

Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 3, 2008

The Florida SART Advisory Board (also referred to as the Board) was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Wednesday December 3, 2008 at the offices of the USDA, 8100 NW 15th Place, Gainesville, FL 32606-9137 (352) 313-3060.

Present: Tim Manning, USDA-FSA
Susan Loerzel, USDA-APHIS
Bernice Constantin, USDA-APHIS
Brian Benson, FDACS
Greg Christy, FDACS
Dale Dubberly, FDACS
Steve Hildebrandt, FDACS
Art Johnstone, FDACS
Joe Kight, FDACS-ESF 17
Richard Miranda, FDACS
David Perry, FDACS
John Terry, FDACS
Linda Harrison, FWCC-LE
Paul Gibbs, UF
Amanda Hodges, UF
Jiannong Xin, UF
Bill Armstrong, FACA
Terry Clekis, FVMA
Laura Bevan, SE Director, HSUS
Jan Hasse, Veterinarian, Sarasota
Elizabeth Serca, TVMA/SART (Texas)
Rick Sapp, SART Sentinel

I. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Review and acceptance of minutes from March 5, 2008.
Joe Kight moves to accept; Laura Bevan seconds. The minutes were approved as submitted. These meeting minutes are available on-line through the SART web site at www.flsart.org/SART/memberdoc/minutes03-05-08.pdf.
- B. Tim Manning summarized the SART member survey from Advisory Board member Joan Dusky, Associate Dean for Extension, UF-IFAS. Sixteen responses were received.

- a. Regarding the subject of SART meetings, two points elicited significant discussion:
 - i. while Gainesville is central to North Florida, its location may be prohibitive for SART member attendance from South Florida or from the Panhandle west of Tallahassee, as attendance by members from those areas involves long drives and perhaps overnights. The board will thus consider alternating meetings at the USDA Office in Kissimmee and
 - ii. attendees expressed views that the rising cost of travel and across-the-board budget constrictions pointed toward the need to explore video conferencing, at least to alternate electronic and face-to-face meetings.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. SART members were urged to review and update contact information on the SART web site at www.flsart.org/SART/ajaxviewmember?pageID=0.
- B. Greg Christy reminded SART members to keep SART's four goals in mind: all-hazard preparedness, planning, response and recovery for the animal and agricultural sectors in the state of Florida.
- C. Art Johnstone reviewed provisional funding levels for SART's immediate future.
 - a. Approximately \$344,000 is budgeted this year and \$279,000 for next year. This includes designated funds for such activities as conference development and grants for associated groups such as the Vet Corps. The SART message has been aggressively delivered and of 25 high priority state-wide issues discussed for Homeland Security funding, SART efforts ranked at #3.
 - b. This level of funding should allow the three-year hire of a SART planner who will work in the Tallahassee office of FDACS' Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness. A position for a Food & Agriculture Planner has also been approved.
 - c. Assistance is needed at the state level for developing a formal state-wide Animal Response Plan and a model Regional Plan for each of the seven Florida regions. Following the planning phase, which is expected to take about 18 months, there an additional 18-month phase is needed to take the plans into local jurisdictions and assist their development.
- D. Art Johnstone noted that about 400 Floridians had so far taken the AR-151 course (Understanding the Dangers of Agroterrorism) developed by the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, University of California-Davis. At this time, he is finalizing details for nine additional AR-151 courses in Florida during 2009. Information and registration will be posted as soon as they become available.

- E. Joe Kight noted that mobile animal response equipment caches – a 16-foot steel trailer stocked with small animal response necessities – had been purchased for each of the seven Florida regions. FDACS maintains ownership of the equipment, and the regions’ responsibility is to store it out of the weather...and, of course, use it effectively in response situations. Appropriate MOUs (memorandums of understanding) have been developed with counties in the regions.

- F. Joe Kight noted that his office had met with county emergency planners – in every county except Seminole and Broward – to discuss pet sheltering and evacuation, and the thrust of the ESF-17 mission. At this time, only seven-to-eight of Florida’s 67 counties have effective pet sheltering programs and that perhaps the most consistent approach to emergency planning might be through the county agricultural extension offices.
He noted that while most pet friendly shelters in Florida were planned for school buildings, local independent school boards were often reluctant to allow such a use, even in an emergency.
FDACS has looked at the feasibility of portable sheltering units at a cost of about \$30,000 each. Each of the mobile units contains 48 animal crates and is designed to tie down in high wind situations.

- G. Joe Kight noted that a Training Exercise in agricultural and animal assessment following a disaster has tentatively been scheduled for the week of June 15, 2009 at the Palm Beach County Fairground: traveling on Monday and Friday gives participants three days for the training and follow-up evaluations. At this time, this should only be penciled into 2009 schedules as a significant amount of pre-planning and discussion still needs to be done before the exercise is a definite “go.”

III. JOE KIGHT – 2009 SART CONFERENCE

- A. Joe Kight noted that the 2009 Florida SART Conference will be held March 25-27 at the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach and that registration is available on-line and can be accessed through the home page of the SART web site at www.flsart.org. At this time, 80 percent of speakers are confirmed, but because finding for travel is tighter, the agenda has been developed in modular form to allow attendees to arrive and depart as necessary.

- B. Because a primary thrust of the SART effort in Florida is to move the locus of activity from the state to the county level, a number of incentives are available for counties, wherein FDACS can pay registration and defray part of the lodging. Counties are encouraged to contact Joe Kight by email (kightj@doacs.state.fl.us) or by phone (850) 410-0920 to ask about participation incentives.

C. Extended Conference Agenda

- a. Wednesday, March 25
 - i. Morning: registration and possible Agroterrorism Training session on-site
 - ii. 1:00 Welcome (Tim Manning, Co-chair, USDA-FSA)
 - iii. 1:30 Florida Animal Control Assn. (Craig Engelson, Brevard Co. Animal Services)
 - iv. 2:15 FEMA ESF-11 (Chambless and Carter-Corker)
 - v. 3:30 Citizen Corps (Penny Burke, Citizen Corps)
 - vi. 4:15 AgroTerrorism (Steve Goldsmith, FBI)
- b. Thursday, March 26
 - i. 8:00 Agriculture Economic Impact of Emergencies (Alan Hodges and Edward Evans, IFAS)
 - ii. 9:00 Livestock Industry Concerns (Ashby Green, NCBA; Dee Ellis, Texas Animal Health Comm.)
 - iii. 10:30 Bio-Security: Home, Ranch, Field (Matt Hersom, IFAS)
 - iv. 11:30 Awards Luncheon (Tim Manning, Host; Sheryl Maddux, USDA; Joan Dusky, IFAS)
 - v. 1:00 County ESF-17 (Bill Armstrong, Moderator; Sara Pizano, Dade Co.; Richard Ziegler, Leon Co.)
 - vi. 2:00 Pet-Friendly Evacuation Sheltering (Joe Kight, Moderator; Mike Whitehead, ECO ESF-6; Rene Seagraves, Lake County)
 - vii. 3:30 Florida Vet Corps (Greg Christy, FDACS; John Haven, UF Veterinary Medicine)
 - viii. 4:30 SART/CART (David Perry, Moderator; Terry Spencer, Pasco Co.; Paul Studivant, St. Johns Co.; Dianne Sauve, Palm Beach Co.)
- c. Friday, March 27
 - i. 8:00 Beware of the Bees (Jamie Ellis, IFAS)
 - ii. HAZMAT Training (Tentative: John Haven)
 - iii. Noon Adjournment (Tim Manning, USDA-FSA)

IV. LIZ SERCA – LEARNING FROM THE TEXAS EXPERIENCE & EXAMPLE

- A. Elizabeth “Liz” Serca, formerly Liz Wang, who is now with the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, was lead coordinator for the small animal response during the 2008 hurricane season in Texas. This season included Dolly, Edouard, Gustav and Ike.

Serca spoke and gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining that the structure of Texas’ planning, preparation, response and recovery was vastly different than that in Florida. That in Texas, each of the 254 counties is more of an independent jurisdiction overseen by a county judge.

- B. Because of the intricacy of Serca's presentation, several agenda items were postponed for the next SART Advisory Board meeting. They were:
 - a. Hurricane Ike Response in Texas (David Perry, FDACS)
 - b. The FADD Exercise (Greg Christy, FDACS and Paul Gibbs, UF)

- C. Serca's PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Tim Manning thanked USDA for the use of their new facilities and noted that a group meeting with John Haven would soon bring the results of their strategic planning efforts to the Advisory Board for review and consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Following adjournment, box lunches were served to those remaining (and those arriving) for the AR-151 course Understanding the Dangers of Agroterrorism developed by the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, University of California-Davis. The course was presented by Art Johnstone, FDACS; and freelance trainers/consultants Eugene Field of Illinois and Elizabeth Arledge of Tallahassee, Florida.