



HGCA BOARD MEETING 14 July 2010

Woodland Grange Conference Centre, Old Milverton, Leamington Spa, Warks

SUMMARY MINUTES

Matters Arising

It was agreed that Rebecca Geraghty had an open invitation to attend NFU Crops Board meetings.

The review of relationships with R&D contractors with a view to generating better value for money on future projects was underway.

Chairman's Report

Cereals 2010, held in June, was extremely successful and the Chairman requested that these minutes record the Board's thanks to all staff involved. Savings of £20k on last year's costs had been made.

Arthur Hill was thanked for hosting a farm visit for HGCA staff last week. Around 30 staff had been given a farm tour, following the grain chain.

Sector Director's Report

Rebecca had recently attended a number of stakeholder meetings including AIC, NFUS and NFU Wales. Meetings have also taken place with the NFU East Midlands Crops Board and North East Crops Board to acquire input into the R&D strategy review.

The subject of LINK project funding continues to be raised and what will happen to that funding in the future. Since 1999 HGCA had taken part in 76 different Link projects.

Defra had confirmed that a renewed 3-year MI contract would be available but at half the amount. HGCA would provide information on what they could provide for the amount and Defra would then prioritise their requirements.

Finance and Strategy

Hannah Dumper joined the meeting and presented her paper. Hannah had been working with the MI team to develop a more accurate system to estimate levy income and it would be a key priority, going forward.

Rebecca confirmed that the pension meeting on 15 July would discuss assumptions for the pension valuation figure.

Hannah Dumper left the meeting.

HGCA Strategy

Rebecca Geraghty and Martin Grantley-Smith presented an update on the HGCA Strategy.

Martin explained that it was necessary to go through the corporate planning process and asked that the Board agree today proposed outcomes, proposed changes to work programme, the proposed changes to departments and team and the KPI's.

The plan goes to AHDB Board for approval in autumn, consultation with industry follows with delivery to ministers on 1 April 2011. The HGCA Board would approve before presentation to AHDB Board.

Rebecca added that where LINK funding was lost this had been had been factored in and an additional budget for R&D strategy had been included.

The Board agreed that they were happy with the percentages as given.

CEL review – progress report

Graham Jellis joined the meeting to present his review of CEL and his proposal that the Board should operate as a large project within the R&D department. Graham added that the current RL contract runs until Spring 2011 when a new contract would be needed to cover up to four years.

Susannah Bolton stated that RL came out strongly in the R&D Strategy Review questionnaires received so far. The Chairman said that stakeholders had informed him that the RL was a must have and was recognised throughout the industry as HGCA output.

Committee review report

Roz Reynolds joined the meeting and Rad Thomas and Martin Grantley-Smith presented the committee review findings. Proposals included: membership of committees and working groups would be reworked, Chairmen would be replaced by Board members when positions fall vacant, the number of times committees met had been reviewed, Cereals Industry Forum had come to the end of its projects work so would no longer exist, MI Cereals Committee would be renamed but remain substantially the same, three groups of R&D would be incorporated into one committee and the Market Development Committee would be replaced by various working committees.

RECOMMENDATION: David Houghton proposed that the new HGCA committee and working group structure be approved and this was unanimously agreed.

Martin Grantley-Smith and Roz Reynolds left the meeting.

Pension consultation outcome

Rebecca Geraghty informed the meeting of the outcome of the pension consultation which closed on 5 June. All recommendations were accepted by staff including level of contributions.

Minutes of the Board and Advisory Committees were received and approved by the Board.

Any Other Business

Charles Matts requested an update on the R&D committee's 'Be Precise' campaign which was waiting for HGCA Board approval.

The next HGCA Board meeting would be held during September: date yet to be set.