

# **DRAFT Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Florida Farm Bureau, 700 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32608**

## **Attendance**

Tim Manning, USDA/FSA  
Joan Dusky, UF/IFAS Extension  
John Haven, UF/CVM  
Jiannong Xin, UF/IFAS  
Suzan Loerzel, USDA/APHIS  
Tony Duffiney, USDA/APHIS  
Kim Duffiney, USDA/APHIS  
Frankie Hall, FFBF

Paul Studivant, FACA  
Joe Kight, FDACS – ESF-17 ECO  
David Perry, FDACS  
Michael Turner, FDACS  
Laura Bevan, HSUS  
Lloyd Brown, HSUS  
John and Sandy Dickerson HSUS  
Rick Sapp, SART Sentinel

## **1 Call to Order**

Tim Manning called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. This was Tim’s final meeting as co-chair of Florida SART. He will continue to be involved, but his new duties as FSA Executive Director for the State of Florida are so time consuming that he will have much less time to devote to the organization he helped found.

Tim reviewed the development of the state organization, beginning in 2004, when he and a handful of individuals brainstormed the needs of the state when preparing for, confronting and recovering from emergency situations.

“Remember that all disasters are local,” Tim says. “We have come a long way in developing an organization that can respond effectively to emergencies, but still have a ways to go before coordination is seamless.”

## **2 New Co-Chair**

FDACS’ David Perry has been selected as the new SART co-chair to serve with UF’s Joan Dusky. David reviewed the Minutes of the last SART Advisory Board meeting – September 2, 2009 – and the Minutes were approved without changes by the members present.

## **3 Haiti Briefing**

Background: Many NGOs and governmental agencies responded to the catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti at 4:53 p.m. on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The epicenter of the quake was near the town of Leogane approximately 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital city. In a dozen days, at least 52 significant aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded.

Estimates of people affected are as high as three million or one-third of the population. The Haitian government reports that nearly 225,000 people are dead, another 300,000 injured, a million are homeless and with 30,000 businesses damaged commerce in this perpetually poverty-stricken nation has come virtually to a halt.

Lloyd Brown is a Miami-Dade firefighter/paramedic/technical rescue technician. On duty as a firefighter, his principal directive is to assist in human rescue. As a private individual, he operates Wildlife Rescue of Dade County. As a volunteer with Humane Society International (HSI), a division of HSUS, his principal concern is animal rescue.

In January, Lloyd was requested by HSI to assess the animal industry situation in Haiti following the earthquake. Because he had experience in Southeast Asia following the December 26, 2004 quake – a 7.0 under-sea event called a “megathrust” – his skills were ideal for studying the situation on the ground in Hispaniola.

Lloyd arrived in Haiti on January 21<sup>st</sup> and spent two weeks in-country: “My French is okay, although they speak more Creole, but my Spanish is better and that often proved to be the best language for communicating in the countryside.”

One of the many problems working in an underdeveloped country following an emergency is the lack of an integrated national/state structure for emergency response. Haiti has no Incident Command System (ICS), for example. Although Haiti has requested disaster training, there is no structure within which such training would be generally effective.

Lloyd found the situation on the ground exceedingly difficult because the transportation infrastructure – rough to begin with – has been heavily damaged. Thus milk production is down. Still, there is no shortage of food although some hoarding and profiteering has been identified.

Although Lloyd returned to the U.S. with six dogs and adopted one that he named Jean-Luc, animals in Haiti are generally infested with heartworm and screwworm. Most of the problems he identified were present in Haiti before the earthquake.

#### **4 Governor’s Hurricane Conference**

The 2010 Governor’s Hurricane Conference is Monday-Friday, May 23-28 in Ft. Lauderdale ([www.flghc.org](http://www.flghc.org)). SART has program responsibility in the Policy & Planning sector for the Wednesday morning 8:30-Noon session “Emergency Animal and Agriculture concerns: planning, sheltering, evacuations, veterinary care and funding.”

According to lead presenter Joe Kight, the workshop – limited to 30 attendees – will provide information on coordinated state and federal response capabilities as well as answer questions related to new laws and directives on animal sheltering and care. The program will include information on state resource availability and the realities of emergency animal care.

Part 1: Agriculture Planning (80 minutes)

- Federal agriculture recovery – Tim Manning
- Utilizing your County Extension Service – Joan Dusky
- SART response capabilities – David Perry
- Vector control – Dale Dubberly

Part 2: Animal Sheltering (80 minutes)

- ESF-17 sheltering and evacuation policies – Joe Kight
- Veterinary services – John Haven
- Pet-friendly shelter guidance – Laura Bevan
- Emergency funding reimbursement – Joe Kight

#### **5 April Training**

John Haven and David Perry reviewed plans for a two-day workshop the weekend of April 24-25. It will be held in Sumter County (Bushnell), on grounds that permit attendees to camp.

John said he expects 100-125 people to participate: FDACS, Vet Corps, Florida DART, ASPCA, EARS, HSUS and more.

1. Day one is eight-hours of awareness-level Basic Responder training in the classroom.
2. Day two is a hands-on field exercise based on a working simulation of a flood. Plenty of animals should be available and individuals will simulate distressed owners who have been separated from their animals, for example, giving participants a taste of real in-the-field situations.

## **6 Animal Carcass Disposal**

Suzan Loerzel discussed the Animal Carcass Management Working Group and its functions following an emergency involving significant carcass disposal. The group meets quarterly to review policy and procedures. Entities participating include: FDACS, DEP, DOH, FL Geological Survey, USDA (APHIS Veterinary Services, NRCS) and private industry partners in an advisory role.

The issue may seem simple at first, but it involves many jurisdictions and factors that must be considered to select the best options. Maintaining good communication and getting feedback from key agency stakeholders has required effort and commitment from many agencies with authority or jurisdiction in carcass disposal or movement.

The working group has held exercises to test its advisory function and the decision making tools under development. A tabletop exercise involving a scenario of Avian Influenza in chickens was held in November 2006. Another scenario involving a tropical storm and severe flooding causing drowning of large numbers of cattle was held in March 2009. An exercise is planned for later this year.

The group believes that developing solutions and decision tools prior to a crisis, with input from agencies with jurisdiction and a stake in the process is more effective than making hasty decisions in the midst of an emergency. Hasty decisions lead to other problems. Decisions made without input from the appropriate agencies cause complications and delay the work. Bringing everyone together has been a tremendous step toward effective solutions before emergencies occur. The FDACS contact is Greg Christy.

## **7 Florida SART Organization**

Florida SART Planner Michael Turner has been formalizing the “Organizational Declaration,” putting the organization on paper. He presented the 7-page document as a well-discussed Draft:

1. Article I: Organization
2. Article II: Steering Committee
3. Article III: Advisory Board
4. Article IV: Meetings of Advisory Board
5. Article V: Partner Entities
6. Article VI: Members
7. Article VII: General Provisions
8. Article VIII: Acronyms and Definitions

After a thorough discussion of the relationship of the steering committee and advisory board and how SART operates within the system, Co-chair David Perry called for questions and a vote of

members of the board present. The document was unanimously accepted as the official SART guideline for operation.

**8 2011 SART Conference**

Planning is already well underway for the proposed 2011 Florida SART Conference, Michael Turner noted. A final site has not been determined, but he is looking for the best conference facility with the best value in the mid-region of the state. Possibly in the Gainesville, Orlando, Altamonte Springs areas.

“By state law,” Michael says, “it must be a ‘green facility’ and be able to host 200-225 people in general session, in break-out classrooms and possibly with an adjacent reserved parking area or park for hands-on training.”

Joe Kight mentioned that he expects to have funds to pay for attendance for two people per county, possibly a representative of the county extension service and the county ESF-17. The intent for 2011, based on feedback from 2009 attendees, was to integrate classroom and hands-on experiences.

Laura Bevan suggested a hotel/conference center that was a pet-friendly sheltering facility.

The Tentative Conference Schedule is:

Wednesday Afternoon

Opening session

Programs by USDA/APHIS/Animal Care, NASAAEP, DEM, FACA, County Issues

Panel, Summary, SART Mixer

Thursday Morning

Problem solving working groups: 1. Search & Rescue, 2. Damage Assessment, 3.

Transportation & sheltering

Thursday Awards Luncheon with Featured Speaker

Field training, SART Mixer

Friday Morning

Programs by FVMA/AVMA, FEMA Region IV ESF-11, Group Reports and Response,

Wrap-up and Summary

**9 Additional Items**

Michael Turner reported that web site enhancement planning is underway with Jiannong Xin of UF/IFAS aimed at: improving the user experience, delivering better information and enhancing its ease of use.

Jiannong noted that the site was visited on an average more than 600 times per day and that many were coming for animal information. Google word searches were influential in driving site traffic.

Joe Kight mentioned that enhanced Google Maps on the site would highlight Florida’s 1,800 veterinary care establishments, 230 pet shelters and 250 inspected pet stores and make them easier to search for by county. It would also give information on such categories as feed stores, carcass handlers, county agricultural extension agent offices and Class 1 landfills.

**10** The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Rick Sapp, 03-10-10