Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES June 10, 2024

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

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: The election results are in and there will be 3 new members on the AOA Board. Mike will be leaving the Board but is interested in becoming a member of GIRCom. Staff are working on the upcoming fleece conference, which will have many meetings and workshops, and starting to prepare for NAFD in September.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference
  - Seeing some EEE in FL, and a few cases of EHV in horses in WI, PA and NY..
  - Avian influenza continues to be a problem, and it has been found in dairy cows in at least 10 states. It was also reported in 4 alpacas from a farm where HPAI-infected poultry were depopulated. Dr. Balch was on a USDA call and learned that several alpacas aborted their fetuses, one alpaca died, and one showed signs of illness. Virus was positive in fetal tissue and in milk samples. HPAI should be considered if seeing an increase in abortions, so we should draft an eblast to be sent to members. Bonnie will draft the eblast for Dr. Balch to review. Currently the only travel restrictions apply to cattle.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Avian Influenza eblast and follow up. See above.

- 3.2 Disaster Preparedness eblast: draft eblast emailed to committee members by Bonnie was reviewed and discussed. Tom made a motion to approve sending it to the membership; second by Dr. Balch. Motion carried. Will be sent to Executive Director with our recommendation to send it to the membership.

- 3.3 BVD follow up. There are three articles on the AOA website that should be reviewed … Diagnostic Testing by GeneSeek, Controlling the Spread by Dr. Pat Long, and BVD Virus – A Newly Recognized Health Problem by Nancy Carr MD and Susy Carmen DVM. We need good information for our members, so we should review the articles to see if updated information is needed. Bonnie will send articles to the committee members for review. The committee discussed the importance of noting the date on posted articles, and date of review. This has been discussed by AOA Board and the plan is to include dates in the future. The Education Committee is also taking on issue of reviewing articles.

4.0 New Business

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- 4.1 With Mike leaving the AOA Board, he will no longer be our Board Liaison. He is interested in remaining on our committee as a member. Tom made a motion to approve Mike as a member of GIRCom; second by Dr. Balch. Motion carried. Bonnie will notify Executive Director of our recommendation.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 5/13/2024: Bonnie made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried (Tom abstained).

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will not be 7/8/2024 due to scheduling conflict, so next meeting will be held on 8/12/2024.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter