Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018

Meeting: Conference Call—January 22, 2018, 7:30 p.m. EST

Members: Deborah Bailey (absent)
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Bonnie Potter—Chair
Brion Smoker

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

Meeting called to order at 7:34 p.m. EST.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 Electronic Logging Device (ELD) Mandate Follow-up (Merriwether, Potter):

- Bonnie gave a summary of what we have done thus far.
    - We prepared an eBlast which was sent to the membership with information about the proposed regulation and links to additional information.
    - We have responded to some questions.
- AQHA has sent a letter to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Association (FMCSA) suggesting that they postpone the regulations for livestock transportation for a year while they develop livestock-specific regulations. Stopping for 10 hours jeopardizes the health and safety of the animals. Stopping by the side of the road can be dangerous in hot or very cold conditions, and offloading the animals during a stop is rarely an option. AQHA also pointed out that FMCSA had never reached out to the livestock industries when they were drafting the regulations.
- Bud is talking to a people and trying to get answers to specific questions.
    - Dan asked him for information prior to this meeting but Bud is still preparing his information.
    - Bonnie will contact Bud so that we can work together in a coordinated manner.
    - Apparently some of the people Bud is contacting are not aware that alpacas are livestock.
- Brion pointed out that there is a 90-day waiver until mid-March and we will not know until then what changes they might be making.
- Pat talked to folks at Animal Welfare. There are some regulations in place for cattle and horses, that they can't be on the road for more than 28 hours. There is nothing specific about alpacas.
- Bonnie suggested that she draft a letter similar to the one from AQHA to send to the FMCSA. Brion suggested that Pat review it to add a veterinarian perspective on ensuring the safety and health of the animals. The Committee members agreed with this approach.
- Bonnie will also request recommendations from AOA about what GIRCom can do. The Committee feels that AOA cannot legally provide answers to how the regulations might apply to specific individuals/cases.

1.2 Possible BVD in a Herd (Merriwether):

Andy got a response from the alpaca owner who is concerned that test results might indicate BVD in her herd. Andy has forward the information to Pat.

2.0 Meeting Wrap:

2.1 Review Action Items (Potter):

- Bonnie: will talk to Bud to find where AOA currently stands on the ELD regulation and find out what GIRCom can do to help. She will offer to draft a letter similar to what AQHA has done.

- If a letter is written, it will be sent to Pat for possible veterinarian augmentation and then to the entire committee for review.

6.2 Next Meeting Date will be 2/12/2018 (Potter):

6.3 Adjournment (Potter):

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. EST.