

SART Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2007

The SART Advisory Board (also referred to as the Board) Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m., September 12, 2007, in the Florida Farm Bureau, Conference Room, Gainesville, Florida.

Persons Present: Amanda Hodges, SPD Co-Associate Director, UF
Joan Dusky, Associate Dean, Extension UF/IFAS
John Haven, Director of College of Veterinarian Medicine, UF
Art Johnstone, DACS
Suzan Loerzel, USDA-APHIS-VS
Jiannong Xin, UF/IFAS
Laura Bevan, SE Director, The Humane Society of the US
Bill Armstrong, Hillsborough County Animal Services
Rick Sapp, The SART Sentinel
Joe Kight, Florida Department of Agriculture
Thomas J. Holt, Florida Department of Agriculture
Tricia Lutman, Program Technician, Farm Service Agency

I. Old Business

A. Review and acceptance of minutes from December 6, 2006.

1. Joan Dusky announced that minutes from previous meeting were available online at www.flkart.org for further review.
2. Joe Kight announced that the minutes had been accepted as written.

B. Committee Reports

1. Animal Tracking – John Haven

John Haven – Animal Tracking needs to have a set of standards established using one platform for convenience. Several companies have the technology available but the cost is very high. There is a possibility of attaining a grant to purchase this technology however Mr. Haven does not want to go through the process of attaining a grant and purchasing equipment if the technology will not be utilized long-term or have the ability to migrate data from different software used by different locations. Mr. Haven asked for advice/guidance from the Board.

Laura Bevan – UPS assisted in Louisiana after Katrina with tracking administratively. Ms. Bevan suggested that the Board contact UPS and ask to share ideas, etc instead of trying to reinvent the wheel. Ms. Bevan has heard that something may be in the works to do this already and will try to find out more information. Asks Bill Armstrong if Hillsborough County has something like this in place at the present time.

Bill Armstrong – Hillsborough County does have something similar to this in place however the problem lies in differing software and the migration of data from one software to another.

John Haven – The use of handhelds for assessment, operating independently, would cut down on data processing time.

Laura Bevan – Handhelds are a great idea however hundreds of units would be needed.

John Haven – Would a contract to do this for us with UPS or FedEx be a possibility? Another option is U.S.A.R. which may already be purchasing this equipment and utilizing this type of system. Why not share this equipment and lower our costs.

Joe Kight – Asked Ms. Bevan to check within the next two weeks about information regarding UPS. If we can't go with the UPS system the Board needs to pursue other options.

2. Communications – Bill Armstrong

Bill Armstrong – Recommends to the Board to build a matrix so individual Agencies can post equipment available for use. The matrix would allow other Agencies to see/request equipment available in times of emergency. This tool could allow Agencies to make conclusions and recommendations.

Joe Kight – The matrix needs to include typing so that other Agencies will know what the equipment can be used for exactly.

Joan Dusky – Make sure the matrix is easy-to-fill so the Agencies will want to fill it out.

Laura Bevan – Make sure to include emergency sheltering. Equipment should be tackled first.

Suzan Loerzel – The matrix should be worked from the ground up. Categories should be broken down into equipment per its capabilities.

John Haven – Who will be establishing the fields of entry?

Bill Armstrong – Offers to start a list to circulate.

Laura Bevan – Recommends a taskforce be implemented to establish categories.

Joe Kight – Asks John to head this up.

The committee will be John Haven, Laura Bevan, David Perry, and Bill Armstrong.

Joan Dusky – Make sure the matrix goes beyond and equipment to remember what is needed for the animals.

Laura Bevan – The matrix should include what the Agencies have and what they are willing to share.

Bill Armstrong – This could be used as a bargaining tool.

John Haven – Directives from the Governor may require sharing regardless. Make sure to have figures/cost of what it will take for equipment/personnel that is shared so FEMA will reimburse.

Art Johnstone – As part of this funding train the counties to look more towards the regional level rather than the state level. Start organizing it this way from the beginning.

3. 2007 Conference Comments – Joe Kight

Joe Kight – The Conference went well. There were approximately 225 attendees. A lot of effort went into the conference.

Laura Bevan – A conference should be held annually.

Joe Kight – Suggested not doing a conference of that magnitude annually but rather bi-annually. Let's organize a committee to start preparing for next year's conference.

The committee will be Laura Bevan, Joan Dusky, Joe Kight, and Raquel Aluisy.

Joe Kight – The Governor’s Conference is a good opportunity to do an off-year SART meeting gearing towards non-members who not normally attend the Bi-Annual Conference. In lieu of the annual conference the Board could host several meetings of a smaller scale at different locations throughout the state.

Laura Bevan – These meetings could be held for an entire day discussing key points relating to that particular area in time of emergency or the Board could choose a specific topic to discuss during that day. On May 12, 2008, the Hurricane Conference will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. At this conference the Board can squeeze in two 2-hour workshops highlighting key issues and offer an in-depth overview of SART. This is a good opportunity to meet people and network.

Joan Dusky – Be sure to emphasize that SART is not just about animals.

Joe Kight – The Hurricane Conference is a great opportunity for training and to let people know what SART really is. This will allow County Officials to realize what SART is and can do for them.

II. New Business

A. Vet Corps – John Haven

John Haven – Attended the FVMA Annual Meeting with 700 Veterinarians and Technicians present. Thirty-five to forty veterinarians signed up for Vet Corps during this Meeting. The goal of Vet Corps is to utilize veterinarians during times of need (disaster and disease outbreak) due to the fact that resources at the University of Florida and DACS are limited. The Vet Corps will allow the all the veterinarians to operate under one umbrella instead of in individualized groups. Vet Corps will have further trainings, including Hazmat Awareness October 26, 2007, at the University of Florida and two equine technical rescue classes scheduled in January and February (exact dates will be determined at a later date). The equine technical rescue classes are reserved for licensed veterinarians and technicians only at this time. Vet Corps will also advertise to build membership. The one issue facing Vet Corps is that each county has a membership similar to Vet Corps for emergency response. Many veterinarians stated they were already members at the county level so they did not want to join Vet Corps. The Board needs to look into the possibility of combining databases so the county response

teams can be utilized at the state level. If any Board member knows of a veterinarian who would be interested in joining Vet Corps please have them contact Mr. Haven or Mr. Kight. Packets and Applications were provided at the Board meeting.

B. Domestic Security Planning – Art Johnstone

Art Johnstone – Prepared a GAP Analysis and will send out to the Board. Mr. Johnstone has requested one planner for 3 years rather than two at this time. If had a choice Mr. Johnstone would rather have a food planner first. At some point, Mr. Johnstone would like to see SART having a full-time planner of its own.

A question at this time is how do we get the money out to each individual county? It looks like the money will be distributed \$10,000 per the seven regions in Florida.

Each county has eight votes so it is important to make contact with the committees to encourage spending on SART. This year SART is asking for more monetary support to operate however funding is usually allocated towards law enforcement services.

John Haven – Has the opportunity to send a letter to the regional committee for an audience with them.

Art Johnstone – Planning on speaking at the meeting covering the Tampa Bay area.

There are seven U.S.A.R. teams in the state (one per region). Homeland Security has included animal rescue in U.S.A.R. Mr. Johnstone (DACs) has asked that two animal experts be added to the U.S.A.R. teams.

Bill Armstrong – Hillsborough County already has this integrated at the county level at this time.

Art Johnstone – Hillsborough County will be a good point of reference for DACs to use for this purpose.

Mr. Johnstone suggests that the Board changes the name from ‘Response’ to ‘Resources’. The state needs to develop a response plan

Laura Bevan – The Board needs to make inclusion for companion animals. Maybe in the name have ‘Agriculture/Animal’ rather than just ‘Agriculture’.

Joan Dusky – The Board needs to convince Emergency Managers to start operating at the EOC level.

Suzan Loerzel – Attended a training seminar called the Florida Catastrophic Planning Workshop. The scenario was a category 5 hurricane hitting the Miami coast spinning off tornadoes that break the dike in Okeechobee. The meeting was intended for public health reasons but officials realized that focus should also be on agriculture and animals as well.

Joan Dusky – This scenario is unrealistic because there would be limited transportation because of flooding.

C. FEMA Animal Emergency Response Titles – Joe Kight

Joe Kight - The National Response Framework Draft gives a lot of wanted flexibility for titles. The Draft is still in the 30-day comment period. If anyone on the Board would like a copy please request link from Mr. Kight.

The Division of Emergency Management has granted \$25,000 to develop training on pet friendly sheltering and sheltering pets in emergencies. Currently this is in the request for proposal stage.

Monroe County needs assistance for obtaining pet friendly sheltering areas during emergencies. Asked Ms. Loerzel to check on export center at airport.

III. Final Comments – Joe Kight

The next meeting will be held December 5, 2007. The location is to be determined at a later date. Mr. Armstrong offers Hillsborough County as a possible meeting location for this meeting.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.