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

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Deborah Bailey [absent]
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
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 Board is waiting for finalized versions of the strategic plan from the consultants. There will be a "public" version which contains a summary of the key points, and a full length version with details and target numbers. After that is completed, the Board will assign responsibilities for different tasks within the plan.
- AOA is continuing with the planning for Nationals which will be in Denver this year in March.
- AOA is going to add a staff member, which will be a graphic designer. De's workload, which includes marketing and website, is far too much for one person and she will be able to split her load with the new person.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- There was nothing specific to camelids reported.
- The virulent Newcastle disease in chickens continues to be reported in southern CA.
- There has been recent discussion about using probiotics and prebiotics as part of animal health.
- There was some wildfire training done for firefighters on January 20 which included what to do with animals. This is also relevant training for situations like barn fires and vehicle accidents.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks Status — Potter/Merriwether

- Andy reminded the Board that we want to get feedback. .

3.2 Farm Bill / ELD eBlast — Potter

- Bonnie sent the Committee an updated, proposed eBlast to Committee with the web links.
- A motion was made by Pat, seconded by Joan, to send the proposal to the Board to be sent to the membership. Motion passed.

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3.3 IRS and State Tax Audits — Smoker

- Nothing to report this meeting.

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

- Bonnie contacted Jay Reeder, who has extensive information on his website about agritourism. She asked if we can direct people to his website when we have something ready to send to members. He said we certainly can.
- Bonnie is collecting information from various sources about agritourism.
- Pat is looking at some state-level information in OR.
- Next meeting we will work on putting together information from all sources that we have found and start on a draft of an eBlast.

4.0 New Business

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

- The Board is awaiting finalization of strategic plan, as discussed above in section 1.1..

4.2 Possible new Committee Member — Potter

- Bonnie talked to Tom Petersen about joining our Committee and he is interested. Bonnie has asked him to fill out and submit the form for joining a committee. Appointments must be approved by the Board.
- Andy will contact Bud and find out how he wants to proceed, i.e. do we announce an opening to the entire membership.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: 01-14-2019) — Potter/Clappier

A motion to approve the minutes of 01-14-2019 was made by Pat and seconded by Joan. Motion passed.

5.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Bonnie: send Farm Bill/ELD eBlast to Bud and request that it be sent to the membership.
- Everyone: Look for information about agritourism that we can use or reference in our message to the members. Include relevant website links.
- Bonnie: follow-up with Tom on getting form submitted.

6.2 Next Meeting Date will be: 3/11/2019 at 7:30pm ET. — Potter

6.3 Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm ET. — Potter