Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES June 10, 2019

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Joan Clappier
Mary-Margaret Lannon [absent]
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen [absent]
Brion Smoker [absent]

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm ET.

Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Merriwether/Huntley

- The office is in the process of planning and registration for the Fiber Extravaganza which will be held in Nashville in July. They working out details for workshops, checking hotels in the area, and other preparation.
- Shauna Brummet, Rhonda Deschner and Wendy Dittbrenner were elected to the Board.
- Both of the bylaw amendments passed.
- The office is looking for two new staff member as replacements. Angela, a planner, had a new baby and will be working from home. Lisa, a long-time bookkeeper, has left AOA.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- Mosquito-borne diseases are making their seasonal appearance again.
- Pat is still watching the response to the spread of the swine fever which started in Asia and is still spreading. Pat thinks it may well reach the US.
- After the disastrous wildfire in Paradise, CA, there appears to be an increased risk of WNV in the area that was burned out.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks — Potter

- Bonnie revised the document to incorporate Mary-Margaret's suggestions and the ideas from the discussion at our last meeting. It has been sent it to all committee members and we feel it is ready to go out to the membership.

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3.2 IRS and State Tax Audits — Smoker

- Nothing new reported this month.

3.3 Agritourism … How Can We Help Our Members? — All

- No new information this month.

3.4 Follow-up to concern about camelids in BSWI Resource Management Area — Potter

- The GIRCom eBlast went out to AOA members on May 31.

3.5 Follow-up on Transporting Livestock Safely Act — Potter/Merriwether

- Our letter was sent to Bud on May 20. We don't know if it was sent out. Bonnie will email Bud to check on the status.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Direction from Board Based on the updated Strategic Plan — Merriwether.

- Nothing has yet been assigned to GIRCom. The new Board is just being seated.

4.2 Membership Committee suggestion that we maintain a list of camelid veterinarians.

- We responded that this information is already provided by ICI – International Camelid Institute.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: (5/13/19) — Potter/Clappier

- Motion to approve the minutes made by Pat and seconded by Joan. Motion passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Bonnie: Send revised Benchmark spreadsheet to De Monson.
- Bonnie: Remind Mary-Margaret that she is going to talk to farm in WI doing agri-tourism.
- Bonnie: Ask Bud if the letter about transporting livestock safely was sent out.

6.2 Next Meeting Date 7/8/2019 — Potter

6.3 The meeting was adjourned 7:53 pm ET — Potter