

Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting

June 03, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Florida IFAS Extension offices via the IFSA Polycom meeting system

2:00 p.m. Welcome – Tim Manning

The USDA's Tim Manning (tim.manning@fl.usda.gov) in Gainesville called to order at 2:00 p.m. Minutes of the last meeting we motioned for approval, seconded by DOACS' Joe Kight in Tallahassee, and approved without objection or revisions. These minutes are on line at www.flkart.org/SART/memberdoc/minutes12-03-08.pdf.

DOACS' Michael Turner (turnerm@doacs.state.fl.us) was introduced by Joe Kight (kightj@doacs.state.fl.us) and Tim Manning to the SART Advisory Board as a new contract planner. Turner was hired in March as a contract planner through Art Johnstone's Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness (johnsta@doacs.state.fl.us).

“My time will be split between the Capitol, working on domestic security planning, and Animal Industry in the FDACS Mayo Building assisting with SART organizational planning. This includes the creation of guidance and organizational documents for the future of SART, as well as a big push on technology enhancements to the SART website. Additionally, I'll work on developing standard operating procedures for ESF-17 activation at the state emergency operation center.”

H1N1 (swine flu) Report

Presentation by DOH/EH Medical Epidemiologist Danielle Stanek, DVM (850-294-1087 Danielle.Stanek@doh.state.fl.us):

“...a review of the FL DOH surveillance and response to novel H1N1 using the ICS system. DOH first used the ICS structure internally before transitioning to response in ESF-8 (Health & Medical), and then finally to SERT.

“Challenges included shifting back and forth from day-to-day chain of command to ICS while maintaining routine day-to-day operations, staying on top of a large volume of changing guidance, and responding to a large volume of inquiries from the public.

“The ICS structure may need to be tweaked in future events to facilitate maintenance of chain of command for emergency response and regular day-to-day operations at the same time. Using ICS structure improved information flow, with regular and less repetitive updates. Having an 800 number for the public, and a central web page greatly assisted with handling calls from the public, the “worried well.”

Flooding: what we learned

Presentations by Madison & Hamilton County.

Exotic Animal Permits: the FWC emergency plan

Presentation by FWC's Capt. Linda Harrison (linda.harrison@myfwc.com).

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) licenses and monitors ownership of exotic species. In an on line letter, FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto notes that although certain sanctuaries are allowed to keep primates (chimpanzees, monkeys, baboons, etc.), for example, Florida banned their possession as personal pets in 1980. Nineteen other states and the District of Columbia have similar laws on the books.

Nevertheless, Barreto says there are still many exotic pets in this state, particularly in Southwest Florida. A handful of people who owned Class One (potentially very dangerous) animals before the prohibiting law took effect still have permits for pet chimpanzees, or tigers, lions and other potentially dangerous. As the pets die, however, the state revokes the licenses to possess such animals.

Barreto reminds people to be cautious around wild animals and to do their homework regarding state regulations.

People can go to the FWC web site www.myfwc.com and click on "Ask FWC" to learn more about regulations governing Class One animals and other captive wildlife. "Those who live in the same neighborhoods as captive chimpanzees, lions or other potentially dangerous animals," Barreto says, "should make sure the owners' permits are in order."

http://myfwc.com/Newsroom/09/statewide/News_09_X_PrimateLetter.htm

General regulations governing possession of captive wildlife can be found on the Web at: http://myfwc.com/RULESANDREGS/Rules_Captive_index.htm.

Veterinary lunchtime training

FDACS Dr. Greg Christy (christg@doacs.state.fl.us) is talking with UF's Dr. Paul Gibbs (pgibbs@ufl.edu) to develop a "Lunch and Learn" series on a Web-type program that Vets could take during their lunch hour. (IFAS' Joan Dusky (jadu@ufl.edu) said "Lunch and Learn" was already copyrighted.)

SART Membership Application Proposal

Joe Kight introduced an example of a new SART member application. It was sent to all SART Board Members. Joe asked that comments be sent to Michael Turner (turnerm@doacs.state.fl.us).

"The DRAFT SART Application will eventually be used on line when registering new members on the ListServe," says FDACS Michael Turner. "Currently members are approved with only a general interest and an email address required. We want to capture additional information so we may provide better information to a wide array of people coming to and subscribing to the SART email list. "Once we have this information, we should be able to more efficiently direct folks to local sources: i.e., local animal rescue groups, shelter information, their humane society, or other names/contacts based on their geographic location. "I'm not sure when (or even if) we are going to post the draft version. The live

version will probably go up in the fall as we are going to wait until a post-SART Leadership Group meeting to help determine member categories.”

Pet Sheltering

Joe Kight discussed the just completed Hurricane Suiter, a catastrophic event exercise at the state EOC and in participating counties. He noted that there would never be enough animal crates for a large evacuation and that additional work is needed to plan for the transportation of animals and people. [For additional information about Hurricane Suiter, please refer to the article in the June 2009 SART Sentinel www.flsart.org/newsletter/sent-09-06.htm.]

Miscellaneous

IFAS Dr. Jiannong Xin (xn@ufl.edu) mentioned that Michael Turner had come to Gainesville for a meeting about the Website. Xin said they were working to update its look and functionality.

“The web team will continue to maintain, enhance, and provide user support for the SART website,” said Jiannong Xin. “Some proposed tasks are: 1) enhance the member registration form to include additional information, 2) improve the look and feel of the website with page improvement and a site upgrade, 3) create a SART training module management and survey system, 4) remove the public list server and merge it with the member list server, 5) post monthly newsletters, 6) reorganize conference presentation page, 7) add a new SART domain (www.flsart.com), and 8) other tasks or priorities specified by the Advisory Board. The current SART website was released a few years ago and it may need a face lift. If the Advisory Board decides to go forward, we will work on it.”

The next SART Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for September 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at a site to be determined in Gainesville. [John Haven, Director of UF’s Veterinary Medical School (havenj@vetmed.ufl.edu) suggested that the face-to-face was more valuable than a tele-conference if the proper format is used. If it is just presenting information without much discussion, then the tele-conference is ok. For instance, the presentation about Swine Influenza was fine in telephone format. Trying to discuss the strategic vision, however, needs to be done in person.]

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Tim Manning or Joan Dusky said they would provide a list of the roll-call of attendees.