Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2017

Meeting: Conference Call—May 17, 2017, 7:30 p.m. EDT

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

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance (Huntley, Potter):

- Bonnie discussed Lynn Boak's resignation from the committee and the reasons indicated in her email. We will miss her and thank her for serving as she has been an active participant and has made significant contributions, especially on the 3 part series on Things You Should Know about Starting or Operating an Alpaca Related Business.
- Elections are coming up. Candidate statements are about to be posted. Online voting opens May 22.
- AOA Staff is working on the fleece conference. Workshops and speakers are being finalized. There are still a couple of workshop spots being filled and the keynote speaker needs to be finalized. Then the information will be posted and distributed.
- A lot of work is being put into national marketing.
- "CBS Today" postponed segment about alpacas and taxes which was going to run this morning and might run tomorrow morning. CBS sent a crew to Nebraska to talk to AOA Executive Director and some alpaca owners to get our perspective to counter the claims of Senator Flake. You can view the CBS segment online within a couple of hours after it is broadcast.
- AOA is working on getting caught up with posting our minutes.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts (Long, Potter):

- Not much information of significance to the alpaca industry.
- There continues to be discussion about antibiotic resistance.
- There was some discussion of animal welfare issues in the cattle industry. Since the alpaca industry is not primarily focused on pushing production, animal welfare issues are not a major problem.
- EHV virus can survive up to 3 weeks in water. Many alpaca shows are held in a facility less than 3 weeks after horse events, so potentially there could be virus still lingering to infect incoming alpacas.
- Several states are encouraging equine owners to vaccinate for EHV and WNV.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Estate Planning/Preparedness (Potter, Smoker):

- Bonnie is working on formatting the information suitable for a fill-in-the-blanks form. According to the AOA Executive Director, one of the AOA staff has the capability of creating that format for posting.
- Bonnie suggested that microchip identification of all animals is also useful to estate planning and preparedness and it was not yet in the document.
    - If all animals are microchipped and there is a master list of animal names/chip numbers, people other than the owners can identify animals if the owner is out-of-town or unavailable.

- Owners should know that they can log onto the Registry and add or edit microchip information if they chip an animal after the initial registration.

4.0 New Business:

4.1 Disaster Preparedness

- TX A&M has put together a video on preparing livestock for hurricane. A decision must be made whether or not to evacuate the animals, and there are issues whichever choice is taken.
- Bonnie recommended that we put out an eBlast to the membership with a link to this video and also put it on the AOA website. The committee agreed. Bonnie will create an eBlast and send it to the committee for review.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Clappier, Potter):

5.1 Minutes for approval: 4/19/17

Motion was made by Pat and seconded by Joan to approve the minutes of 4/19/17 as corrected. Motion passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Review Action Items (Potter):

- Bonnie: Estate planning document formatting.
- Bonnie: eBlast on disaster planning.

6.2 Next Meeting (Potter):

Fourth Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

6.3 Adjournment (Potter):

Motion to adjourn was made by Joan, seconded by Pat. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. EDT.