

Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 5, 2008

The Florida SART Advisory Board (also referred to as the Board) was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Wednesday March 5, 2008 at the Marion County 4-H Farm, 5151 SE 58th Ave., Ocala, FL 34480-7459.

Present:

- Tim Manning, USDA, FSA
- Joan Dusky, Associate Dean, Extension UF/IFAS
- Tom Holt, State Veterinarian, FDACS
- Greg Christy, FDACS
- David Perry, FDACS
- Art Johnstone, FDACS
- John Haven, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF
- Jiannong Xin, UF/IFAS
- Susan Loerzel, USDA-APHIS-VS
- Laura Bevan, SE Director, Humane Society of the US
- Raquel Aluisy, United Animal Nations EARS
- Rick Sapp, Florida SART Sentinel
- Linda Harrison, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission/LE
- Jon Barber, Florida Agricultural Center/Horse Park
- Amanda House, Equine Extension Veterinarian, UF/IFAS
- John Hasse, Veterinarian, Sarasota
- Debbie Hasse, Veterinarian, Sarasota
- Heather Case, AVMA Emergency Program Coordinator

NOTE: A 30-minute recess was taken to tour the training-response site.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Incident Command Training
 - a. John Haven and David Perry reported that they were no longer giving IS 100, 200 and 700. So many people are taking these courses on line that there is no demand for a live class. IS 300 classes, however, are scheduled for the summer and they have had good response so far.
- B. Veterinary Medical Corps
 - a. John Haven reported that more than 60 veterinarians and vet techs had joined the Vet Med Corps, and that all but a couple of them responded to a recent email alert, and most are available for emergency deployment.
 - b. John noted that a student organization designed to supplement the Vet Corps and SART efforts had been formed at the College of Veterinary Medicine/UF. It now has about a dozen students.
- C. Training Database

- a. Art Johnstone noted that his office was developing a database of individuals who had completed IS courses so that they could be up-to-date on volunteer background and capabilities.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2009 Florida SART Conference
 - a. Tim Manning reviewed the groundwork that is being laid for the 2009 Florida SART Conference. Per state guidelines, it must be held in a “green hotel/conference center.”
 - b. Several hotels in the Cocoa area are being visited by members of the Site Selection Committee.
 - c. Tentatively looking at a March/April time-frame.
 - d. A contract has been signed with Meeting Makers to assist with the conference. This is the group that helped with the 2007 Conference in St. Petersburg Beach.
- B. 2009 Governor’s Hurricane Conference
 - a. Tim Manning noted that 3 ½ hours had been set aside for SART at the 2008 Governor’s Hurricane Conference (May 12-16; Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center).
- C. Training Event After-Action Report
 - a. Joan Dusky discussed some of the lessons learned from the three-day “planned-exercise/training event” at the 4-H farm and noted continuing efforts in planning and reporting in the ICP in preparation for deployment during or in response to an actual disaster. Because SART people tend to be “hands on,” sometimes the paperwork is neglected in the rush to get busy getting things done. Need ways to measure accountability and results written into event guidelines.
 - b. Joan Dusky noted that internal communications were very good in the ICP team and that many observers were on hand. She noted several violations relating to safety issues.
 - c. Joan will be compiling the training event after-action-report and asked that anyone who has comments or recommendations to forward them to her.
 - d. Art Johnstone suggested that tighter operations were required but that otherwise, the event got an A+ on getting the job done. Now the paperwork area needs to be strengthened as this would reduce the possibility of a miscellaneous follow-up lawsuit.
 - e. David Perry noted that the event generated media through the Ocala Star-Banner. This helps get the SART name and its objectives out to the general public.
- D. SART Funding
 - Greg Christy, recently returned to FDACS following a year with DHS in Washington, D.C. reported on the funding future. Please see attached for his extended comments.
- E. Small Group Task Force

- a. Joan Dusky passed out the “to-date” draft results of a small group effort to help focus the SART mission and goals. There is a critical need to move county-level SART organizations forward. Those are reported below:

SART Mission: SART is a multi-agency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to strengthening all-hazard disaster capabilities through partnerships. State preparedness, mitigation, planning, response and recovery will be enhanced through collaborative efforts that ensure the safety and health of our food systems, agricultural industries, animal industries/companion animal and Florida’s economy.

SART Goals:

- Facilitate a safe, environmentally sound and efficient response to agricultural/animal emergencies on the local, county, state and federal level.
- Promote the active participation of each county emergency management coordinator to fully embrace SART for the protection of food systems, agricultural industries, animal industries/companion animal and Florida’s economy.
- Promote the establishment of a County SART through the coordinated effort of the County Emergency Manager, the ESF 17 coordinator, the County Extension Director/representative and the County USDA FSA representative.
- Promote and maintain consistent interagency communication.
- Provide training events for SART and its partners in the food systems industries, agricultural industries, and animal industries/companion animal.
- Identify county, state, federal and NGO resources available for emergencies or disasters by conducting assessment of resources.
- Work to support and comply with the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Plan.
- Develop and maintain appropriate response and assessment team capability for all hazard disasters concerning food systems, agricultural industries, animal industries/companion animal.

- b. Greg Christy noted that SART would need to learn about the developments in US Citizen Corps, also.

F. American Veterinary Medical Association

- a. Heather Case, Emergency Program Coordinator reviewed the AVMA: 85 percent of its 76,000 members are practicing veterinarians.
- b. They are dedicated to all-hazard, all-species disaster relief for animals.

Tim Manning thanked Marion County 4-H for the use of their facilities. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Comments by FDAC's Greg Christy at SART Advisory Board Meeting.

1. 2008 FEMA Grants and Training (FEMA G & T) Highlights

Florida SART is primarily funded via FEMA G & T funding, specifically the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). In 2008, FEMA G & T state funding will favor three objectives:

- A.** Measuring progress in achieving the National Preparedness Guidelines
- B.** Strengthening improvised explosive device (IED) attack deterrence, prevention, and protection capabilities and
- C.** Strengthening preparedness planning.

Per the implementing recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 and FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2008 FEMA G & T funding will not contain a separate line-item Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP).

States are required to ensure that at least 25 % of their SHSP award funds are dedicated towards law enforcement issues.

SART should look to partner with law enforcement agencies for programs of mutual interest in order to leverage funding opportunities.

State FEMA G & T applications must be completed by May 1, 2008. FEMA G & T state allocation announcements will be made July 30, 2008.

SHSP Funding FY 2007 was \$509,250,000, and for FY 2008 is \$869,925,000. The 360,675,000 increase is primarily due to the incorporation of the LETPP into the SHSP.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hsgp/index.shtm#1>

2. DHS National Response Framework (NRF) Update

As the successor to the National Response Plan (NRP), NRF becomes effective on March 22, 2008. At 79 pages without annexes (vs. 279 pages formerly), the NRF is streamlined.

NRF is an overview document intended for senior elected and appointed leaders, focusing on response and short-term recovery. It is not intended to be a CONOPS or SOP providing detailed information on federal response efforts for all incidents of all hazards.

Note that in the NRF, Federal ESF11 is responsible for coordinating federal response activities for pet issues. The lead agency will be USDA/APHIS/Animal Care.

Additional information can be found at the NRF Resource Center at:

www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf/

3. PETS Act funding guidance has been published.

The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act) amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

This Act requires FEMA to ensure that state and local emergency plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during and following an emergency or major disaster.

Funding will be available during an incident that has received a Presidential Emergency Declaration and where FEMA is involved.

Funding appears to cover most emergency pet-related issues associated with their owners and will be of great benefit to our state and local emergency pet-related response efforts.

Funding should fall under FEMA Public Assistance, Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) although I did hear that a separate category dedicated to PETS Act reimbursement may be developed.

Specific information can be found at:

http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/9523_19.shtm