Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES March 11, 2019

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoker

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley [absent]

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

Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Merriwether/Huntley

- AOA is focused on Nationals.
- The Strategic Plan summary is posted on the website.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- Swine fever issues continue. Mentioned in China and Viet Nam. Pat is still watching how the US is responding to foreign diseases that have not yet been found in this country.
- Australian researchers have identified a fungus which, when fed to horses, passes into the soil and kills some parasites. It is called BioWorma. They have not yet tried it in sheep, cattle or camelids. An Australian parasitologist says it is working well.
- Topics about antibiotic resistance are still in the news

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks Status — Potter/Merriwether

- Andy reminded the Board that we want to get feedback. The focus has been on Nationals.
- Brion talked about the Benchmark project it at Carolina show. People were interested in it. Brion hopes to get it posted soon so that interested people don't lose interest.

3.2 Farm Bill / ELD eBlast — Potter

- No further information is available.

3.3 IRS and State Tax Audits — Smoker

- Now that we are in 2019 Tax season, Brion does not expect any new audits until at least May.

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3.4 Agritourism … How Can We Help Our Members? Potter/All

- This topic has been deferred to next meeting.
- Pat: Oregon State University is having an Agritourism conference later in March. One of speakers will be Dr. Stephanie Larson of University of CA. She is active in agritourism.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Direction from Board Based on the Updated Strategic Plan? Merriwether.

- Andy missed the last Board meeting due to illness.
- Brion found the summary posted online. He downloaded it and send it to the Committee members

4.2 Recommendation on new Committee Member(s) Potter/All

- AOA put out call for people interested in being on the GIRCpm committee. Four responses were received, which were forwarded to the GIRCom members.
- The Committee discussed the candidates.
- A Motion was made to recommend to the Board that Mary-Margaret Lannon and Tom Petersen be asked to join GIRCom. Pat made the motion, Joan seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

4.3 CA Senate Bill 313 Potter/All

- On February 19, a bill was introduced into the CA Senate by state Senator Ben Hueso. Bud forwarded the information to the Committee. The bill is intended to ban use of wild and exotic animals in traveling acts and is especially aimed at circuses. The problem with the bill from the standpoint of alpaca owners is that the bill defines "wild or exotic animals" to include artiodactyla such as hippopotamuses, giraffes, camels, and llamas, but excluding domesticated cattle, swine, sheep, and goats.
    1. Llamas are livestock, not wild or exotic animals.
    2. The omission of alpacas from either list could easily be interpreted as including alpacas in the wild and exotic animals categoryl.
    3. Alpacas and Llamas are both classified as livestock by the Federal government.

- Bonnie has written a letter in response to the Senator. GIRCom has reviewed and approved the letter explaining the above points and requesting that alpacas and llamas be specifically included in the "livestock" list that is excluded from the bill.

- The committee discussed and agreed that it would be good to have this letter or versions of the information sent to the Senator from the following entities: AOA President, Calpaca President, Cal-ILA President, ILR President. The California and alpaca and llama organizations can also apprise their members of the bill and provide them with verbiage for any California camelid owners who want to contact their own state senators. .

- A Motion was made by Joan and seconded by Pat for Bonnie to send the letter to the AOA President requesting that it be sent to the Senator on behalf of California alpaca owners. The motions passed. AOA may choose to add information about the AOA organization.

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5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: 02-11-2019) Potter/Clappier

A motion to approve the minutes of 2-11-2019 was made by Pat and Joan seconded by . Motion passed.

5.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items Potter

- Bonnie: Send letter about Bill 313 to the AOA President. Also send the information to Presidents or representatives of Calpaca, Cal-ILA and ILR.
- Bonnie: Mention to Bud that, since some members have heard about the benchmark project and are excited about it, it would be appropriate to make it available to the members in a timely manner.
- Bonnie: Look for Stephanie Larson contact info and try to talk to her about agritourism.
- Andy: Let GIRCom know if the BOD provides any direction to GIRCOM based on the Strategic Plan.
- All: Look at copy of strategic plan that Brion sent to us, looking for areas that might be appropriate for GIRCom to work on.
- Bonnie: Send recommendation to Board to ask Mary-Margaret Lannon and Tom Petersen to join the GIRCom committee.

6.2 Next Meeting Date will be: 4/08/2019 or 04/22 at 7:30pm ET. Potter

- A couple of committee members have conflicts on 4/08, our usual date, so Bonnie will check with the incoming new members to see if they are available on 4/22.

6.3 Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm ET. Potter