Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES November 12, 2018

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Deborah Bailey [absent]
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoker

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether

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 — Merriwether/Huntley

- Staff is finishing up testing of modifications to the software prior to end-or-year membership renewal. They expect to have it done by Thanksgiving.
- Bud was at the recent New York alpaca show and sold a lot of AOA product. He also spoke at the meeting. Several Board members were present. The show was at a new location and a bit later in the year this year, which may have contributed to the lower registration numbers. There were approximately 300 alpacas entered.
- Bud attended the FFA convention. Some alpaca farms brought alpacas, which brought more attention to the booth. The event lasted 3 days and the AOA booth had a lot of foot traffic.
- Strategic plan: They are working on refining the document via email and will have one more joint meeting to discuss it.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- Newcastle's disease has been seen in CA.
- There are still comments about WNV in KY and OK (not in alpacas).
- A recent study indicates that llama-derived antibodies might be used to improve flu vaccinations.
- CA has passed a proposition to require farmers to provide improved space-per-animal for chickens, pigs, and veal calves. The requirement would also apply to those products being imported into CA from other states.

2.2 USAHA Annual Meeting, October 18-24, Kansas City, MO — Long

- Dr. Pat Long once again attended this meeting representing AOA and the alpaca industry.
- This was the first year that alpacas were included in the Sheep/Goat committee rather than the Bovine committee, so Pat gave the attendees an overview of alpacas in the US plus current status regarding diseases and issues of concern .

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- There was discussion at the meeting about agritourism.
- The plenary session concerned agroterrorism and the potential damage to the US economy and agriculture. Presentations were given about what is being done at the national and state levels to protect against this.
- Other topics included planning for national disasters and minimizing spread of foreign diseases.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks Intro Letter — Smoker

- No response yet from AOA due to focus on strategic planning.

3.2 Education of State/County Officials — Potter

- No response yet from AOA due to focus on strategic planning.

3.3 ELD Mandate/Farm Bill Update — Potter

- Everything was on hold until after elections. There is no indication that there is anything new.

3.4 Member Concern about IRS and State Tax Audits — Potter/Smoker

- Nothing new to report.

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

- Bonnie had a conversation with the National Agricultural Law Center in Arkansas. They have an interactive map on their website where you we can read information per state. www.nationalaglawcenter.org It was last updated end of 2016 and it should be updated again in the next few months. Our next step might be to direct members to the site. We could put together with list of resources.
- Bonnie: Calpaca is resuming doing a Camelid Symposium (not at UC Davis this time). The upcoming one will include Agritourism.
- Pat mentioned the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians as another resource. NASPHV.org
- The Committee decided we will continue doing research and work on a document to members about participating in agritourism.

4.0 New Business

4.1 None at this time.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: 10-8-18) — Potter/Clappier

A motion to approve the minutes of 10-8-2018 was made by Pat and seconded by Joan. Motion passed.

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5.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Bonnie has forwarded Pat's notes from the USAHA meeting to the Committee members.
- Bonnie will follow up with Bud on the open items when he is back in office this week
- All: Talk to our accountants about possibly participating in a discussion of tax aspects of alpaca ownership.
- Research agritourism

6.2 Next Meeting Date will be: 12/10/2018 at 7:30pm ET. — Potter

6.3 Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm ET. — Potter