Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES May 12, 2025

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

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Robbin Gifford

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Everyone misses Dan! Robin will be our staff representative for now. They moved into the new office spaces. Finances are always a struggle. Should different levels of registration be considered like some other livestock registries offer? Candidate statements are available for review, and everyone was reminded to vote. GirCom would like an eblast sent to recruit new members for the committee.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is still a concern.
  - USDA staffing may become an issue with monitoring and enforcement.
  - Starting to see cases of WNV and EHV-1 as expected.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.0 BVD information on website: Robin will check with DDC about the article on testing.
- **3.3** Show Veterinarian Guidelines: Signe will work with Margie Ault to be sure her recommendations go to the show superintendents.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1: Disaster Preparedness eBlast: Bonnie sent out a draft eBlast for review and discussion. Signe noted that there have been fatalities during loading/overloading in a hurry with potential injury and even death, especially if trailer is overcrowded and animals could be crushed. People should also know where their alpacas are being sent if evacuated. Bonnie will add information to draft eBlast. Derrick made a motion to approve the modified eBlast as discussed; second by Signe. Motion carried. There is an article on the website titled “What Are Alpacas” that was developed to assist disaster facilities in caring for alpacas. This should be reviewed at our next meeting.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 3/10/2025: Derrick made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting will be held on 6/9/2025.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter