

Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Florida Farm Bureau, 700 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608

Attendance

Joan Dusky, UF/IFAS Extension	Art Johnstone, FDACS
Amanda Hodges, UF/SPDN	John Burkett, FDACS
John Haven, UF/CVM	Dale Dubberly, FDACS
Jiannong Xin, UF/IFAS	Jason Byrd, FDACS
Tim Manning, USDA/FSA	Jennifer Chatfield, FDOH
Lee Gladden, USDA/FSA	Frankie Hall, FFBF
Tony Duffiney, USDA/APHIS	Paul Studivant, FACA
Kim Duffiney, USDA/APHIS	Laura Bevan, HSUS
Catherine Marzolf, USDA/APHIS-PPQ	Connie Brooks, FSARC
Kendra Stauffer, USDA/APHIS-VS	Joan Carlson Radabaugh, ASPCA
Ed Hartin, USDA/APHIS-WS	Linda McAbee, FL Vet Tech Assn.
Tom Ostertag, FWCC	Susan Smith, FL Assoc. Kennel Clubs
Joe Kight, FDACS – ESF-17 ECO	Dean Wright, FL Feed Assn.
David Perry, FDACS	Rick Sapp, SART Sentinel

1 Call to Order

Joan Dusky and David Perry, Florida SART co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2 **Tom Ostertag**, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Div. of Habitat and Species Conservation: A report with power point presentation on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the FWC role in response.

BP, the US Coast Guard and the Minerals Management Service have been the lead response agencies. In Florida, the Dept. of Environmental Protection is the lead state agency.

Following the explosion on April 20, the well in the Gulf of Mexico began leaking 35-65,000 barrels of crude oil and other materials per day. As of July 11 when the well was fully capped, it was the largest oil spill in US history.

In response the FWC has kept 250 people continuously involved in response and mitigation. An estimated 8,332 species – including humans – are directly affected and countless species of invertebrates and micro-organisms.

Response efforts have involved learning experiences. For example the use of hollow posts meant that some species of birds, notoriously pelicans, fell inside and died. These posts have all been capped.

Regarding the well-publicized relocation of sea turtle eggs, Ostertag said that “desperate times require desperate measures.” Because it was so hot on the beaches during the day, clean-up often took place at night which meant that extreme care had to be taken with lights and avoiding

turtle nests. Unfortunately, since a great deal of work was done quickly, including moving untagged turtles, the agency will never know the outcome of such an effort.

Now FWC is working on NRDA – Natural Resource Damage Assessment – of oil spill. NRDA involves all wildlife species and involves plans for remediation. [Additional information about NRDA can be found at <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/about/nrda.html>.]

One of the learning experiences at the agency and individual level was the multi-state coordination needed to deal with the spill. “We learned we weren’t ready for a disaster of this magnitude,” Ostertag said, but noted that FWC learned a great deal and was developing their structure to be flexible and accommodate future events.

- John Haven noted that the UF School of Veterinary Medicine did necropsies of sea turtles and maintained the chain of custody. They found that many animals did not die of effects of the oil. UF has had both staff and students who deployed for specific tasks and they retrofitted two trailers for animal transport. BP incidentally wanted the Incident Command System used in the response and it “worked pretty well.”
- Connie Brooks with Bay Area DART Teams noted that 12 teams were involved in the capture and recovery effort, primarily of birds. (Ostertag said the three most common species affected were gannets, loons and grebes.) BP wanted only paraprofessionals, Ostertag said, so only used trained individuals. This meant that response took a little while to ramp up but then worked well.
- Joe Kight: the goal is to respond to injured animals within two hours. Stressed reimbursement for efforts and expenditures requires careful documentation of time and work. Those who volunteer must know their assignments and “play by the rules.”
- Lee Gladden noted that he worked in the command center to help keep the public informed.
- Laura Bevan: completing NRDA is a long term process, perhaps 5-10 years as oil is still appearing on beaches, in marshes and bubbling to the surface.
 - Joe Kight agreed as the state had “just this year closed the books on Hurricane Andrew.” (A category 5 storm, Andrew came ashore near Homestead, FL in August 1992: www.nhc.noaa.gov/1992andrew.html.)
 - Connie Brooks noted that at that time there was really no such thing as animal response.

3 **Connie Brooks** reported on the development of the Florida State Animal Response Coalition or FSARC (with power point presentation)

A not for profit organization, FSARC is now an official SART partner for animal emergency response in Florida and has a dozen trained teams available for deployment under the auspices of state and local emergency management utilizing the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS). For more information and how to get involved, contact Pam Burns at pamburnssarc@gmail.com.

A lot of planners and elected officials don’t have a handle on how big the evacuation problem could be, Brooks notes. In her area, for example, there are 440,000 registered cats and dogs, but the estimate of the total population is closer to a million and Bay Area DART (Disaster Animal Response Team) only has 350 volunteer members.

Brooks said the teams leaned a great deal while working with some of the oil spill effects. When transporting gannets, for example, they needed dark spaces and quiet: no radio, no cell phone or talking.

- Joe Kight: one of the goals is to have consistent training and certification. In the long run, we want at least seven strong teams – one available quickly in each law enforcement district of Florida – to assist with search and rescue, sheltering, etc. This means we’ll have to have about 400 people on-call statewide and that, of course, means training and keeping in touch with at least 1,200 individuals. People change, come and go, but the mission remains the same.

4 Art Johnstone, FDACS, Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness
Report on SART funding for 2011 and beyond.

Reviews of funding, personnel and outreach options for emergency responses:
“Emergency Management has been ultra-supportive of us.”

According to Art Johnstone, our strategy is “to get equipment into the state’s regions and get people trained and know how to communicate.”

- Joe Kight: looking for funding for large animal holding facilities.

5 Joe Kight, FDACS-DAI, ESF-17 ECO

Report on the 2011 Planning Meeting which will take place February 28 – March 2 at the Altamonte Springs/Orlando North Hilton. The goals of the meeting are to give attendees an opportunity to get to know other responders, to learn from seminars and to practice some skill sets in hands-on sessions. SART Planner Michael Turner (not present) has been instrumental finding the best host hotel/conference center.

“The goal is to have counties prepared to take care of their own needs with a minimum of state help,” Kight said, “and the 2011 Planning Meeting is a big step in that direction.”

6 David Perry, FDACS-DAI
Report on the SART partner program.

Florida SART partners form a community of response for the agricultural and animal sectors. Current SART partners are:

FDACS	FL Animal Control Assn.
FWCC	FL Assn. of Kennel Clubs
UF/IFAS	FL Cattlemen’s Assn.
UF/CVM	FL Farm Bureau Federation
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network	FL Fertilizer & Agrichemical Assn.
Florida Sea Grant	FL Nursery Growers & Landscape Assn.
USDA/FSA	FL Veterinary Medical Assn.
USDA/OIG	FL Wildlife Rehabilitators Assn.
USDA/APHIS-VS	Southeast Milk
USDA/APHIS-PPQ	ASPCA
USDA/APHIS-WS	UAN/EARS
FL Agricultural Center/Horse Park Authority	HSUS

New members:

FL Fruit & Vegetable Assn
FL Feed Assn.
FSARC
FL Veterinary Technician Assn.

Deleted or consolidated members:

DART
USDA/Rural Development
USDA/Natural Resource Conservation Service
USDA/APHIS/VS-Aquaculture

7 **Jiannong Xin**, UF/IFAS IT
Reviews Florida SART web site at www.flsart.org.

Making continual updates on the web site gives good information and a good resource. The web site is the #1 state response web site in the U.S. and he believes the reason is that we have good content.

- Joe Kight: stresses use of web site calendar at www.flsart.org/SART/viewcalendar and notes the fine efforts of the web team.
- “After a lot of years of groundwork, things are beginning to mesh very nicely.” Joe Kight

8 The SART co-chairs adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Rick Sapp, 09-04-10