Chief Executive gave a financial update to the Board.

➤ *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2020/2/7

Consideration of Draft LMC Business Plan 2020/21

A draft business plan and budget had been prepared by the senior management team. The Chief Executive outlined the main elements within the plan and advised that £250k of proposed expenditure had had to be cut to present a balanced budget. He recommended that LMC make a bid in the June monitoring round for additional resource cover. The Board discussed the draft plan and made some suggestions to refine the wording.

Action Point: The Board approved the draft business plan subject to some minor amendments.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will forward the approved plan to DAERA for comment.

2020/2/8

LMC Strategy Development Day 3 March 2020

The Chief Executive advised that the Walled Garden Suite at Greenmount had been booked for the strategy development day. Meeting to start at 10am and catering will be provided. An agenda to structure the day will be provided in advance.

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/2/9 Verbal Report from ARAC Meeting 24 February 2020

The ARAC Chairman provided a verbal report to the Board on the meeting held on 24 February 2020.

Action Point: Draft minutes of ARAC meeting will be circulated at the next Board meeting.

➤ **Draft Risk Register**

The Board considered the draft risk register.

Action Point: The Board approved the draft risk register.

2020/2/10 Risk Management/Health & Safety

Action Point: The Chief Executive will continue to raise the ongoing staff issues with DAERA.

2020/2/11 Any Other Business

➤ **Spring Conference, Armagh City Hotel 24 April 2020**

All Board Members are keen to attend.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will book places for the Board members to attend the conference.

➤ **Food Science Conference, Tullamore**

Action Point: Mr J Lennon will attend.

➤ **Corporate Membership of UFU Event, Stormont Hotel, 3 April 2020**

The Chief Executive advised that 4 places were available for Board members to attend.

Action Point: Mr Sinclair, Mr Lennon, Mr McElroy and one other will attend.

➤ **PGI on Suckler Beef - Bord Bia**

Action Point: The Chief Executive will encourage DAERA to speak to Bord Bia to discuss an all-Ireland PGI on suckler beef.

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/2/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 23 March 2020 at 10am at Lissue Walk.

The Board meeting ended at 1.20pm.

Signed _____
Chairman