

## AHDB Horticulture Board meeting

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORTICULTURE BOARD HELD AT STONELEIGH ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

#### Teleconference

#### CONFIDENTIAL

**PRESENT:** Peter Judge (PJ), Michael Barker (MB), Jamie Dewhurst (JD), Rob Saunders (RS), Keston Williams (KW)

**APOLOGIES –** Roma Gwynn (RGw)

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Ken Boyns (KB) – Divisional Director – Services

Rob Clayton (RC) - Strategy Director (Potatoes), Strategy

Debbie Wilson (DW) – Head of Knowledge Exchange (Horticulture)

Adam Doxford (AD) – Crop Protection Senior Scientist (Pesticide Regulation)

Jenna Watts (JW) - Head of Crop Health and IPM, Research

Lenka Rihova (LR) – PA, minute taker

#### AGENDA ITEM 1 – Welcome & Apologies for absence

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting at 4pm and welcomed those in attendance.

#### AGENDA ITEM 2 – Financial overview

2.1 A paper had been distributed to the board and was taken as read.

2.2 AHDB have an obligation to provide the board with a summary of the overall financial position for Horticulture. RC reported on the Finance overview for Horticulture.

2.3 Conversations had been held with various stakeholders. AHDB to be transparent about what is happening with residual funds. AHDB are getting some Comms support for Horticulture to help with the messaging.

#### AGENDA ITEM 3 – EAMU priorities and budget

3.1 RC reported on the prioritisation matrix paper. The approval paper includes estimated costs for all work that is going through the procurement. The objective is for the board to understand the figures and get an approval for the budget and the priorities list. Once approved, it will be taken to the main board for final sign off as per the new Terms of Reference for the board.

3.2 RC gave an update on additional projects that were put forward. There is a proposal of a project on cherries. AD reported on residues trials. Conversations had been held with contractors. It was needed to spread the trials over two years in order to obtain the data requirement. Specific questions were asked to make sure that the contractors can fulfil the work adequately to the CRD standard. The total cost of this work is around £40K.

3.3 RS reported on the cherry project, which is to tackle spotted wing drosophila (SWD) - an invasive pest. It is an existential threat. Four trials is the best that can be achieved this year, and will go towards meeting the needs of the industry. The aim was to seek this board's approval to support the project so that the sector can manage the existential threat.

3.4 The board agreed to support the project.

**ACTION: RC to speak to the Comms team (messaging around the work on cherries project and wider EAMU work).**

3.5 The group discussed whether there should be a press release on approving additional work in the interim stage in support of an issue that the industry is facing at the moment. It was agreed to ask the Comms team for their input in relation to the messaging.

3.6 The board approved the budget and priorities.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – A sector skills matrix**

4.1 A board paper had been distributed to the board prior to the meeting (gaps & opportunities to fill the gaps). RC briefly reported on the board paper and asked the board to provide feedback to RC/Chair by COP on Friday. The aim is to have the involvement of the sector where there are gaps.

**ACTION: RC and PJ to discuss the sector skills matrix offline.**

**ACTION: Board members to report back to RC/Chair on the sector skills matrix paper by COP on Friday.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – AOB**

5.1 The Chair reported on the outcome of the Round table discussion meeting held with Minister Victoria Prentis. Defra has announced the findings of the consultation and that the current levy will end. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the opportunities for the future.

5.2 Current matters in Ukraine and concerns over food security & fuel have become the priority for the Government.

5.3 A suggestion to have a overarching commissioning body was reasonably well received by a lot of the participants. The quandary around EAMUs and emergency application concerns how it is going to be funded. It was acknowledged that there needs to be a solution. AHDB to be supportive of the process and provide Defra with information. A coordination body likely to be required for EAMU/EA.

5.4 RS had circulated the foundation paper to the Tree and Soft fruit panels. There was broad support for the need to have some coordination and willingness to work together. There was a consensus to form an entity that can work together (a commissioning body), uncertainty how it can be brought into existence. Some concern over the user interface at CRD.

5.5 RC briefly reported on the legacy website project.

**ACTION: RC to send out an email around legacy website.**

5.6 The meeting finished at 5.05pm.