Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES October 9, 2023

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger (absent)
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen
Chris Sturgeon (absent)

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley (excused)

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Starting to plan for 2024 National Alpaca Show in Fort Wayne. Margie is looking for suggestions for a keynote speaker for the next National Alpaca Fleece Conference. *Alpacatober* is going on and we are hoping everyone will spread the word. There are discounts on registrations for older alpacas. Have started the budget process. Received great feedback from members who participated in NAFD and Cindy was very helpful to our members. There was discussion about our suggestion of thanking participants.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. Vesicular Stomatitis continues to be reported in California. Many cases of mosquito borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis have been reported in horses. Some disease cases do not get reported in the USAHA news alerts even if they are reported to the State veterinarian. 4000 vet students this year which is the highest number ever. 11 new vet schools are being considered.
  - Pat will be attending USAHA conference which starts on Sunday. He will provide notes after the conference.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 TX/OK Veterinarian Access Issue: Pat hopes to speak with Dr. Schwartz about the CVI issue at the USAHA conference.
- 3.2 Oregon Initiative Petition 2024-003: Pat spoke with the State vet and Head of the Oregon State Veterinary Association. They are all aware of the initiative and are making plans to deal with it if the petitioners obtain sufficient signatures by July 1st to get it on the ballot. The title is misleading … Abuse, Neglect and Assault… Will continue to follow, and discuss additional strategy as needed.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1
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5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 9/11/2023: Bonnie made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Pat. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.

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- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 11/13/2023.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter