



Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Alachua Regional Service Center, 14101 Hwy. 441, Alachua, Florida

Attendance

Laura Bevan, HSUS/Florida SARC
Dale Dubberly, FDACS/AES
Mark Cunningham, FWCC
Joan Dusky, UF/IFAS
John Haven, UF/CVM
Art Johnstone, Volunteer Florida
Joe Kight, FDACS/DAI, ESF-17/ECO
Larry Mack, Florida Feed Association

David Perry, FDACS/DAI, Co-Chair
Sue Rantuccio, FDACS/AgLaw
Rick Sapp, SART Sentinel
Susan Smith, FAKC
Paul Studivant, FACA
John Terry, FDACS/AgLaw
Chris Young, USDA/APHIS

The Advisory Board for Florida SART convened on November 5th at the FDACS Regional Service Center in Alachua. Joe Kight, FDACS/DAI – ESF-17 ECO opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

- 1 Dale Dubberly, FDACS/AES, spoke about current and future training events within his division. He specifically mentioned a January training in Ocala – use of the SART web site and use of “Constellation” in emergencies – and a March event in Panama City which will include the above and a human case of West Nile virus. These are possible now because of the lack of Tropical Storms or Hurricanes impacting Florida this year, which means that his agency has not had to respond so aggressively in mosquito control (as it did, for instance, in 2012). He also talked briefly about governmental reorganization of agricultural agencies at federal and state levels and his agency name change to the Bureau of Field Inspection and Incident Response.
- 2 Dr. Chris Young, USDA/APHIS, introduced himself (his office is near Atlanta in Conyers, Georgia) and discussed the reorganization of USDA and how it would affect coordination with SART and area emergency planning and response. Florida is now in District 2, which has “the highest likelihood probably of emergency activities and the greatest risk of foreign animal diseases” in the U.S.

- 3] David Perry, FDACS/DAI – SART Co-Chair – reviewed ESF-17 county visits, specifically why these visits are scheduled with each county and why they are important: individuals take new jobs, organizations change, people forget and skills (especially those rarely used) need to be sharpened. He took note of a general shift from the initial emphasis on small and companion animals toward larger and agricultural animals. He also mentioned that ESF-17 was the only state ESF that visits the counties.
- 4] Dr. Joan Dusky, UF/IFAS – SART Co-Chair, discussed two new certificate courses soon to be in development. The first is a follow-up operations-level to the current awareness-level pet/companion animal sheltering course. The second is a multi-day introduction to animal husbandry specifically for law enforcement and related professions. The new courses will complement the two that are already completed and being taught: small animal sheltering and large animal technical rescue.
- 5] Art Johnstone, COO – Volunteer Florida (directing ESF-15) and seasoned FEMA trainer, discussed training courses and his new position with Volunteer Florida. It is time to develop training beyond the basic awareness levels, he said, but noted that more than 4,000 people in Florida had been through agro-terrorism courses. After a training slump due to inconsistencies in funding in 2012, 21 courses had already been taught in Florida. Art is reducing his personal training role. He noted that he had hired former SART Planner Mike Turner.
- 6] John Haven, Director, UF/CVM, reviewed the numerous training and educational opportunities that he is involved in during the next year, especially in the equine and large animal field. The biggest user of TLAER thus far has been Lee County – 10 rescues in one year. He discussed the April 12/13, 2014 exercise which will take place in Lee County and at which 80-100 participants are expected: Saturday (review and discuss plans) and Sunday (test new plans).
- 7] Joe Kight, FDACS/DAI – ESF-17 ECO, led a discussion about the state of radiological decontamination of animals in which much is speculated, but little is known as scientific fact and therefore procedures and best practices are still heavily debated. (John Haven noted that it has taken 3 people, 400 gallons of water and several hours of work to decontaminate one horse.) He mentioned the February 7, 2014 radiological exercise in Key Largo which will involve people and animals. Decontamination and follow-up sheltering are the next step beyond quarantine.
- The next SART Planning Meeting is set for January 12-14, 2015. It will be held at the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee. The negotiated room rate is \$123 per night. There is plenty of parking for large trucks and such things as reception, breakfast and training/lecture space are very good. The format is the familiar Noon Monday – Noon Wednesday.
- 8] SART Partners:
Laura Bevan representing SARC noted that 1,130 people had been trained in 41 awareness-level pet sheltering classes in Florida.

Dr. Mark Cunningham, FWC, talked about a radiological event and its effect on wild animals; and FWC's continuing surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) among Florida whitetail deer herds.

Rick Sapp
November 7, 2013