Government and Industry Advisory Committee (GIAC)

Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2014

Meeting: Conference Call—March 26, 2014, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Present: Joan Clappier (Committee Member)
Dr. Pat Long (Committee Member)
Bonnie Potter (Board Liaison)
Darby Vannier (Executive Director)

Absent: Brion Smoker (Committee Member)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. EDT by Bonnie.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance to GIAC (B. Potter, D. Vannier):

AOBA and ARI members voted to merge the two associations. AOBA merged into ARI and the new organization is Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. The new board met face-to-face in January and agreed that GIAC is an important committee to retain. Bonnie will continue to be the board liaison.

There was a good turnout at the Nationals show in March, held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It was the largest show in approximately five years. The annual meeting was held at Nationals. Video of the annual meeting is on the AOA website.

The transition to a merged organization is proceeding. Biggest problem is that some members wanting everything done immediately. High priority is getting a combined website up and running.

AOBA office lease is through June, then some of the current staff will be moving to a smaller office in Nashville. The phone system is now interconnected so members call a single number and may talk to either Nashville or Lincoln.

2.0 Industry Related

2.1 Large Alpaca Rescue in Oregon (P. Long):

All of the surviving animals have been re-homed and all of the males have been gelded. With aging owners and aging animals, this situation is likely to recur.

Darby: AOA is working on putting together information about successful alpaca owners to show that situations such as the Oregon farm are the exceptions and not widespread.

Related to all of this will be the topic of end-of-life options. GIAC is likely to be involved. Darby thinks we may want to be working in some manner with The Alpaca Coalition of America.

3.0 Health Related

3.1 USAHA Alerts (P. Long, B. Potter):

MERS is still a problem in middle eastern camels, and there appears to be a link between camels and humans. They think it is a beta coronavirus. Problem we had in the U.S. a few years ago was an alpha coronavirus.

Mosquito transmitted diseases haven't picked up yet—too early in the season.

A number of eagle deaths in CO were due to WNV.

The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act was successfully passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday afternoon where Rep. Pitts (PA-16) made an incredibly nice statement about the legislation. The bill currently has 178 cosponsors. We are hopeful that the legislation will soon be considered by the entire House. It is our understanding that the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee will come to an agreement so that when the House passes HR 1528, the bill can go to the President. If the Mobility act is passed, mobile veterinarians will be allowed to carry controlled substances on their truck beyond what they actually have scheduled for that day. This is critical to the ability of the vets to handle unexpected or emergency situations.

Dr. Chris Cebra was named endowed professor of camelid medicine at OSU. This is the first camelid endowed chair in the U.S.

4.0 Government Related

4.1 On hold until next month because Brion Smoker was traveling and unable to participate in the call.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Recognition of Fred Obenchain's Contributions to GIRCom and Industry. (B. Potter):

Fred was selected for the Shining Star Award, which was presented to his wife, BJ, at Nationals.

5.2 Committee Chair / New Members (B. Potter):

The Board has some suggestions and is working on appointing two new members to GIAC.

5.3 eBlast Regarding "Livestock" Citation in Farm Bill (B. Potter):

Bonnie will prepare an email for the committee's review.

6.0 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 20, 2013, meeting were approved.

7.0 Meeting Wrap

7.1 Review Action Items:

Bonnie: Send Alpaca Culture article to committee members.

7.2 Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held April 23, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. EDT.

7.3 Recommendations:

Pat recommends that we remind people in tornado country about safety precautions and put out reminder information when WNV season starts.

7.4 Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. EDT.