Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES August 12, 2024

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

Board Liaison: Mike Walsh

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley (absent)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 New Board Liaison Mike Walsh was welcomed, and everyone introduced themselves.
- 1.2 AOA News of Importance: Mike reported on annual meeting, and they are still looking at technology options.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference
  - Seeing more cases of EEE and WNV in several states, but so far no reports in alpacas. There have been a few cases of EHV in horses in CA and ND.
  - Avian influenza continues to be a problem, and it has been found in dairy cows in at least 13 states. Some dairy and poultry workers have been affected. No new cases in alpacas. There has been mammal to mammal transmission. Has not been seen in swine yet.
  - USAHA Conference will be Oct 10-16 in TN.
  - We need to keep an eye on traceability regulations. Colorado recently changed regulations for alpacas coming into the state and they now require 840 RFID tags, or 840 microchips. So far, no grandfather exceptions to the requirements. Federal traceability laws do not include alpacas, but that could change at any time as they reserve the right to classify alpacas as food animals. Currently there are no alpaca shows in Colorado. This needs to be an agenda item. Vets can have premise ID and order chips.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Avian influenza: See above; we need to continue to watch it. Expect it to go nationwide.

- 3.2 Disaster Preparedness eblast: was sent out on 6/20.

- 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. The information has been sent to committee members and will be discussed at our next meeting. The board discussed current requirement for BVD testing which will remain in place.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 Attracting New/Younger Members: Chris not on call so will defer to future meeting.

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5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 6/10/2024: Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried (Derrick abstained).

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items. It was noted that the most recent Alpacas Magazine had a nice tribute to Dr. Pat Long. Bonnie will be sure he was sent a copy, and Signe requested a copy too.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be held on 9/9/2024.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter