

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY 22
MARCH 2021 AT 11.00AM BY MS TEAMS**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2021/3/1 Apologies

None.

2021/3/2 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.

2021/3/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 22 February 2021

The minutes of a meeting, held on 22 February 2021, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr H Sinclair

Seconded: Mr J Stewart

2021/3/4 Matters Arising

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

Signed _____
Chairman

2021/3/5 Correspondence

- **AERA Committee re Climate Change Committee advice for NI (and LMC response)**

The Board agreed the LMC response had been very comprehensive.

- **Letter to DAERA re LMC Board Succession (response awaited)**

The Board agreed that the Chief Executive had captured the Board's discussions. No response has yet been received from DAERA.

- **Declan McAleer MLA re Private Members Bill (for consideration)**

The Board agreed that LMC would not submit a response to the Private Members Bill consultation.

2021/3/6 Chairman's Report

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

- Meeting with Bord Bia – Discussed the standards for the Grass Fed Beef PGI application
- Attended a meeting with NI Farm Groups representatives. Discussed a number of current and historic issues.
- UFU meeting with Minister Lyons – Chairman and Chief Executive attended as UFU Corporate Members.

2021/3/7 Chief Executive's Report

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

- **Office Accommodation**

The Chief Executive advised that management has been considering future short-term office space requirements for LMC. A business case is being developed to extend the 5-year lease for Lissue Walk that is due to expire at the end of August 2021.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **PGI**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the progress to develop a system for verifying the grass fed credentials of beef produced in Northern Ireland. He also gave a summary of a very helpful meeting between LMC, DAERA and the DEFRA GI Team held on 4 March 2021.

- **Red Tractor**

The Chief Executive explained that the devolved nations were seeking to gain agreement from Red Tractor on the equivalence of standards across each of the respective assurance schemes. A further meeting is planned for the end of May/start of June where the key issue will be trying to get agreement on the Common Framework document.

- **UFU Corporate Event**

The Chairman and Chief Executive attended a Corporate Member engagement event with the interim Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Gordon Lyons on 3 March 2021.

- **Financials**

The Chief Executive advised that LMC is predicting a surplus of income over expenditure at the year-end. DAERA has been kept up-to-date with financial performance through monthly returns.

2021/3/8

Consideration of LMC Draft Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2024

The Board discussed the draft Strategic Plan 2021-2024 prepared by the LMC management team. A number of suggestions were made by Board Members which the Chief Executive will seek to incorporate into the draft plan.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will make refinements to the Strategic Plan and recirculate to the Board. The Board will meet if required before the next Board meeting to consider and approve a draft Business Plan for 2021-22 which cannot be finalised until some key issues are clarified around FQAS funding, staff pay and some key areas of business expenditure.

Signed _____
Chairman

2021/3/9 Updated LMC Policies for Consideration and Approval

The following LMC policies had been updated:

- Retention and Disposal Schedule
- Data Protection Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Information Risk Management Policy

Action Point: The Board approved the updated policies subject to some minor amendments.

Action Point: The Board will be provided with a copy of LMC's Policy Review Schedule

2021/3/10 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The ARAC will hold its next meeting on 24 March 2021.

2021/3/11 AOB

None.

2021/3/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday 26 April 2021 at 10.00am on Microsoft Teams.

The Board meeting ended at 1.15pm.

Signed _____
Chairman