Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES September 10, 2018

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

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Merriwether/Huntley

- NAFD is main focus of the office right now. It will be the weekend of September 29-30.
- RFPs have gone out for an accountant and an editor for the magazine.
- The Board is in the midst of long range planning. They are working with an outside company and meeting by teleconference fairly often.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- There has not been anything recently that is directly applicable to alpacas.
- WNV and EEE are still occurring. There have not been major outbreaks in any specific states.
- ELD: The House has introduced a measure to extend the deadline for livestock haulers to Sept 30, 2019.
- African swine fever is still a major problem in China
- Cattle tracebility still on the radar and requirements may be expanded to other species in the future.
- A few more anti-microbial conferences have been held.
- Nebraska had training for first responders to learn about needs and issues for livestock.
- The annual USAHA meeting will be in October and Dr. Pat Long will once again be representing the alpaca industry. Since camelids have been moved from the bovine committee to the sheep/goat committee (now sheep/goat/camelid), Pat will be giving then an overview of the alpaca/llama industries to bring them up to speed. He'll discuss issues of particular importance to camelids, including parasite resistance

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks — All

- Bonnie has sent "final" version to the GIRCom committee members. Brion will create a draft of an introduction cover letter to explain to our members the purpose and benefits of filling out the survey with their information. He'll send it to the committee for review and editing.

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3.2 Education of State/County Officials Potter

- The final, condensed article is ready to go to Board. The committee approved the cover eblast letter which Bonnie wrote. Bonnie will send both the article and the cover letter to Andy to send to the board for approval and dissemination.

3.3 ELD Mandate/Farm Bill Update Potter

- The House and Senate are trying to come together on a final Farm Bill.
- As stated above, the ELD requirements for livestock haulers are still being worked on to accommodate issues with transporting live animals, and the enactment for livestock haulers has been postponed until Sept 30, 2019.

3.4 Member Concern about IRS and State Tax Audits Potter/Smoker

- Brion brought up the idea of creating a seminar for accountants about how to handle alpacas. We would address just IRS, not individual state taxes.
- Discussion ensued about the possibility of creating a webinar, since getting accountants to travel to a seminar about alpacas is not realistic.
- Another idea would be to get some accountants who have alpaca clients to join a conference call discussion to share ideas and questions. That would provide additional experience and viewpoints for a webinar.
- After creating the webinar we should promote it to
    - AOA Members, for their own information and to tell their accountants about it
    - To national accountant associations

4.0 New Business

4.1 Question from member regarding Class C license to Exhibit Animals

- AOA received an email from a member who is planning to take alpacas to a wedding and is concerned that she might need a Class C license. Dan sent her information from Page 16 of the licensing book that states that anyone who participates in an event with domesticated farm animals is exempt from the Class C license requirement. Alpacas qualify as domesticated farm animals.
- She also asked if AOA has a contract form for this purpose, which we do not.
- Pat feels that whether or not the event or activity is for educational purposes is important. For example, taking your animals to a fair for exhibit is educational, but taking your ponies to the fair for a paid pony ride is a business and would probably need a Class C license. If the member is getting paid to take her alpacas to the wedding, Pat suggests that she check with the USDA.
- Moving forward, agritourism is becoming more prevalent and popular. AOA should consider developing liability release forms. Some states are friendlier than others about protecting farms from liability when engaged in agritourism.

4.2 Is it Time for a Disaster Preparedness eBlast?

- After a brief discussion, a motion to send out Disaster Preparedness information was made by Joan, seconded by Pat, and Passed. Bonnie will send it to the Board and Bud and try to get it fast-tracked because of all of the fires, hurricanes and flooding occurring.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: 8-13-18) Potter/Clappier

A motion to approve the minutes of 8-13-2018 was made by Pat and seconded by Joan. Motion passed.

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6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Bonnie: Send to Bud and to the BOD via Andy
  - Benchmarks document and cover letter [when cover letter is completed]
  - Disaster preparedness document and cover letter
- Committee Members: Ask your accountant if he/she would be willing to participate in a conference call discussion about alpacas and income tax.
- Brion: Create draft cover letter for benchmarks questionnaire and send to committee for review.

6.2 Next Meeting Date will be: 10/8/2018 at 7:30pm ET — Potter

6.3 Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm. — Potter