Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2015

Meeting: Conference Call—June 24, 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 (absent)

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

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

The AOA Fleece Show is this weekend. There are over 500 fleece entries.

A good educational program is planned. Registrations are below what they were hoping for, but there may be some walk-ins.

The Annual Meeting will be during the conference.

The election is completed and new Board has been seated. Four people completed terms and three were elected, bringing the board to the final number of nine members rather than the initial ten. Dianna Jordan has resigned, so that position will be filled. Announcement of her replacement will be made soon.

The Strategic Plan has been released. It has target goals and additional details will be added.

2.0 Health Related

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

Two cases of EHV were reported. Still watching it because there may be potential that it could spread to alpacas.

One case of vesicular stomatitis reported in TX.

First case of WNV reported in OK.

Anthrax can occur after flooding. We don't know if it is possible for alpacas to get it.

Farmers/ranchers in OR are battling with lawmakers about antibiotics.

Feed manufacturers might need veterinarian approval to add medications to feed.

2.2 Dr. Pat Long Appointed to Two Committees:

He has been selected to review committee for selecting veterinary students paying off loans by working in underserved areas.

The USDA has asked him to help with the bird flu problem. He'll have a week of training and then work wherever they want him to go for a few weeks.

3.0 Government Related

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

Bonnie has distributed a draft to the committee for review. Our AOA lawyer has reviewed it.

Jan suggested adding to the last paragraph that we would like to share peoples' experiences using government resources. Jan has emailed some verbiage to Bonnie.

Brion sent information to Bonnie today about government funding available for beginning or disadvantaged farmers to help them buy land. He may want that information to be included in this document.

The AOA Board will not have time to review this document until the July meeting, so we have some time to finish flushing it out.

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

Brion and Erin have each put something together.

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

This is still in process.

3.4 Disaster Preparedness eBlast (B. Potter):

Bonnie has sent previous doc to committee for review. All members on the call think it should go out as an eBlast. Jan would like it to be expanded to a longer article for *Alpacas Magazine* and she has volunteered to work on it.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give this document to the AOA Board and recommend that it be sent to the membership as an eBlast.

4.0 New Business:

Nothing at this time.

5.0 Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2015 (B. Potter):

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the May minutes.

6.0 Meeting Wrap (B. Potter):

6.1 Review Action Items:

Bonnie: Modify last paragraph of Livestock Designation eBlast and find out if the farmland purchase information should be added to this document, then redistribute it to the committee for review.

Remind Brion that we are waiting for the IRS Farm Audit report.

Bonnie: Continue work on "Things You Should Know" document.

Bonnie will pass the Disaster Preparedness document to the AOA Board and recommend that it be sent to the membership.

6.2 Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 26, 2015, 7:30 p.m. EDT.

Our next meeting date would normally be July 22, but Bonnie is unavailable that day. Since we have nothing pressing right now, we voted to skip July and have our next meeting August 26, with the caveat that if something pressing comes up we can look at Wednesday July 15th or 29th for a meeting.

6.3 Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. EDT.