

MVMA Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Committee/Animal Issues Working Group meeting  
Meeting Minutes November 17, 2021

Updates:

Red Cross-not present

MNADC-no requests for response

MNVMRC

- Continuing participating in REP quarterly meetings.
- Remaining projects will be discussed further on in the agenda.

MN Horse Council-the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Minnesota Horse Expo planned for April 14-16 at the state fairgrounds.

Mille Lacs Band

- Hosted a pet clinic with the College of Veterinary Medicine SIRVS group. They have now completed risk reduction in all 3 counties for pet care. MNSNAP and Secondhand Hounds also participated.
- They will be helping with a pet care clinic at the All Nations Church in the metro this week.
- Region 2 has reorganized and inventoried the pet response trailer in St. Louis County.
- The next tribal summit will include USDA personnel.

MN Board of Animal Health-not present

MN Department of Agriculture

- Working on the nitrogen foam depopulation project for swine. They will be holding a winter trial in January to see how this method works in the winter months. MDA did a trial in July.
- Lucy is working on a supplemental budget request for ASF preparedness and response with a focus on enhancing knowledge and purchasing necessary equipment.
- ASF in the Dominican Republic-response is ongoing and will be a long-term effort with no quick fixes. There is little information coming out of Haiti. There is little infrastructure with gangs running much of the country. There is reported food insecurity in Hispaniola.

Department of Human Services-no updates

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-MNVOAD is trying to plan for an in-person conference in the spring.

University of Minnesota

- The veterinary college is not holding in-person classes unless necessary (labs, patient care, etc.)
- MNVMRC and the CVM are planning to host the foreign animal disease class hopefully in April.
- MNVMRC and the CVM are acquiring information, costs, etc. to host a HAZWOPER class with a wildlife focus. Once that information is received, we will apply for grant funding.
- The CVM is hosting the annual Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) symposium March 11-13, 2022. Dr. Willette is presenting on animal welfare. The MNVMRC is presenting on biosecurity and PPE. There is still room for more presentations if any partners are interested. They will also have exhibits. Anyone interested in exhibiting or presenting can reach the planning committee at [savma2022fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:savma2022fundraising@gmail.com) (sorry I didn't hear back from them with the specifics before sending the minutes out)

## MVMA

- The annual convention is being held Feb. 10-12 at the Hyatt in Minneapolis.
- The MNVMRC will hold a preconvention training on Feb. 9 on veterinary emergency preparedness. If interested, you can register to attend via the MVMA convention website (<https://mvma.biz/>).

## USDA

- USDA APHIS Animal Care-they are completing some internal restructuring and hiring new emergency coordinators.
- Some Animal Care team members deployed to California for wildfire response.

## Pet Sheltering Committee Report:

- We finally received the after-action report from the pet sheltering workshop from last year. It has been distributed to participants and other partners who expressed an interest in the findings.
- MNADC reported the few instances where jurisdictions have needed assistance rehoming pets after an owner has passed away have been handled by local rescue groups.

## Veterinary Resources Committee Report:

- The yearly update of the Veterinary Resource/MNWALK 37 Resource Guide is now available on our website and the AMEM website. It has also been distributed to partners upon request to share as needed. Thanks to Jeanne Rasmussen of HSEM for helping with this project.
- MNVMRC had discussions with some of the rabbit groups about providing volunteers for the rabbit vaccination clinics (response to RHDV2). The MNVMRC coordinator discussed the possibility with the state MRC coordinator. It was determined this sort of response did not fit the national mission of the MRC since this request was from a private group versus a state/local agency or jurisdiction. We offered to send the information out to our members so they could volunteer on their own if they would like. The vaccination clinics ended up being well-staffed, and we didn't need to ask for individual volunteers.
- The MNVMRC has decided to host a quarterly virtual meeting for situational awareness on various topics of interest. We held our first meeting on Oct. 22 with Dr. Suskovic discussing RHDV2. We had a range of participants including county emergency managers. The PDF of Dr. Suskovic's presentation will be added to the meeting materials. The next meeting will likely be in February.

## Planning for Animal Rescue:

- Minneapolis Mounted Police-not present
- BART-not present
- MNVMRC has decided to postpone the large animal technical rescue training originally scheduled for December due to high viral transmission rates in the state. We'll reschedule when it's easier to host and complete the training exercises as a group.

#### Wildlife/Zoo Populations:

- New species are continually finding new species that can be infected by SARS-CoV-2. There also appears to be an increased number of species dying from the virus. Experimentally there seems to be broad susceptibility to the virus in a variety of animal species.
- The Zoo and Aquarium All Hazards Partnership is hosting a webinar on SARS-CoV-2 and Zoo Animals on December 8, 2022. The meeting registration information is included in the meeting materials.
- A recent study of whitetail deer in Iowa found widespread SARS-CoV-2 in this species. This study piggy-backed on the submission of lymph nodes for CWD surveillance.
- Zoetis has produced the vaccine for zoo animals. As more species are identified, more animals are getting vaccinated.
- The Gabbert Raptor Center received a CDC grant to test mammals coming into the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and also rodents found in the various buildings for SARS-CoV-2. They are also working with trappers and hunters to perform more testing. They are also sending surveys to zoos asking about PPE, isolation protocols and protocols for quarantine, animal handling and cleaning.

#### Other Topics:

- The NASAAEP Summit is planned for May 24-26, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis. There may be partner groups who meet the day prior to the summit and also the day after the summit. We hold planning meetings every 2 weeks with the NASAAEP board. We have our press packets and logos finished with the graphic designer we hired. Outreach should begin shortly. The call for papers should also be out shortly and will be sent to all working group/committee members for distribution.

\*\*\*If you would like a recording of the meeting, please contact [coordinator.mnvmrc@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.mnvmrc@gmail.com)