Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES April 8, 2024

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Dr. Signe Balch
Derrick Letsinger
Tom Petersen
Chris Sturgeon

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 New member Dr. Signe Balch, DVM, DPhil was welcomed. Everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves.

- 1.2 AOA News of Importance: Office is in the process of wrapping up the national show, and they are ramping up for the Fleece Conference being held in Kentucky. Audit showed no discrepancies. Bonnie was asked to write a thank you to Pat Long for the next edition of Alpacas Magazine.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference
  - Nothing specific to alpacas.
  - Avian influenza continues to be a problem and it has been found in dairy cows in several states (TX, KS, MI, NM, ID) and one human case from a dairy cow in TX. It has been seen in other species so we should keep an eye on it.
  - A few cases of Equine Herpes virus in horses continue to be reported.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Transportation eBlast: was published on 3/26/24 and there has been no feedback.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 No new business to discuss. Chris brought up potential new business for discussion at a future meeting with concerns that we are not sufficiently focused on the end-product. Are there product-based business plans? How do we sustain industry and get new people involved? What is the impact on alpaca registrations? Bonnie and Chris will chat to plan focus for a future discussion.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 3/11/2024: Chris made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Tom. Motion carried.
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6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.

- 6.2 The next meeting date will be 5/13/2024.

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- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter