Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES September 12, 2022

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen
Chris Sturgeon (absent)

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 Welcome Board Liaison Mike Livingston: Mike was welcomed to the committee and asked to introduce himself and then the rest of the committee members did the same.

- 1.2 AOA News of Importance: Dan discussed National Alpaca Farm Days. 112 signed up so far. AOA Zoom calls continue. Bonnie's presentation on Disaster Preparedness has had 133 views and comments suggest it was well received, helpful, timely. Pat is presenting Alpacas 101 soon. Plan to budget for FFA as we have not attended since 2019. Collecting samples to send for EPD testing to make it easier for members. Fiber Conference was a success and planning to have it in same place next year. Planning is being done for National Show in Denver in March. Looking at other possible revenue streams for AOA.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. Avian influenza, African Swine fever and chronic wasting disease in deer still an issue. EEE has been seen in New Mexico which is unusual. Agriculture Census will be soon. Discussed doing an eBlast to encourage participation and mention why it is important.
  - Pat will be attending the USAHA meeting next month. He has lined up a speaker on alpaca nanobodies.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Website education review
  - Discussion of lack of Education Committee which is a concern since there is so much interest in education.
  - Concern about how to find what you are looking for on the AOA website. AOA staff are planning to do some short videos to help with navigating the website.
  - Review of website topics will continue. Derrick will review alpaca genetics and breeding; Tom will review educational videos. Pat will review alpaca research. Bonnie suggested that Show Committee should review show system videos and Marketing Committee should review marketing articles. Other pages needing review are EPD and farm management.

4.0 New Business: none.

5.0 Approval of Minutes: Pat made a motion to approve the minutes from 8/8/22; second by Bonnie. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.

- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 10/10/2022. Pat will be attending USAHA meeting at that time.

- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm EDT.