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

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

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston (absent)

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance Membership renewal is ongoing. Registration open for National Show in March in Denver. Annual audit underway. Evaluating information management system for improvements that are cost effective and would make system easier to manage.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
    - Nothing specific to alpacas. Recall of alfalfa pellets for botulism. Avian influenza still a problem. Looking for covid antibodies in other species. Some cats and horses have tested positive. FDA plans to enforce the veterinarian/client relationship more than they have in the past. Large animal veterinary shortage is on the horizon. This is a concern for alpaca owners. This led to a discussion of current alpaca national herd size, numbers of unregistered alpacas, and how to get more accurate number of alpacas in the national herd from recording those that are unregistered to reporting those who have died. Are we a growing industry? Some associations include non-registered animals in the database and after one or more generations consider them registered. We should discuss ideas on how to increases registrations at our next meeting.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Website education review
    - Derrick will review alpacas and genetics and breeding.
    - Chris will review farm management.
    - Pat is giving another presentation on Alpacas 101.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 Is there a Need for an Education Committee? Discussion of how topics are picked for National Events. Fiber Committee recommends topics for the National Fleece event. This committee has reviewed topics posted on the web and has identified areas that need to be updated and processes that need to be reviewed, but it is not clear that problems we have identified are being fixed. Education seems to be a huge interest of our members and education provides value. Pat made a motion to recommend that an Education Committee be formed; second by Tom. Motion carried.

5.0 Approval of Minutes: Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from 11/14/22; second by Pat. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 2/13/2023.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm EDT.