Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES November 8, 2021

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen

Board Liaison: Wendy Dittbrenner [absent]

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm ET.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Huntley

- Testing of new software enhancements is still underway. Included are a new membership structure and system enhancements. This work is expected to continue until about Thanksgiving.
- De Monson is working from Kansas while she awaits the birth of her first grandchild.
- Dan got USAHA stuff from Pat and will take care of reimbursement. Robin got his report.
- Planning has begun for the Fiber event in Cincinnati.
- Annual renewals are up to 4100-4200 this year. We have already passed last year.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- Ongoing talk about antimicrobial resistance.
- There is a new lab at Penn State which will be studying new diseases in humans that come from animals. Approximately 75% of emerging diseases in humans come from animals.
- 80% of the deer checked in Iowa have or have had Covid-19. Once a disease hits wildlife, it is impossible to control. There have not yet been any reports of transmission from deer to humans. Deer hunters are being cautioned about handling and processing the deer.
- WNV has been reported in TN, WI.
  EEE has been reported in FL.
- Enzootic Hemorrhagic Disease, which is similar to Bluetongue, has been reported in Montana.
- A report of a rescue operation on a farm highlighted that first responders are often not used to handling livestock or familiar with things like turning off tractors.

2.2 USAHA Conference — Long

- Pat's report of the meeting has been distributed to Robin and Bonnie, and will be forwarded to GIRCom members.
- Due to Covid, there were virtual meetings held between October 4-18. An in-person meeting was held in Denver from Oct 23-26.
- There was a lot of focus on African Swine Fever (ASF). ASF has been a major issue in Europe and Asia since 2018 and is now present in the Western Hemisphere in Dominican Republic. Areas discussed were: working on vaccine; figuring out how to handle the slaughter of large number of animals, and composting large numbers of animals.
- Bison in U.S. are unique in how they respond to meds and vaccines.
- Sheep & Goats (and it affects camelids, too): Over next 2 yrs they will phase out selling antibiotics OTC in the US. This has already been done in CA.
- Many new vaccines used for small ruminants in other countries are not available in the US due to the limited market, stringent FDA protocols, and high cost of approval for new vaccine.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 International Transport of Alpacas/Info for website – defer — Potter

3.2 Committee Membership — Potter

- Bonnie has not seen any kind of eblast go out looking for new GirCom members. Dan said it will go out.
- Bonnie has talked to the applicant for the committee. His career was in law enforcement in central CA, but it included work on the Police Officers Commission and he spent a lot of time on committees. He believes strongly in supporting the community. Even though he is new to alpaca ownership, he is willing to work, ready to immerse himself in the alpaca world, and would like to be on GIRCom. Motion to invite him to join the committee was made by Pat, seconded by Tom and approved unanimously.

3.3 USDA Investment in Agriculture — Potter

- Bonnie sent draft eblast to committee members for our review. Motion to recommend that it be distributed to the members was made by Joan, seconded by Pat, passed unanimously. Bonnie will correct a typo and send it to Robin and Dan with recommendation that it be sent to membership.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Ideas for Video about GIRCom — All

- Pat – looked at some videos in alpaca academy.
- Joan suggested that we look at the eblasts we created in the past several years to generate a potential topic list.
- It might be time to update some of the older articles in academy.
- Dan provided some suggestions which are in the October minutes (revised version) Section 1.0.
- Animal health
- Bonnie: concerned that AOA doesn't have any group that covers animal health. GirCom looks at USAHA but AOA doesn't have an education committee.
- Our new (incoming) GIRCom member can give us new-owner perspective on what he wants to know about.
- Pat asked if we are tracking how often the videos are watched and which topics are most viewed.
- Pat's clients who are new owners are always interested in: feeding, parasites.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: (10/11/21) — Clappier

- Motion to approve the corrected minutes of 10/11/21 was made by Joan, seconded by Pat. Motion was passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Dan – look at stats on viewing the educational videos.
- Bonnie – send corrected eBlast about USDA assistance to AOA recommending distribution
- Bonnie – Request that our applicant be approved by BOD to join GIRCom.
- Bonnie – email Pat's report to committee members.

6.2 Next Meeting Date: 12/13/2021 — Potter

6.3 Adjournment — Potter

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm ET.