Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2017

Meeting: Conference Call—March 15, 2017, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Members: Deborah Bailey
Lynn Boak (absent)
Joan Clappier (absent)
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoker

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley (absent)

Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance (Huntley, Potter):

- Dan Huntley and other staff are in Denver setting up for the National Show, which is a Level V show and includes Walking Fleece competition for the first time. There has been great publicity including a photo in the *Wall Street Journal*.
- The 2018 National Halter Show will be March 22-25, 2018, in Peoria, Illinois, at the Civic Center.
- There will be an ad about AOA and the alpaca industry in *USA Today USDA Special Edition*.
- Executive Director Bud Synhorst is connecting with members at various affiliate shows.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts (Long, Potter):

- Since it is winter there is not much happening. BVDV remains a big concern in cattle and once again, Dr. Long commented that the alpaca industry is to be congratulated for requiring negative BVDV certification at our shows which has been highly successful in eliminating the problem in the alpaca industry. He strongly recommends that we continue requiring BVDV testing to prevent a resurgence in the disease. There was a discussion of BVDV testing, the variation in cost, and how it is reported (negative vs not detected). Dr. Long referred committee members to the articles on the ARF website. It was recommended that the certification of the lab that AOA uses be reviewed periodically. Potter will check with staff and report at our next meeting.
- There have been serious fires in several states including TX, OK, KS, and NM. No one has heard anything about alpacas being affected. Dr. Long suggested that it would be interesting to see a map of where alpacas are located in the US to see if we can relate location of alpaca farms to natural disasters. There is a farm locator function on the website and Potter will discuss options with staff.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Estate Planning/Preparedness (Smoker):

Smoker reported that his computer friend will not be able to put the document into a more user friendly, fill in the blank pdf format. Potter will discuss options with staff.

3.2 Camelid Conference eBlast (Long, Potter):

Potter did not see Dr. Long's information until after most of the March conferences, and the next conferences are not until late summer/early fall. It was recommended to wait until June to put together a Camelid Conference eBlast.

4.0 New Business: None

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Potter):

5.1 Approval of the minutes of 1/18/2017 and 2/15/2017. Bailey made a motion to approve both sets of minutes which was seconded by Long. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Review Action Items (Potter):

Action items were reviewed by Potter with the committee members.

6.2 Next Meeting (Potter):

Third Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

6.3 Adjournment (Potter):

Motion to adjourn was made by Bailey, seconded by Smoker. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. EDT.

Minutes submitted by Bonnie Potter