Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES May 14, 2018

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Deborah Bailey [absent]
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoker [absent]

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether [absent]

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley [absent]

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Huntley

- The National halter show went very well
- The National Fleece show will be in Nashville July 12-15. There will be more focus on collaborative fiber work and end products. There will be expanded educational sessions.
- Elections: AOA is getting ready for annual elections for the Board of Directors. May 25 is the deadline for becoming a member or renewing/upgrading memberships to be able to vote. Online voting begins May 29.
- The New Board will be announced at the annual meeting at national fiber show

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- Reports are picking up moving into warmer weather (with more mosquitos)
- USDA has changed some regulations. A vaccine for foot & mouth disease will become available in the US.
- Cattle disease traceability implementation is moving forward faster than previously. Identification will include county, premise and individual animal ID.
- Multiple states have reported EHV1. There are no reports yet of it in alpacas
- Pat mentioned that he hasn't heard of any alpaca farms impacted by the fires in OK.
- Micoplasma in big horn sheep: There was a ban against llamas in some national parks due to concerns of transmission between llamas and big horn sheep.
- Prion disease was found in camels in Algeria. It is similar to the one that causes mad cow disease in cattle. Lots of species are susceptible to prion diseases. Pat recommends that we watch and monitor the situation and there is nothing to report to membership at this time. The source of the disease in the camels is unknown. It was possibly from BSE-infected cattle
- A rabid alpaca was reported in CO
- Peru is working on cloning an alpaca. (This was not in the USAHA alerts; it is just interesting information.)
- The MERS organism has been isolated. Antibodies have been isolated from a llama. MERS is not in the US at this time.
- A few cases of EEE being reported. It is mosquito borne. Bonnie spotted mention of a case in an emu.
- Anti-microbial resistance is still in the news
- The Farm bill is in first draft. Nothing relevant to alpacas

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3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks — Smoker/All

- Bonnie has done more work on the spreadsheet. She wants Brion's input on something. She'll send it to Dan when she's done so that he can give it to Dee to have it put into a google docs online questionnaire.

3.2 Education of State/County Officials — Potter

- Bonnie is still working on a draft document which will be sent to the committee when it is ready.

3.3 ELD Mandate Follow-up — Potter/All

- Bonnie hasn't heard anything more. Dan confirmed that he doesn't know of any response to the letter we submitted a couple of months ago.

3.4 Member Concern about IRS and State Tax Audits — Potter

- Bonnie told the member that states don't always follow federal guidelines
- Bonnie has received another letter from the member, which Bonnie will refer to Brion. The IRS has also started an audit on the tax return so the state taking back seat to see what IRS does. A couple of specific issues:
  - They are not allowing a value for birthed animals to be included as an asset – only purchased animals.
  - Value of land is considered the purchase price not the current market value.
- Brion wants to talk to the member's accountant. Brion responded in detail to the member.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Prion Disease in Camelids — Merriwether/Long

- No action at the present time (see 2.1 above)
- Farm Bill – doesn't appear to be anything relevant to alpacas.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: 4-09-18) — Potter

- Pat moved that the minutes be accepted and Joan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Bonnie: Contact Bud to see if AOA has received any response to ELD letter
- Bonnie: Continue work on Education of State/County Officials document
- Bonnie and Brion: work on Benchmarks.
- Bonnie and Brion: Continue communication with Member regarding tax audit.
- Let Bud know that there is nothing to do on prion issue at this time.

6.2 Next Meeting Date will be: 6/11/2018 7:30pm ET — Potter

6.3 Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 — Potter