Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2015

Meeting: Conference Call—May 27, 2015, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Members: Joan Clappier
Erin Egan (absent)
Jan Hamby
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoker (absent)

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Darby Vannier

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance (B. Potter, D. Vannier):

Ballots are coming in and will be ready for the auditor count soon.

The Strategic Plan final draft is almost completed. The schedule is to have it out in time for the Annual Meeting in Denver the last weekend of June.

Fleece Conference: registration is open, good speakers are lined up, the Annual Membership Meeting will be held, including presentation of financials.

The link to the new AOA marketing video has been sent out to the membership. Members can link to it on their own websites, download it and put it on their own websites, and/or buy disks to hand out.

2.0 Health Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts (P. Long, B. Potter):

Most reports are about bird flu.

There has been a few more cases of EHV, with a possible case in California in the last day or so. It is still not known if it can affect alpacas but it may be a possibility.

Vesicular Stomatitis was diagnosed in several states, which may affect movement of animals across state lines.

Oregon is considering stricter rules for use of antibiotics in food animals.

It has been shown that hog farmers are more likely than the general population to carry an antibiotic-resistant staph bacteria on their skin.

Pat received request to be a volunteer to review applications for the veterinary medical student loan repayment program. He does not know yet if he will be selected.

Pat volunteered to work part of the summer for USDA to help with the bird flu problem.

3.0 Government Related

3.1 Status of eBlast on "Livestock Designation" for Members (B. Potter):

Bonnie drafted an eBlast about alpaca designation as livestock. The draft was sent to the Committee members this afternoon. It is not completed yet. Our attorney has been busy, but Bonnie would still like to get her interpretation before completing eBlast to the membership.

Jan suggested closing with asking people if they have taken advantage of any of the disaster assistance program available for livestock. It would be interesting to learn if any alpaca owners are taking advantage of that opportunity.

3.2 IRS Farm Audits — Status of Lessons Learned/1099 Article (B. Smoker):

Brion just sent a write-up to Bonnie. Consolidation and review by Brion and Erin is still in process.

Brion would like to see it go out next month.

3.3 Status of Article on "Things You Should Know: (zoning, UCC, etc.)" (B. Potter):

Bonnie is working on it. She is going through past articles and communications to pull salient points into a single report.

3.4 Animal Welfare Licensing Issue brought to light by *Llama Drama* (B. Potter):

This topic has been included in the Livestock Designation report.

4.0 New Business:

Bonnie: It is the time of year again when we send out disaster preparedness information. Bonnie has the information that Pat has previously put together.

5.0 Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2015 (B. Potter):

Revised minutes have been approved.

6.0 Meeting Wrap (B. Potter):

6.1 Review Action Items:

Bonnie: Get review and comments from our attorney about the Livestock Designation article.

Committee members: Review the draft of livestock document which Bonnie sent to us.

Bonnie, Brion, and Erin: Review and consolidate the documents related to IRS audits.

Bonnie: Continue work on the "Things you should know" document.

Bonnie: Dusting off the disaster preparedness.

6.2 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 24, 2015, 7:30 p.m. EDT.

6.3 Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. EDT.