

CAEM Committee Minutes January 25, 2007 11:00 to 11:50 a.m. EST

Attending: P Blanchard, S. Heath, R. Heckert, C. Krugler, B. Lautner, J. Maulsby, B. Noland, S. Norman, B. O'Brien, M. Robinson, K. Roehr, D. Scarfe, G. Sherman, M. Simunich, K. Thompson, B. Wagner, P Webb, and C. Fuller (for D. Wilson). Guests: Tam Garland DHS S&T Agriculture Programs Manager

- 1. Updates on Sector Specific Plan of NIPP** – Dr. Marilyn Simunich reported they've had their first meeting and reviewed the first 15 pages. The consensus as previously was more detail is needed. The Food and Ag Government Coordinating Council secretariat provided conference call in number for the meetings. The schedule will proceed as previously planned to complete work by November an coincide with NIPP rewrite. Five states' animal health officials are represented on the subcommittee. They would like to get someone from California, as well as the Midwest and Northeast.

Update on rewrite of NRP, NIMS, ESF11 and PETS Act – Dr. Bethany O'Brien reported that the DHS schedule of rewrite can be found at www.dhs.gov/NRP, click on "currently under review" takes you to: http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/programs/gc_1166653070655.shtm. The work groups and schedule are listed. Workgroups are as follows: [Catastrophic Planning](#), [Communications](#), [Companion Animals](#), [Evacuations and Sheltering](#), [Functions](#), [Incident Management and Coordination](#), [International Support](#), [NIMS](#), [Roles and Responsibilities](#), [Special Needs](#), [Training and Implementation](#), [Volunteer and Donations Management](#). Chairs are listed with contact information if you are interested in being involved. Companion Animals is chaired by Drs. Tom McGinn and Alan Hogue. They are drafting a Pets Annex and a rewrite for ESF-11 to include pets as two options. Bethany stated materials written by Kevin Dennison have been an excellent resource for companion animal group. They are primarily focusing on the content that needs to be included as a separate annex or revisions of an existing ESF. All work groups will send their recommendations for rewrites to the FEMA Writing Team by 2nd week of February. The FEMA writing team will resolve questions through the Domestic Readiness Group of Homeland Security. ESF-11 workgroup met January 24th for the first time. National Disaster Medical Services is still part of ESF-8 and that group has met a number of times and includes some animal activities. The FEMA Writing Team will also identify uncoordinated activities and they may change what is forwarded from individual work groups after an overarching group review. NIMS is being revised at this time also.

- 2. Food Defense/Food Safety effort with FDA, USDA, etc.:** Keith Rohr reported that they had several meeting in Washington D. C. over the last year. A number of agencies have been involved in this effort. The focus has been on intentional terrorist attack on the food supply and early meetings focused on awareness campaigns using the acronym ALERT (**A**ssurance that the supply is safe and secure, **L**ook how secure are your facilities, **E**mployees-what do you do to screen employees who have access to your facilities, **R**eporting, **T**hreats-what to do and who to notify about suspicious activities). March 5th through April 6th this year they will have an exercise dealing with spaghetti sauce. Investigations will involve many agencies both federal and state and trace backs to the farm level of a number of ingredients.
- 3. Draft Letter on National Reportable Disease Bill** – Committee requested it be re-sent for comment.
- 4. Update on National Coalition mission/organization** – Kevin Dennison was unable to make the call due to a conflict but sent an email: "national coalition discussion is now focused on creating an alliance of state animal and agricultural emergency programs and the regional alliances that are emerging (SAADRA and Midwest Partnership and other future regional alliances). This will require an organization for states, but resistance by national organizations to form another organization will likely limit this to an organization of state programs that work to support each other, share best practices, develop resources, influence policy, and support local animal emergency management." Patrick Webb is representing ag on the group and indicated that they are working to refine their mission statement and goals. Their plans are to share best practices, training recommendations, etc.

5. Announcements:

- a. Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) workshops – Dr. Mark Robinson announced three workshops in March and April 2007. The focus of the workshops is to involve extension in emergency management and to assist them in understanding their roles and educate state and federal officials in their value as a resource in an emergency response at the state level. The workshops this year are being held in Grantville, Pennsylvania March 27-28, Columbus? South Carolina in March and Las Cruces, New Mexico April 3-4. The EDEN executive committee is meeting this week at CSREES and would welcome input on future sites for workshops next year. Please email Mark Robinson with suggestions.
John Maulsby, CO state veterinarian, indicated the CO extension people during the snow response were an excellent resource as they knew where hay could be obtained, who needed it and how to move it.
Arizona and Texas have an excellent integration of extension into their emergency response plans, though, this varies by state.
- b. NIAA Committee on Animal Health Emergency Management – Patrick Webb, chair, reported the agenda is being developed. They are working on having Dr. Jose Diez speak about USDA, VS, EMD activities, Sebastian Heath on credentialing and resource typing roll-out, a Food and Ag Sector USDA Economist to discuss sources of funding during an emergency and the types of declarations which release what types of money (Mark Smith). The committee will meet for 3 ½ hours. They are uncertain of how many Positions statements will need to be discussed so they have not yet decided if any additional speakers can be added. NIAA meets in Sacramento April 2-4.
- c. Credentialing Update: Sebastian indicated that over the holidays the working group cut back, but are now back on schedule. They will meet January 25th in the afternoon, and communications to the review group will be going out afterwards. Credentialing is intended to establish minimum standards for performance, not to recommend training. USDA EMD has a contract for a training needs assessment which is in progress.
- d. Tam Garland from DHS Ag programs manager attended the call and indicated that her role is with the Science and Technology directorate, Ag securities and defense focused on Plum Island.

6. The next conference call is February 22nd.