



## **Tioga County Animal Response Team**

99 William Farrell Drive

Wellsboro, PA 16901

Nancy Shultis, County Coordinator

570-724-9110 or [emergencyservices@tiogacountypa.us](mailto:emergencyservices@tiogacountypa.us)

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Tioga County Department of Emergency Services

01/13/17

- Attendees
  - o Amber Wetzel
  - o Benton Best
  - o Denise Drabick
  - o Emily Blade
  - o Karen Reside
  - o Karen Starkweather
  - o Kathie Null
  - o Lisa Rice
  - o Nancy Shultis
  - o Stacey Judge
  - o Sue Judlin
- Introductions
  - o Sue Judlin – Nurse for the Department of Health, has a daughter who is also interested in being part of the team but is in school during this time. Has experience with FFA, 4-H, and goats.
  - o Karen Reside – Works with the Wellsboro Small Animal Hospital. Has experience/interests in search & rescue, as well as working to include WSAH as a potential emergency shelter site for injured dogs or cats.
  - o Lisa Rice – 911 Coordinator for Tioga County. Experience with many type so animals, including horse, cattle, dogs, and cats. Interested in training for a dog search/trailing team.
  - o Karen Starkweather – Experience with cattle hauling (dairy cows, goats, sheep, horses, chickens, etc.). Part of the horseback search & rescue team as well as 4-H and FFA. Has previously provided inventories of potential cattle hauling trailers in the county.
  - o Emily Blade – Works at the Animal Care Sanctuary (E Smithfield) and has experience with horses, dogs, and chickens. Has taken LART training in the past and has an Animal Sciences degree from PSU.
  - o Kathie Null – Has a dog and two cats. Involved with Lawrenceville's trap, neuter, and release program. Interested in small animals.
  - o Benton Best – Emergency Management Coordinator. Very little experience with animals other than dogs and cats. Interested taking all of the trainings available.

- Stacey Judge – A massage therapist. Had hedgehogs, snakes, dogs, etc. Looking to get experience wherever possible.
- Amber Wetzel – Owner of PANT Dog Training. Interested in search & rescue as well as small animal stuff. Has done tracking in the past.
- Denise Drabick – Director of Animal Care Sanctuary (Wellsboro). ACS has many things to offer including a corral for horses and pet pen for possible emergency sheltering of animals. Former Principal of Mansfield High School.
- Nancy Shultis – Former NYS Wildlife Rehabilitator. Has experience writing many animal-related emergency plans including the countywide animal disaster plan for a highly populated area in NY.
- Financial Report – Balance unchanged at \$850
- CART Response – November 14, 2016 a member of the team responded to assist with goats stuck in the fence. The goats had self-extricated and were blocking the roadway. He led the goats back to their enclosure and contacted the owners of the property who responded.
- Membership/Recruitment
  - Request to add Background Check information to the website
  - Request to add link for SART/CART Membership Application to website
  - Inquiries from meeting attendees regarding who has completed the requirements for membership up until this point. Benton will make a tracker to demonstrate everyone's current training statuses.
  - Facebook Page – Everyone should like the new CART Facebook Page @TiogaCART
- Organizational Structure
  - By-Laws
    - Benton is developing a draft of the By-Laws for everyone to review in the future. Group agreed on majority vote for membership and 2/3 vote to overrule an action. Additionally, the group agreed on Administrative and Responding members as well as the following officer positions
      - CART Team Coordinator
      - Secretary
      - Treasurer
      - Training & Equipment Manager
  - Breakdown of Response Groups
    - The group decided that it would be too confusing to separate the team into Large Animal and Small Animal subsections. Rather the group agreed on the following breakdown:
      - Equine
      - Domestic Animal
      - Livestock
      - Dog Teams (search and trailing)
    - Exotic Animals
      - The group also discussed the need for the inclusion of Exotic Animals, however it was decided that, for now, Exotic Animal calls will require notifications to the *entire* team for anyone who

- might be available/have subject matter expertise with that type of animal
  - DCNR used to have an exotic animal registry. Unclear whether or not it is still kept up-to-date
  - Starkweather added that there are more exotic animals in the County than we think
  - Judlin stated that there has been an uptick recently in snowfoxes and raccoon sightings in the County
- Resource Manual
  - Cattle Hauling Trailers – Karen Starkweather is interested in helping update our old list of cattle haulers
  - Robyn Graboksi (Centre County Wildlife Care) would be a great resource for the team. We should contact her regarding taking a tour of the facility.
  - There is a Facebook page/website of Tioga County Pet and Livestock. We should post on there to survey for additional resources.
  - Dave Burket was tasked with working on a survey for resources available to the CART
- Training & Exercises
  - Discussed upcoming training opportunities:
    - LART (May 12-14 & May 19-21) – Anyone interested should let Benton Best know ASAP
      - Emily Blade is interested
    - Animal Sheltering (various locations and dates) – Anyone interested should let Benton Best know ASAP
      - Dr. Drabick is interested
  - Hope is to eventually have these trainings closer to us
  - SART Orientation will take place during the next regularly scheduled membership meeting
  - IS courses – Can all be taken online or during one of the County’s quarterly Basic Training Weekends
  - Introduction to Hazmat Awareness – Can be done online via link on CART website or a more in-depth version can be taken during one of the County’s quarterly Basic Training Weekends
  - All members will need to submit copies of all of their required course certifications to Benton Best as soon as possible
  - Discussion about what CART Youth can and cannot do. Benton will work on a one-pager to describe, in clear detail, what they can and cannot do as part of the team.
- Officer Positions
  - It was discussed that nominations for Officer Positions should be sent to Benton Best between now and the next meeting and then we will vote on them at the next meeting
- Future Meeting Dates
  - Group discussed the need to include people that are not able to come during the daytime hours on a weekday. Concern was also expressed regarding meeting

times interfering with essential farm chores. Decision was made to try a daytime/early evening alternating schedule for 2017 and re-evaluate after that.

- Agreed upon future meeting dates are as follows:
  - February 13<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at 4:00pm
  - March 10<sup>th</sup> (Friday) at 10:00am
  - April 10<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at 4:00pm
  - May 12<sup>th</sup> (Friday) at 10:00am
  - June 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at 4:00pm
  - July 14<sup>th</sup> (Friday) at 10:00am
  - August 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at 4:00pm
  - September 8<sup>th</sup> (Friday) at 10:00am
  - October 9<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at 4:00pm
  - November 10<sup>th</sup> (Friday) at 10:00am
  - December 11<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at 4:00pm
- Good of the order
  - Animal Land has been purchased but there are no updates yet on what the plans are for the compound
  - Dr. Drabick asked about whether or not there is a need for team members to be inoculated
    - Pre-Inoculation for rabies ranges between \$500-\$1,000
    - Post-Exposure Inoculations range between \$5,000-\$10,000
  - Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)
    - Need to eventually have agreements in place between CART and other partner agencies (e.g., ACS, WSAH, etc.)
    - Dr. Drabick and Benton will work on this
  - Pet Memorial Fundraiser – Amber Wetzel will talk with Blossburg Borough about possibly establishing one at Island Park
  - Troy Vet Clinic is now co-mingled again between Small and Large animals
  - Second Chance Shelter – Correct address should be: Second Chance, 35 Gee Rd., Tioga, PA 16946
- Next meeting date – **Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm** here at the Cohick Building (99 William Farrell Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901)