

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY 7
SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 11.15 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

2020/6/1 Apologies

None.

2020/6/2 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.

2020/6/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 29 June 2020

The minutes of a meeting, held on 29 June 2020, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr H Sinclair
Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

2020/6/4 Matters Arising

None.

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/6/5 Minutes of Joint DAERA/LMC Board Meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2020

- **Development of LMC views on green growth**

The Board discussed how to respond to DAERA's request to provide a paper on the Green Growth agenda. LMC recognised the need to engage with its stakeholders to develop an industry-wide response.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will discuss the Green Growth issue with NIMEA and UFU. They will work towards an agreed paper to set out the broad agenda, areas to be considered and some proposals which will be forwarded to DAERA.

2020/6/6 Correspondence

- **Letter of thanks from UFU**

Noted and welcomed

- **Letter from UFU & NIMEA re Irish Grass Fed Beef PGI**

The Board considered the letter from UFU & NIMEA and felt it important for LMC to issue a measured and balanced public statement on the issue.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will meet with NIMEA and UFU on 8 September 2020 to discuss LMC's response to their correspondence.

- **Letter from NI Farm Groups**

Action Point: The Chief Executive will reply to the letter and offer to arrange a remote meeting with the representatives from NI Farm Groups.

- *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2020/6/7 Chairman's Report

The Chairman commented on a number of current issues affecting LMC and the red meat industry.

- The food processing sector in Northern Ireland successfully continuing to operate during Covid-19. The pandemic has shown how important agriculture is to NI.

Signed _____
Chairman

- Recent rhetoric over Brexit has been unsettling.
- Mr P McElroy's Board membership has been extended to end of January 2021.
- The quarterly LMC section reports highlight how much of LMC's activities have been continuing during the Covid-19 restrictions. He and the Board commended the staff for their continuing hard work.
- Mr S McMenamin, LMC Economist, has tendered his resignation. The Board wished him well in his new employment. *Withheld – commercially sensitive.*

2020/6/8 Chief Executive's Report

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

• Covid-19 Developments

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the current office arrangements with the office being open 3 days a week from 7 September 2020. On-farm FQAS inspections have been running smoothly since their resumption on 8 June 2020 after a period of deferment.

- *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

• Brexit

With the end of the Brexit transition period fast approaching a significant amount of industry attention is being given to what arrangements are going to be in place from 1st January 2021 and how they will work in practice on the ground. An important white paper consultation on UK Internal Market proposals was conducted by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) during the first half of August and LMC sponsored a request from NIMEA to get some specialist input in the preparation of a detailed response to this consultation.

• New Decade New Approach

DoF had engaged with DAERA to gather factual background information on each of its ALB's and LMC provided some detailed input to DAERA on LMC's functions, activities and achievements to help with that data gathering exercise. A copy of the submission to DAERA is provided for the information of the Board. Nothing further has been heard about the DoF review since this exercise in early July.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **Financials**

The LMC Business plan and Budget for 2020/21 have still to be formally approved by DAERA but LMC is working to these plans and budgets pending their formal approval by the DAERA Minister. Approval of all organisational business plans have been delayed this year as a consequence of Covid-19.

2020/6/9 LMC Strategy Development

Withheld – commercially sensitive

- **Action Point:** The Board was content that the strategic priorities identified at the LMC Board and Senior Management Team Workshop in Greenmount on 3rd March 2020 are still the right drivers for LMC Strategy and that the proposed structure aligned well with these. *Withheld – commercially sensitive.*

2020/6/10 Suckler Beef and Sheep Policy Framework Study

The Chairman and Chief Executive updated the Board on current progress of the study. The draft report had been circulated to NIMEA and UFU and if agreement can be reached, between all participants, on the proposed framework document it will be submitted to the Minister as a joint industry position on well considered options for new support schemes for beef and sheep as the future agricultural policy for Northern Ireland is developed by DAERA.

2020/6/11 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The ARAC Chairman provided a verbal report to the Board on the meeting held on 7 September 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.

Signed _____
Chairman

2020/6/12 LMC Policies for approval

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Equality Policy for Service Providers
- Anti-Fraud Policy
- Smoke Free Policy

Action Point: The Board approved the above LMC policies.

2020/6/13 Quarterly Business Monitor to end of Qtr 1

Noted.

2020/6/14 Quarterly Section Reports

Noted.

2020/6/15 Senior Management Team Minutes 10 August 2020

Noted.

2020/6/16 Any Other Business

None.

2020/6/17 Date of Next Meetings

The next meetings of the Board will be held on Mon 28 September 2020 and Mon 26 October at 10am.

The Board meeting ended at 2.00pm.

Signed _____
Chairman