

CAEM Minutes

May 31, 2007 11am- 12:30pm

Attending: Adams, Blanchard, Dennison, Fowler, Hoenig, Krugler, Lautner, Noland, O'Brien, Qual, Roehr, Robinson, Simunich, Snelson, Thompson and Webb. Guest: Ed Jones - EDEN, Bill Bennett-CSREES, Lynne White -AVMA, Elizabeth Curry-Galvin -AVMA, Jan Rankin -MT.

1. Updates:

National center of animal health emergency management – APHIS – Bethany O'Brien:

- The NAHEC coordinator position has now been advertised.
- A letter to states detailing the HPAI exercise program is pending.
- Meetings have occurred to ensure coordination between DHS-TCL/credentialing & training (Sebastian Heath, NCAHEM poc) for state animal health programs and the APHIS training needs assessment (Jon Zack NCAHEM poc) project for Federal animal health programs.

Action item: Request Sebastian Heath or Ron Wilson to give update on the DHS credentialing workgroup progress (AHEWB) which met in Nashville recently. Ty Vannieuwenhoven is also involved in this group.

2. Discussion of roles and expectations of AVMA as an umbrella organization for national coalition of stakeholders for all hazards/all animal response:

- a. On August 13th Dr. Heather Case will begin her new position and will be the primary AVMA staff member coordinating emergency issues with the committee on disaster and emergency issues (CDEI).
- b. Charlotte Krugler, a CAEM member, is also a member of AVMA CDEI and took part in FEMA conference call.
- c. The AVMA board supported USAHA/AAVLD resolution 7 which addressed the establishment of a coalition of national stakeholders on animal emergency management but did not specify further details. (AVMA also supported the concept of a National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Programs.)
- d. Lynne White and Elizabeth Galvin-Curry were on the call to hear committee input.
- e. National Response Plan has animal response under several ESF. Alan Hogue and Bethany O'Brien have met with AVMA and FEMA regarding the PETS Act;
- f. For Foreign animal diseases - USDA/APHIS is the lead coordinating agency. However, It is not decided who will lead for other animal emergencies. An APHIS position statement on this topic is working its way through USDA for approval.
- g. FEMA hosted a recent conference call regarding implementation of the PETS act. A new person at FEMA, Mark Tinsman, is charged with addressing this issue under mass care (ESF 6). The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act provided teeth to FEMA to be involved and Mark has solicited input from organizations like AVMA and APHIS.
- h. FEMA's relationship with Non-government organizations related to the PETS Act – FEMA continues to emphasize emergency response responsibilities reside at the local-then state level. FEMA should be viewed as a resource when the local/state capacity is taxed and serve in a coordinating role. FEMA can assist with funding and providing additional personnel. As such they need to be kept abreast of what actions are being taken, what is needed. Likewise, the local and state people need to know what activities will be approved by FEMA for funding and emergency support resource deployment.
- i. Dr. Elizabeth Curry-Galvin asked CAEM if it seeks the AVMA to provide lobbying, manpower, admin support, facilitate issues management.
- j. AVMA planned to host a 2007 meeting of stakeholders to facilitate drafting standards needed to implement the PETS Act at state and local level.

- k. One suggestion was that another goal might be for AVMA to facilitate developing guidance templates of mission essential tasks required in the rescue, sheltering and transportation of animals for state and local entities to flesh out for their area.
 - i. Who will lead and perform each task will vary with state/local structure
- l. AVMA already gathers information which can serve as a resource to FEMA. Information is posted at www.avma.org/disaster and includes state disaster plans, model ESF, disaster resources, training opportunities, animal handling, agencies/organizations, animal owner and vet clinic disaster preparedness guides, etc.
- m. Other animal issues that are not being addressed adequately in state/local emergency response include production/farm animal issues like generators, and other emergency equipment needed to maintain safety of food and welfare of animals.
- n. One suggestion was for AVMA to post the primary state contact person responsible for the PETS act implementation. It was acknowledged these people can change a lot and may be hard to keep current.
- o. Role of AVMA to identify major stakeholders for key issues
- p. Might AVMA serve as a “representative republic” soliciting input from diverse stakeholders and encouraging consensus on a variety of issues so allow toward cooperation and consistency? Finally, identify the next steps needed on the key issues
- q. Might initially take one- two key topics and define the stakeholders needed to accomplish the task. Others responded that AVMA role would be to “be the glue” rather than the tip of the spear.
- r. What is the mission the committee sees for the group of organizations we want AVMA to coordinate?
- s. Examples of organizations which might be at the table: National Coalition for animal rescue, NEMA, Human Society, NASDA, NACSAHO, APHIS. Perhaps initially with a small group of contacts and solicit input on topics from a larger group.
- t. Ed Jones indicated that EDEN can work with AVMA as the liaison for the Federation of Co-Op Extension services.
- u. Every emergency has a slightly different methodology and response so focusing only on pets can result in a haphazard local, state and federal interaction and support when non-pets or both production and companion animals are involved. CAEM encourages this national coalition to address all species not just pets.
- v. Another task suggested is to provide a model template or best practices on how successful states work with volunteer organizations at state and local level to leverage their funding and personnel resources to mount an effective emergency response.
- w. Further comments can be sent to lwhite@avma.org or call 847-285-6784. The CDEI will meet on August 20-21 CDEI and need a more specific idea of what we are asking AVMA to do.

ACTION ITEM: by end of June 28th CAEM conference call complete a vision of what we see AVMA performing at an umbrella organization. Identification of mission and objectives would be helpful.

3. Updates –

- a. **National Alliance update-** Dennison: work group of state people need to leverage state/local involvement with NGO to access their resources as local resources are often limited. This private – public partnership if strengthened would ensure more effective local response and it would not be overshadowed by FEMA. Related to PETS Act state vets office is often involved in animal health issues but not all animal emergency issues. Planned to have a national meeting of states in Orlando mid-year to formalize group and meet 3x/year.
- b. **Survey of veterinary medical reserve corps (VMRC):** Dennison. Approximately half of the states have something like a VMRC. Survey would try to find out how many of

these people are also listed in the NAHERC and whether VMRC is part of a state medical reserve corps for each state. Are VMRC people deployed as teams or individuals? The latter is often challenge to fill gaps when people are gone and is more difficult to provide a significant force to mobilize compared to a team which has worked together and has alternates for absent people. Survey will be sent to state vets and state vet med associations.

- b. Sector specific plan - M. Simunich:** Last two sections of chapter 1 have been completed regarding research and development efforts through ARS, CSREES, ERS, requirement to manage information, gather information, and research needs, how the Ag Sector coordinates with DHS to manage the plan. Concerns expressed that industry was not involved and they own 80% or more of the infrastructure. Marilyn indicated that some of the members are from the state vets office and are aware of their states' industries needs and/or solicit their input. John Adams indicated that in general the Animal Ag Coalition –industry members have not viewed this exercise as resulting in operational plans but is instead a large document that applies to the federal government, so they have had invested very little in providing input. The current subcommittee is mostly addressing clarity of language and completeness. The subcommittee is assuming the Producer Sub-council of the Food and Ag Sector Coordinating Council will also reviewing the documents and provide input.

Defining critical infrastructure for agriculture has been a challenge. HSI was originally contracted to do the project. It has now been given to the DHS Center for excellence on food security in Minnesota.

Action Item for next meeting: Get update on progress of this activity. How they are defining criticality and nodes of responsibility within the industry, insurance, owners, etc.

4. October meeting agenda:

- Tom McGinn on criticality – who, what, how in DHS related to Food and Ag.
- APHIS-VS-EMD update – Jose Diez
- USDA/DHS liaison updates – Sebastian Heath
- Suggested speaker – Steve Van Way (spelling?) Human Impact of FMD in the UK
- EDEN update – regional agrosecurity meetings (Steve Cane or Abigail Warner), what are they doing, how to get extension involved in your state (Andy Vestal TX)
- 15 minute presentations from 2 counties and 2 states on how they have successfully integrated an all hazards/ all species approach to emergencies (Jefferson County, CO; others)
- Legislative updates – Kendall Byran (Senator Burr office NC) ; Diane Berry
- FBI agroterrorism workshops update (animal/ human/ criminal investigation is 3rd arm)

5. Next meeting June 28, 11 EDT