

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY 26
OCTOBER 2020 AT 11.00 AM BY MS TEAMS**

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

2020/7/1 Apologies

None.

2020/7/2 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.

2020/7/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 07 September 2020

The minutes of a meeting, held on 07 September 2020, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr P McElroy
Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

2020/7/4 Matters Arising

None.

2020/7/5 Correspondence

- Letter from AERA Committee re PGI & LMC response

Noted.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **Remuneration of Chairpersons & Members of Public Bodies**

Action Point: The Board agreed that no action would be taken by LMC.

2020/7/6

Chairman's Report

The Chairman commented on a number of current issues affecting LMC and the red meat industry and some take home messages from his participation in a series of meetings and events since the last meeting of the Board.

- A New Era for Agri-Food Webinar on 24 September 2020 jointly organised by the Irish Farmers Journal and LMC in partnership with the Andersons Centre which was highly informative and well attended.
- *Withheld – commercially sensitive*
- An AFBI Science Outlook Webinar on 01 October 2020 which focussed on The Future of Beef Production to 2030.
- The Oxford Farming Conference series of monthly Bitesize Webinars from June 2020 to December 2020 on very relevant industry topics with Farmers in Competition the theme for the next one on 05 November 2020.
- A meet the UFU President Corporate member event on 07 October 2020 which provided for good engagement on a range of issues including Brexit, Covid-19 and environmental matters.
- A meeting with the AgriSearch Chairman and management team on 09 October 2020 to discuss the new AgriSearch strategy and to explore the potential for collaboration with LMC in relevant areas.
- The livestream launch of LMC's new advertising campaign 'The Truth About Beef' on 13 October 2020.
- A meeting with Bord Bia on 13 October 2020 to get underneath some of the technical detail behind their grass fed beef standard and to discuss progress on the PGI application.
- A CAFRE / Teagasc dairy calf to beef webinar on 15 October 2020 in which LMC's Economist gave a very good presentation on specifications and market related issues.
- *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

Action Point: The Chief Executive to feedback to staff the positive view of the Board and stakeholders about LMC's new advertising campaign.

Withheld – commercially sensitive

Action Point: The Chief Executive will liaise with the General Manager of AgriSearch about conducting presentations to each other's Boards to see if there is any scope to add value through potential collaborations in mutually relevant areas

Signed _____
Chairman

Action Point: The Chief Executive will share a copy of the AgriSearch Strategy presentation with the Board.

2020/7/7 Chief Executive's Report

In advance of the meeting the Chief Executive had circulated a written report relating to this section of the meeting.

- **Covid-19** – Update noted.
- *Withheld – commercially sensitive*
- **Zilapaterol** – Update noted.
- **State Aid** – Update noted.
- **Projects:** - The Board discussed the central role which LMC has played in bringing all three of the important projects to fruition which were outlined in the Chief Executive's written report and that it was good to be getting these submitted to the Minister with the full support of stakeholder organisations.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will circulate a copy of the final report on 'Options for Supporting the Suckler Beef and Sheep Sectors in Northern Ireland' to Board members

- **PGI for Irish Grass Fed Beef** – The Board discussed the update and agreed that it was essential that LMC continued to work closely with the key stakeholder organisations, DAERA and the Minister's office to make sure that the necessary assurances can be given with regard to Northern Ireland's participation in the PGI before the application is submitted by the Irish Government to the EU Commission for registration.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will continue to liaise closely with NIMEA, UFU and DAERA to discuss and agree actions to take on progressing this issue. The Chief Executive will also contact Bord Bia with regard to following up on the sharing of information after the last meeting with NI stakeholders on 13 October 2020.

- *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2020/7/8 *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/7/9 Meeting with Stakeholders to Discuss LMC Strategy

The Board discussed the possibility of tying down some dates with key stakeholders during November 2020 (if possible) to discuss the priorities for LMC's next 3 year strategy.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will liaise with UFU and NIMEA and circulate some available dates to the Board when a stakeholder engagement event could be held.

2020/7/10 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The ARAC Chairman provided a verbal report to the Board on the meeting held earlier that morning on 26 October 2020. He advised that the ARAC was recommending that the Board approve the final version of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/20 and the recently updated Risk Register for LMC.

Action Point: Draft ARAC minutes will be provided for the next Board meeting

Action Point: Further to proposal by Mr. G Maguire and seconding by Mrs. O Chesney the Board approved the 2019/20 Annual Report and Accounts

Action Point: The Board approved the updated LMC Risk Register

Mr. J Lennon recommended that as Covid-19 remote working arrangements are likely to feature in LMC's operating environment for some time to come it would be appropriate to look at the suite of internal controls which are currently in place and to see if there were any modifications or additional assurance measures needed as part of the control framework.

Action Point: LMC's Corporate Governance Manager will be asked to review the existing control framework in the context of the Covid-19 operating arrangements becoming a longer term feature of LMC working.

2020/7/11 LMC Policies for approval

The following policies had been circulated to Board members for approval:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Learning and Development Policy
- Information Asset Register

Action Point: The Board approved the above LMC policies with a few minor modifications to the Health and Safety Policy regarding the provision of appropriate fitting PPE and the Learning and Development Policy regarding online training.

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/7/12 Quarterly Business Monitor to end of Quarter 2

Noted.

2020/7/13 Quarterly Section Reports

The Board discussed and noted the quarterly reports from each of the sections of LMC business areas which highlighted the range of excellent work programmes which LMC undertakes in support of stakeholders. The Chairman highlighted the publications record as a good reminder of the breadth of this work.

2020/7/14 Any Other Business

None

2020/7/15 Date of Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Monday 23 November 2020 at 10.00am. If possible the stakeholder engagement event would be held at this meeting.

The Board meeting ended at 1.00pm.

Signed _____
Chairman