Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES June 14, 2021

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

Board Liaison: Wendy Dittbrenner [absent]

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley [absent]

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Dittbrenner/Huntley

- No report this month.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- Antimicrobial use has decreased over past few years.
- FDA has new program for medically important drugs, with a 2-year phase in. Pat doesn't know which drugs will be included. Penicillin might be. It will be similar to law enacted in CA a couple of years ago requiring a prescription from a veterinarian for drugs previously available in feed stores.
- A few cases of rabies have been reported, mostly in cattle and dogs.
- BVDV in cattle: persistently infected calves are still being born. Pat mentioned that the camelid community has done a good job of controlling it, and he recommends that our animals continue to be tested and have at least one negative result.
- Vesicular stomatitis: Keep checking for it to keep it out of your herd.
- A prion-like condition — similar to chronic wasting disease — has been found in Middle East camels.
- Drought will probably affect hay prices this year.
- Pat is putting a program together for the USAHA meeting this fall. The two topics he would like to cover are (1) the proposed ban of camelids/sheep/goats in the arctic wilderness, and (2) the importance of camelid nanobodies in medical research.
- All mink in OR have to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 IRS and State Tax Audits — defer — Smoker

- There probably won't be any activity until September.

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

3.3 Statement regarding Colorado Initiative 16 Potter

- The Initiative collecting signatures in OR is by the same person/people as the one in CO.
- Tom question: are both in signature gathering phase? Yes. That is the first phase. If they get enough, then they will need even more signatures to get it on ballots. Proposed for 2022 ballot
- Suggestions: Add lead-in paragraph about why this is important that we pay attention to this and include live links to the actual information and verbiage about the initiatives.
- It is important to be sure that voters understand what these initiatives really mean and do.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Communication with members regarding USDA grants Potter

- Our eBlast on the subject went out to members on May 12.
- Bonnie is speaking to some members who have sought and received grant money. She'll compile that information.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: (5/10/21) Clappier

- Motion to approve the minutes of 5/10/21 was made by Pat, seconded by Joan. Motion was passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items Potter

- Bonnie: Add to CO/OR initiative doc: lead-in paragraph and live links to the initiatives.
- Bonnie: get more info from members who have sought and received USDA grants.

6.2 Next Meeting Date: 7/12/2021 Potter

6.3 Adjournment Potter

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm ET.