Attendees: See roster

Updates:

Red Cross-no update
MNADC-no update
MNVMRC-updates will be during committee reports
MN Horse Council-no update

Municipalities-
- Mille Lacs Band-recently held a SIRVS (Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Services) clinic. 60 animals were cared for. Emergency management also discussed some of their jurisdiction’s sheltering plans with them. Video link to SIRVS project https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRwAdoikODM&feature=youtu.be

Board of Animal Health
- Incident Management Team was stood up during COVID to help hog producers deal with carcass disposal. They finished that in June. 2 carcass compost sites set up in southern MN (Nobles County and Le Sueur County). It was set up as a grinding/composting site. Compost may be ready to spread in the spring.
- MN received some funds from USDA to construct depopulation trailers. The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) had limited equipment for this process with the exception of captive bolts. Pipestone and Christensen Farms helped develop the model used.
- Dr. Suskovic is a member of SES working groups that are developing a number of training and tabletop exercises including equine foreign animal diseases and African Swine Fever.
- Updates on mink and coronavirus-in Denmark the virus has mutated. The virus can now move from mink to infect people. BAH has put out messaging even though BAH doesn’t regulate mink farms. There is no regulatory authority over mink farms in many states.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- The department continues to monitor the coronavirus situation.
- They are working with the MN Department of Health to produce outreach for dairy farms and dairy processing facilities.
- Jennifer Ostlund is the liaison to the EOC. They are monitoring and responding to requests for agriculture resources or questions. She is also working on a sampling plan framework for REP.

Department of Human Services
- They are continuing to plan for the REP reception centers and modifying plans and resource needs in the pandemic era.

Homeland Security Emergency Management
- EOC is fully activated to support the COVID response.
- Jeanna Hayes (Region 6 RPC) has taken a new position and will no longer be with HSEM. Her position will be filled at some point but unsure when.
• MN held the REP exercise virtually. They are looking at options to hold the reception center exercise virtually next year.
• 2021 Governor’s conference may be virtual.

USDA APHIS-VS
• Dr. Corcoran expanded on the equine FAD drill mentioned previously. She discussed that they would like to incorporate practicing veterinarians into the drill.
• Continued planning for ASF.
• They are working on a tabletop for foot and mouth disease vaccination programs that will incorporate different aspects of the response.
• They are pursuing incident management team training at the district and state levels so the states are not as reliant on national teams. Currently working on funding opportunities to provide training.
• Gordon Cleveland has retired from USDA as the agriculture REP liaison. He will still be available for consultation. Drs. Robyn Corcoran and Kevin Dennison remain on the National Advisory Team as livestock and agriculture resources and SMEs.

USDA APHIS-AC
• Some inspections were halted due to rising numbers of COVID cases.
• Monitoring current emergency situations including the current hurricanes and wildfires.

University of Minnesota
• They are using blended classes for the College of Veterinary Medicine. 4th year students are mostly in-person. For the 1st-3rd year students, the labs are in-person with students working in assigned pods. The general college is not holding any in-person classes after Thanksgiving.

Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
• Will be holding the annual convention virtually Feb. 4-6, 2021.
• AVMA is planning to hold the annual convention in the summer of 2021 in Minneapolis. The MVMA will be given some of the CE time. If MNVMRC or the committee/working group have ideas or topics to present at AVMA or MVMA, please let the office know.

ESF 11-Gene Deener has moved to a new position, and this position has not been filled yet. At this time Rosalynn Days-Austin (Region 7) is helping in this region.

Pet Sheltering Committee
• The sheltering workshop was held virtually on Nov. 4. There were over 70 participants including 3 facilitators and 3 breakout room moderators. Overall, we didn’t see too many complications or issues with the virtual format (everything worked reasonably well). However, we did lose the personal connections and networking opportunities that usually arise in a face-to-face format. The meeting format consisted of an introductory session followed by a tabletop exercise with the participants broken into 3 breakout rooms by region. The participants broke for lunch while the facilitators and moderators worked on an after-action report to present in the last hour of
the workshop. A written after-action report will be available soon. Kathy will send to all participants and also make available through AMEM and other channels.

- Comments and overall perspectives from those who participated:
  - Virtual likely not the best format for this type of exercise because of the loss of personal connections.
  - It seemed to be an overwhelming subject for the participants (breakout rooms were very quiet at times).
  - Local (regional) workshops would be a good next step—possibly have a plan writing workshop for emergency managers.
  - Some emergency managers never understood pet sheltering might be the responsibility of their office.
  - People got a lot of exposure to things/resources/ideas they hadn't seen before.
  - Gave emergency managers good ideas for other places to find resources.

**Vet Resources Committee**
- Volunteer agreement/MOU still in draft form. Kathy will likely send the draft out along with the sheltering workshop after-action report if it’s not included by the facilitators.

**Animal Rescue Resources**
- Betsy Phillips, Dr. Willette and Dr. Jorgensen may work on a new tabletop exercise for veterinary students. We plan to reach out to Minneapolis Mounted Patrol to help us plan the exercise since they have had recent responses in large animal technical rescue.
- Kathy has reached out to WLAER regarding the next large animal rescue class we plan to host.

**Wildlife**
- MNVMRC and the University of Minnesota hosted an Oiled Wildlife Response workshop with funding from Partners for Wildlife on November 8. It was held as a virtual class and had over 55 participants including veterinary students, veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators from all over the country. Training was provided by Jenny Schlieps from Focus Wildlife. The workshop provided 3 hours of continuing education.
- Wildlife rehabilitation is still presenting some issues because of the coronavirus. For instance, in Wisconsin, they are not allowing rehabilitation or release of certain species. The regulations over wildlife rehabilitation and also mink farming are patchy from state to state. There are concerns regarding the possibility of human health issues and animal welfare issues.
- Dr. Berzins discussed current research on water contamination and concerns regarding marine mammals.

**Other Business**
- NASAAEP is planning a virtual summit for 2021 (no dates set yet). Call for abstracts was sent out November 23, 2020.
- We are still in discussion with NASAAEP to host the summit at some point in the future.