Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES February 14, 2022

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen

Board Liaison: Wendy Dittbrenner

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm ET.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance

- Membership renewal is in progress and is going well.
- Brion Smoker is doing a zoom call on alpacas and taxes.
- The National Show is being planned with registration open.
- Youth involvement is a current focus.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts

- Nothing with a direct impact on alpacas
- Avian flu is spreading across the US. African Swine fever and Chronic wasting disease in deer being reported on.
- Reports of Covid in other species such as deer but none reported in alpacas.
- 5 cases of rabies in humans (from bats) this past year which is more than usual.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Committee Membership – discuss applicants

- Of the two applicants, one is long time member of AOA who has been involved at all levels of the organization; other is new alpaca owner who is currently on the Membership committee.
- Motion made by Derrick to select Chris Sturgeon for committee; second by Tom. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Our recommendation will be forwarded to AOA Board for action.
- Bonnie will let the applicants know of our decision/recommendation.

3.2 Ideas for Video about GirCom

- Former GirCom member, Brion Smoker, is doing zoom call about taxes.
- Dr. Long's video was very informative and seems to be what people want to learn about.
- Some of the information on the AOA website appears dated but information may still be current.
- Reviewed data provided on what education topics are viewed the most/least. Can use the information to guide our focus and need to think about intended audience.
- Some questions being asked on social media are very surprising.
- We should all look at the documents on the GirCom page and the AOA education pages, with a focus on pages most frequently viewed to see what we think is missing or needs updating with more recent information.
- Need to consider making some of the documents public, such as the GirCom one on What Are Alpacas; consider consolidation of our 3-part series.

3.3 Arizona Livestock Question. A member sent in a request to get assistance in getting alpacas designated as livestock to help with property taxes. Pat spoke with State Veterinarian. Per AZ statute, livestock definition does not include alpacas; needs legislative change. Even at the Federal level they are designated livestock for certain programs, not for all. Important to be a member of Farm Bureau.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Oregon HB 4141 regarding diesel fuel. Issue is air quality concerns. OR desires diesel 2.0 solutions by 2025. Might cause a problem with using your diesel trucks and other vehicles. 13-member task force will be established in Oregon to answer questions. Tom will watch the bill and report back to us.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes of 1/10/22 was made by Tom, seconded by Pat. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items

- GirCom recommendation on committee member to be sent to board and Bonnie will let applicants know of GirCom decision.
- All will review website to see what is missing or needs updating.

6.2 Next Meeting Date: 03/14/2022

6.3 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm ET.