

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE AHDB BEEF AND LAMB SECTOR COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 08.30 A.M  
BOARD ROOM, AHDB, STONELEIGH PARK, KENILWORTH CV8 2TL**

**PRESENT:** Colin Bateman (CB) (Chairman), George Fell (GF), Bryan Griffiths (BG), Laurie Ibbotson (LI), Gama Khan (GK), James Shouler (JS), James Taylor (JT), Steve Thompson (ST), Paul Unwin (PU), Robert Venner (RV)

**APOLOGIES:** Anne-Marie Hamilton (AMH)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ken Boyns (KB) - for specific item only, Samantha Charlton (SC), Angela Christison (AC) - for specific item only, Lyndon Edwards (LE), Chris Gooderham (CG) – for specific item only, Phil Hadley (PH) – virtually, for specific item only, Tony Holmes (TH), Will Jackson (WJ), Tim Rycroft (TR), Caroline Burniston (CBu) (notes)

**AGENDA ITEM 1– CHAIR WELCOME/REPORT**

The Chair welcomed the attendees and introduced both Lyndon Edwards, the AHDB Dairy Sector Council Chair and Main Board member, and Tim Rycroft, AHDB CEO to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Anne-Marie Hamilton confirmed as an apology.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

N/A

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

A debate developed around the terminology relating to the action linked to item 11 and what the purpose of it was. This was justified by WJ as relating to the Council needing the ability to oversee what is being delivered and to be able to query progress on the measurables in line with the RAG rating.

**Action: - Wording around the action to be reviewed.**

Confirmation that a monthly crib sheet is being prepared for the Sector Council to inform and update regrading progress on areas of work for use when communicating to the industry.

The minutes were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION POINTS FROM THE COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

WJ updated accordingly in line with the enclosed action log, clarifying the following points: -

- Larger Europe grid document available for those who require it.
- Dashboard to be rolled out this year with outcomes measured effectively in relation to levy increases to support efficiencies.

**SECTOR LEAD REPORT – WILL JACKSON**

WJ stated that the enclosed report was read only, however enhanced on the following areas: -

- Letter published in the Lancet regarding Global Burden of Disease and the flaws associated relating to policy on food security and choice of eating meat. Government meeting with AHDB in the pipeline to discuss our views on this in due course.

**Action:- WJ to circulate a note to the Council containing a description of the letter**

- Agri leader forum that had recently taken place was debated and the success of it. It was suggested more 'forward looking' event information would be welcome in the report going forward to support Sector Council awareness and attendance. A wide-ranging compliment of events that had taken place in recent months within the Sector was discussed and the revised strategic approach that the Engagement Team are now taking in relation to this area was most welcomed.
- KB offered an update on LIL, following conversations with TDUG confirmation that Defra are pulling together a business case with AHDB's role being clarified as ensuring the tool is fit for purpose.

**BUDGET – WILL JACKSON/TONY HOLMES**

CB introduced the item, expressing gratitude for the transparency along with line by line spend. WJ confirmed everything had been considered following shape the future and was reflected in the budget. WJ emphasised that value was still being delivered even with inevitable reductions (VAT/pensions). TH confirmed that the budget was presented in a three year plan due to a Defra requirement linked to spending analysis, with further analysis available should the Council require.

The key discussion points were as follows: -

- 3 new workstreams included.
- Different reporting methodology (forward looking budget)
- Any levy in increase will be built into the budget when appropriate and not until
- Reserves, by the end of 24/25 these will have depleted unless other measures are taken to future proof the sector (reduction in services or a levy increase).
- Forecasting and deliver a priority.
- Genetics still under review, AHW will decrease as projects finish.
- Management of soil health and nutrient management related to engagement/comms time and the project spend associated.
- Hypothecation explained and how this is implemented within the organisation.
- Confirmation that workstream 12 should sit under environment.
- PU expressed a desire for a five-year budget eventually to support the five year strategy with cross functional areas highlighted, along with clear measures and credibility documented.
- Suggestion that Workstream 11 was not clear and that the terminology required confirming.
- Discussion around income netted off in the workstream and the breaking of this down.

## **Action – Genetics review (spend and income) circulate this to the Sector Council**

The budget was approved based upon the above-mentioned contributions being noted.

### **Management Accounts**

Due to a higher kill and more levy collected a better income was forecast. WJ gave a full explanation on where the underspends are and the justifications for each one.

The general feel from the Sector Council was that considering the external economic factors and internal changes taking place within AHDB, the accounts were in a satisfactory position.

## **BVD FREE – CHRIS GOODERHAM**

CG referred to the paper with the pack, confirming much correspondence from the industry had been received on this matter. Cost confirmed as half a FTE, staff resource to enable the transmission into Defra. It was recommended that eventually Defra may incorporate this into the AHW pathway with a suggestion of shared cost with Dairy.

This was approved with a 12-month hard stop associated.

The importance of getting value on this for levy paper was emphasised. CG confirmed transition meetings were taking place imminently on pathway with Defra in an urgent capacity.

## **LEVY INCREASE – WILL JACKSON – CONFIDENTIAL**

WJ offered a context to the paper confirming that the sector requires a legislative change to the levy ceiling. The outcome of the consultation is being awaited from Defra with parliamentary time secured in May to make the necessary changes to the Statutory Instrument.

Confirmation that HCC are in the process of lifting their levy imminently which is linked to retail inflation index.

WJ sought agreement from the Council to prepare a business case for the May meeting to demonstrate options for this to be carried out. This was agreed by the Council.

A detailed debate followed on when the levy increase should take place and the importance of ensuring enough manpower is available to deliver this together with strong comms messages regarding the value AHDB brings to the industry to justify this lift.

## **EUROPEAN GRID CONTEXT – PHIL HADLEY**

PH presented on the European Grid following a request for an update on this topic from the December meeting. PH brought the team up to date on the work carried out, along with offering an overview of the use of the European grid and confirming it is a measure of overall carcass yield. A discussion arose around double muscle on the carcass and the problems associated with selling this on, along with whether the meat is fit for purpose on the grid along with the premium payments associated.

A general discussion took place on how this process could be simplified along with how other countries operate, for example: -

- Ireland gives results in a much broader range, predicting yields in certain cut areas.
- MSA (Meat Standards Australia) confirmed as having the most sophisticated system in the world.

## **AOB/CLOSE**

The council debated the classification relating to when a lamb becomes a hog (1<sup>st</sup> Jan or 31<sup>st</sup> Dec) and whether the lamb can become a hog based on when it cuts its teeth rather than 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Action: - WJ to investigate this and feedback.**

Governance review document was requested for circulation.

**Action: - WJ to circulate**

Confirmation that John Gilliland was now working with AHDB in a Senior Manger advisory capacity linked to the environment.

**Action: - John to attend the May meeting to introduce himself to the Council**

The Chair thanked Rob Venner for 6 years of dedicated service as a Sector Council member paying tribute to Robert's valuable contribution.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.17pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.