Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2015

Meeting: Conference Call—April 22, 2015, 7:30 p.m. EDT

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

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Darby Vannier

Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

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

Gearing up for annual election. First since merger.

Recently completed the audit, which is now posted on AOA website. Cut expenses more than expected or projected, revenue fell more than expected. This time there are more Benefactor sponsors.

Working on the Strategic Plan.

National Fleece Conference is last weekend in June in Denver. Registration is open. Erin might be speaking at the conference.

Annual meeting will be during Fleece Conference, including announcement of election results as well as official presentation of audited financials.

New promotional video is now available.

2.0 Health Related

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

No reports left of mosquito borne encephalitis.

A few sporadic incidents of EHV.

White House gathering data on antibiotic use in food animals.

3.0 Government Related

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

Bonnie has drafted something. It discusses livestock designation in 2008 and 2014 regulations as well as programs available to alpaca owners since alpacas are livestock. Bonnie is waiting for lawyer's review of the animal welfare act excluding farm animals food/fiber.

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

Brion has written a draft. Will forward it to Bonnie and Erin for review.

Erin sent something to Darby relevant to this topic. Darby sent it to Bonnie, who will send it to Brion.

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

Bonnie is working on a draft. Not yet ready for committee review. She is going through several years of notes to be sure things we have previously discussed are included.

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

Finally reached the llama owner in Phoenix whose llamas got loose. Bonnie had a good talk with Karen. It sounds like someone actually contacted USDA and filed a complaint. Therefore USDA needed to investigate. Local person told her she had to have a license. She went to USDA regional office in Colorado. They weren't sure. Bonnie sent our information to her.

Bonnie talked to ILR. Some llama owners have gone out and gotten licenses. That gives USDA authority to do unannounced inspections of their facility.

East Coast office of USDA: "Exhibitor" doesn't include having your animals out for educational purposes when you are not compensated.

Bonnie has asked ILR if llamas are classified as livestock.

Pat talked to a veterinarian at USDA. She wouldn't specifically address the Arizona issue, but she said if you are doing an educational presentation and are not being compensated you don't need a license.

4.0 New Business: No new business at this time.

5.0 Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2015 (B. Potter):

Pat made a motion and Joan seconded it to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap (B. Potter):

6.1 Review Action Items:

Bonnie: Sent Brion the information relevant to IRS audits which Erin sent to Darby.

Brion: Send draft of IRS audit document to Bonnie and Erin for review.

6.2 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 7:30 p.m. EDT.

6.3 Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. EDT.