

VOLUSIA COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2011

PRESENT: CATHY DRIGGERS
KRIS WOOD
PAT MIHALIC
JUDY MALONE
NICHOLAS MONGELLO
ROBERT BAIRD
DR. ALICIA EMERSON
GRAHAM GILCHRIST
KAREN CLARK

BECKY WILSON, VCAC DIRECTOR
SERGIO PACHECO, VCAC FIELD SUPERVISOR
SHARI WILLIAMS, VCAC RECORDING SECRETARY

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Driggers at 9:00 Am. Paul Minshew has an excused absence.

Mrs. Driggers: Before we get started on what we have listed on the agenda, we're going to start out with an update from Sergio on what we started with the letter prior.

Mr. Pacheco: Good morning. On our last meeting we spoke about typing up a letter to the non-profit groups which Becky and I worked on the last couple of weeks. I emailed all the members here and it was also sent it out to the nonprofit groups. It was also sent out to the media box. Channel 9 got it I believe and newspapers. We haven't had any response yet unfortunately. At this point we'll just have to go on. I know I have been in contact with Pat Mihalic and I guess you'll get a chance to speak on that. But so far we haven't had any responses back from any of the nonprofit groups.

Mrs. Driggers: Thank you. Has everyone had a chance to go over the minutes? Did you get to review them in the email that went out?

Mrs. Mihalic makes a motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2011 meeting.

The motion was voted on and passed.

Mrs. Driggers: Since we haven't heard from anybody I'm assuming there's not going to be a presentation. Has anybody had any feedback at all?

Mrs. Mihalic: I didn't but Concerned Citizens will do a presentation at the next meeting but we were kind of waiting to see if anyone else stepped forward. We have an awful lot on our plate right now but again if it comes down to the fact that we're in the running to do it then we would accept that responsibility. I would like to know who we sent the letter to. Do we have a list of who we sent the invitations to? I haven't seen anything in the paper or news media. I think we should do something with the news media.

Ms. Wilson: It went out to all the media. Channel 9 actually did a story on it on tv. Channel 2 had it but I'm not sure what they did. It may have been just a short blurb. 13 had it, 35 had it and I think there was a small thing in the News Journal. I think it was couched in another story with Halifax.

Mrs. Driggers: Has Karen Clark been doing the media on that? Has she been involved with that?

Ms. Wilson: Sergio was working with our Information person and she's good about getting it to everybody that the County has contacts with.

Kris Wood and Karen Clark arrive to the meeting.

Mrs. Driggers: Do we have any other alternative ideas of ways to attract nonprofits?

Mr. Mongello: I read the letter. And I read it as a nonprofit group. And this is what I came up with. After meeting the 16 requirements the thing that I found missing was what role did the County play in this program? And it seemed to me like the responsibility was placed in my court to manage and fund the entire program.

Ms. Wilson: That's true.

Mr. Mongello: And then having the responsible position of expanding the program County-wide and again without County involvement. So the bottom line in my book as a nonprofit was that the organization is involved in programs already so what is the incentive from me to get involved with the County?

Mrs. Driggers: My thoughts on it would be the incentives would be just what we're looking for. To get rid of the problem.

Mr. Mongello: But I'm looking at it from a nonprofit. I'm already doing all that so why would I want to be involved with the County?

Mrs. Clark: I also had the same similar thing. After reading it all what perks will they get? In the C.A.R.E. Program in Orlando the perks their organization gets is that they're allowed so many spay and neuters out of their organization versus what they also do for the County. That's their perk. They don't have to spend that money out of pocket, out of their fund-raising efforts for their own 501c3 organization. And they've agreed because they have their own spay and neuter clinic themselves, that's their perk. They get 20 of their own or 15 of their own every week. So whatever their organization does fine, but now that they're working hand in hand with the County very successfully they're also bringing in those people going through their County. So their perk is 20 out of their pocket that they don't have to spend through their organizational works. There's no perks for the organization to work with our County. Absolutely no perks as far as for them to go out of their way and do this unless they want notoriety. But that's not going to happen. The County has to give them something for somebody to get involved doing all of this. What benefit or perks will they get? That's my main question.

Mrs. Mihalic: The thing is, we're different than the other counties because we have 17 entities. It isn't a County program it's a County-wide program. The perks that I see as a 501c3 would be to carry out our mission which is to reduce the animal population and I don't see anything in the program here that would prevent you, if you were the lead group from doing your own animals in the context of what you're doing. That's what you're going to be doing. You're going to be reducing the population. This one is going to be for cats so you're already doing that. You're already taking in the cats. You're going to be doing the fundraising unless you're talking about seed money from the cities which would be accountable for that. You're putting the animals into the system; you're still working at what you're doing. You're just going to be doing it collectively across the County. We do that now. We're doing it now. There are other groups doing it now. I don't think you can compare it to C.A.R.E. because C.A.R.E. is paid. They're paid. We're not paid. It could evolve to that, your 501c3 could end up paying a person depending on what kind of funding they get, paying an administrator or something like that to do the program depending on how big the program becomes.

Mrs. Clark: When I looked at the list a month ago, there are still 54 active veterinary businesses. There are a hundred thousand cats out there. So you have to have someplace to get them all done.

Dr. Emerson: I'd like to interject to that. When we think about the concept of the numbers, they're not all going to be trapped at one time and these vets are going to be burdened with literally piles of cats. It's going to be the trickling effect. A little bit over here, a little bit there. I think that that aspect of it is reasonable for the doctors. They kind of know what's coming. The doctors have had a meeting about what our plans are

and many of them are on Board and I think we could get more on board. This is going to be a slow progressive repair. It's not like we're going to create this together and make this work and suddenly we're not going to have feral cats. The concept that when you say there are 54 active clinics and there's a hundred thousand cats the math isn't adding up. You can't think of it as you have to split that hundred thousand number up and divide it equally or something to that effect. It's going to be a very slow process and a little bit at a time is how this is going to work.

Mrs. Clark: But they still have to be paid for their services. Doctor Rawls made it very clear that when veterinarians are doing a feral cat; number one it's a possible danger to their staff and themselves and you've been handling feral cats for a long time but that's what impressed me with Dr. Rawls is he said it's not like a regular house cat, a feral cat is an entirely different thing and it takes longer.

Dr. Emerson: No. I think what we shouldn't do is involve that aspect of it in this particular meeting. Getting the vets on Board, because I'm one of that crew, we've talked about some of the plans that I've got but what we need to before we even go down that route is we need to put this whole thing together and we need to focus the attention on how we want to get this whole feral cat program put together and then the veterinarians are going to come in on the tail end. We've talked about we're going to have a protocol put together. The vets are going to get paid but what our goal is going to be and what I would like to see is that basically we have a program that says this: for a male cat you'll get this much money, these are the protocols that we're going to use the veterinarians had requested that we do leukemia aids test them, they get one set of vaccines, whatever they want and then we're going to present that. It's going to be the same for every doctor across the board. Not that this one's going to get paid \$60, this one's getting paid \$40. It's going to be the same for everybody. And that is a whole separate entity. I'll work on that with you guys as a group but I have a whole suggestion on how we can accomplish that and get many doctors on board to help. Not that I want to squash what you're saying Karen, but I think that aspect of it just really shouldn't be part of this meeting.

Ms. Wilson: And one thing that I wanted to address about the perks, you have to remember that the Council gave this Board a direction to study the problem and to come up with solutions. And when we studied that, most of this Board was not a part of it but there are some who were a part of the original study which identify the problem then determine that it was going to be best managed and run by a nonprofit group. That's why we came to this part. Council then directed this Board to seek out and determine what group in our County would be the best nonprofit group for that. The perk, for me even as an employee of Volusia County, is that we stop killing animals; that we reduce that number significantly through a program. And I think that any group that has formed a nonprofit group for the purpose of reducing that number like Pat said, that is their ultimate goal. That's their mission is to see that number come down. Now I can't speak for Council I can only say that when we go back and say to Council we followed their direction, we came up with criteria, this is the nonprofit group that stepped forward and says "my mission is to reduce the animal population across Volusia County we're

going to incorporate a feral cat program using our local veterinarians to fund the spay and neuter. We're going to bring in underneath our umbrella all the people that are already trapping and be unified as a County to correct this problem and to reduce the number. And we're going to start fundraising, we're going to look for sponsors and this would be part of their presentation. And when we go to Council we say this is the group and because it's going to be something that I believe everybody is going to buy in to County-wide, cities and everybody because ultimately it's going to reduce the number of cats that are picked up. And that we're going to be working very closely. I can't see why not the cities or the County wouldn't be willing to contribute somewhere down the line. But to say this is a County program we've never said that. So the letter did not identify that because it's not a County program. It is exactly what it said and exactly what you saw in it. The nonprofit would be saying "yes we want to take this on as a part of our mission and we want to address it and put together operating procedures. We have fundraising in place and we would like for the County to support our efforts in whatever way they determine". And there may be other ways the County and the cities could help. The main thing in our original study was that there isn't any money. In the economic times we're in now there's no tax dollars that can be put to a program that needs to be a County wide program. First we're just an unincorporated entity and second there isn't any money. I think the idea was to make this a community project. And I think when it's driven by a nonprofit group as opposed to a government people will be more likely to participate and support that with funding and in other ways.

Dr. Emerson: I have a question. Is the County going to be responsible so to speak to go into the municipalities and try to put this on as approved? Or is that going to be up to the nonprofit group to put together and go and talk each municipality and get permission from them. There's going to be a lot involved and they're going to want to say what's going to happen with all these cats that are trapped? Where are they going to go? Then we have that whole thing to work through. Where are we going to put all these cats that are trapped and spayed and neutered?

Mrs. Driggers: That would be something that we would hope following what we said they need to have and a plan, which would be within that organization. They would already have an answer to that prior to stepping in.

Dr. Emerson: So it's going to be up to the organization to go and visit all the municipalities and try and present their protocol to them?

Ms. Wilson: That's not the way I think it's been. From the very start the study was to look at how they're doing it in other counties. In other counties nonprofit groups are running it and the C.A.R.E. group in Orange County does use the County spay and neuter clinic and they have 8 veterinarians and 10 hour surgery days 7 days a week. They accommodate. That's comparing apples and oranges. But in all the other counties that are currently doing this, the nonprofit group has taken the lead and there aren't any boundary lines. There's no city-County. There are no boundary lines. They have a program anybody in the whole County can make an appointment. And the people who are already trapping and spaying and neutering and returning are the people who will

continue to work under this one nonprofit group to see that the animals get spayed and neutered. It will really, for the Board, to come up with operational guidelines would not be right. It has to be the nonprofit group. And that's why the criteria that we set out will draw to us a group that has the capabilities. They have the business wherefore all. They already have a structure that allows them that they are successful in a small basis, now they'll just be successful on a County wide basis. So they won't necessarily be soliciting, and I'm sure whoever will take this over would make a presentation to the cities for donations.

Mr. Mongello: We all know the problem of trying to get grants. That's ongoing. So now as a nonprofit, I'm always speaking as a nonprofit, why would I take on the whole County which is going to cost my organization more money to handle without some input from the County? Either financially or physically.

Mrs. Mihalic: I think we're missing the point of what the nonprofit is going to do. Me, speaking as a nonprofit who has does tnr, who does spays and neuters for owned animals, we do it Countywide right now. I don't turn anybody away. If they are from Deland, Debary, and people will come that far to participate in a program because the vets that we work with right now are on the east side. We don't have anybody on the west side. The idea that you would have a group working collectively with all the other little groups out there and bringing them all under one umbrella, your accomplishment will be similar to what First Coast No More Homeless Pets had in Jacksonville. They started out as nothing. Now they did get support from the County and that turned into support from Best Friends Animal League. So they did get \$250,000 from the County and \$250,000 from Best Friends. But the \$250,000 investment from the County turned into a savings of almost \$13,000,000. So it was a very wise investment. I don't know if you know Port Orange has set aside \$40,000 for a trap neuter return program. The money is sitting there but they have no clue how to do a tnr. And I think that is going to be the nonprofits mission is to talk to these cities who are willing to invest in this program because they're seeing Port Orange spent \$50,000 last year just on euthanasia. I think Daytona Beach's number was somewhere around \$100,000. Just on euthanasia. So a \$10,000 investment, 10% of what they're spending and being able to show them the reduction. Just like the County has had a 600 animal reduction in impoundment this year. That translates to \$60,000 savings. And that's not even animal control time or anything like that. That's strictly what the humane society would have received for that. So I think the nonprofit is going to have to solicit the cities because it's not just one entity here. I wish it was. The County has been unbelievably helpful. But again maybe we can talk the County into letting us use the Pet Vet Cruiser for so many days a month and use the money for that, for trap/neuter and return. They're doing a program now so maybe we can incorporate that in there as long as we pay for the spays and neuters. All of those things are going to happen. Again, whoever takes it on knows just from this that it's going to be County-wide and that they're going to have to bring it together and they're already spending their money doing it. We spend \$89,000 last year on spay and neuters. And we're two people. So it can be done. So I think we just need to get the right group in there to do it.

Mr. Baird: In my opinion it seems like your group was going to take on the whole County. In the end you're probably to going to need \$500,000, shooting from the hip. What do you think? Not that much?

Mrs. Mihalic: no. I don't think so.

Mr. Baird: The worst areas, because I get a lot of calls from people, the worst area is Orange City, Debarry and Deltona. They are absolutely out of control. People are desperate to do something in those areas. I don't know what to tell them.

Dr. Emerson: The nonprofit that's going to take that on, that's their headache to worry about where to get the money and they've got their structure how they want to raise funds and ask cities for donations.

Mrs. Driggers: And that's what our goal is here is just to find that organization. We need to find them. So are there any suggestions as to ways other than what we've already done to get in touch with them?

Mr. Gilchrist: How about any social media? Anybody know anything about any of these groups?

Mrs. Clark: We couldn't do anything until we had all this okayed so nothing really could have been put out there until everything was approved by here and then from here I guess it goes to the legal section and they can officially make it ok. All of this has to be approved.

Mrs. Driggers: It's already done. It's already out.

Ms. Wilson: It's already gone to the nonprofit groups. This is the criteria that you set out for the nonprofits. If that was related to County operations, yes it would have to go to legal.

Mrs. Driggers: It was approved at the last meeting so we said okay this is what we want in the letter so the letter can go out. Since it's already gone out, do we want to maybe put something on Facebook? Do we want to get it out there?

Mrs. Clark: volusia.org has a Facebook page doesn't it? I know the Sheriff's office does. I had suggested Animal Control have a Facebook page but you didn't think that was a good idea at the time.

Ms. Wilson: I was thinking that you could set one up.

Mrs. Clark: Oh yes I would love to. But I know everything would have to go through you because it's going to say Volusia County Animal Control or whatever the name is.

Mrs. Driggers: The Board says to set it up and says the things that are put on there are things, it's not just people putting anything on there. It has to be things the Board has said we want on there. But it can be monitored by somebody on the Board. Is that something you'd want to take on?

Mrs. Clark: Yes, that's not a problem.

Mrs. Mihalic: If someone could put this out there just like it is, but with a signature. Something that's nice that we can pass on. A lot of the groups know other groups and they could actually send it out. I could put it in our news letter so it would go out to more, reach more and also coming from the County is different than coming from another group. It's just Dr. Emerson approaching veterinarians. That's your circle. A lot of groups are kind of shy of dealing with government. But coming from another group they might think, if they're going to be involved they may step forward more so than stepping forward with government. It's almost like these people are endorsing the program.

Ms. Wilson: Another thing we could do is we could do a follow-up email. Just say, we sent you a letter, just wondering if you had questions of if there's anything needing clarification. We could do a follow-up email to those.

Mrs. Driggers: Can we get this letter on letterhead?

Ms. Wilson: Yes.

Mrs. Driggers: And I could go ahead and sign this and distribute this.

Mrs. Clark: We could scan it too. What would you want the page to be called? The Facebook page, which would also go to Twitter and MySpace. I'd hit all of them.

Mr. Gilchrist: Google Plus too.

Mrs. Driggers: I would say just call it exactly what our advisory report is. It's the Volusia County Animal Control Advisory Board. That way it stays legit with exactly what our Board is.

Mrs. Mihalic: I think what she's saying is, what do you want to name it? Do you want to put something out there with trap/neuter/return?

Mrs. Driggers: Well that's not the only issue of the Board. The Facebook needs to be what the Board is. Now you can do different things in it, different notes or posts and name that t/n/r or things like that.

Dr. Emerson: I think she's saying that the page itself will be named after this and whatever issues we're dealing with can be labeled and put on there and titled for whatever our issues are.

Mrs. Clark: Your page can have a page. I have a page but I also have a page for photography that you click on and that comes up, but it's linked to the other one. You can link pages.

Ms. Wilson: What I can do is, I know that there are some Facebook pages within the County, I'll talk to our Public Information people and ask them how to set it up. Let me check with them and then I'll get back to you.

Mrs. Clark: And once you do that, I'll get it on immediately. And then I can post the minutes on there too.

Ms. Wilson: They're already posted on our web page.

Dr. Emerson: Pat do you all have a list of all the nonprofit groups within our County? A complete list?

Mrs. Mihalic: We can get our hands on it.

Dr. Emerson: And how far out are we reaching to invite groups in for this? How far out are we trying to reach? Beyond our County border?

Many members state yes

Dr. Emerson: So how do we get that contact information?

Mrs. Mihalic: We don't know who it was sent to. I think we need to know who it was sent to and I do think we should send it to First Coast No More Homeless Pets.

Dr. Emerson: That's my big thing. Where's this contact list coming from and how do we know how far out it's going? Because if we're willing to go outside of our County borders, there are groups all over the place that would have no way of knowing anything about this.

Mrs. Driggers: In the past there was someone up in Jacksonville that was interested.

Ms. Wilson: That was First Coast

Mr. Baird: Would Alley Cat Allies ever help?

Dr. Emerson: It's hard to say. When you look at how it's going to be structured for the nonprofit group, it is a lot to take on when you're not directly involved. Pats group is in our County, they're very involved in what we actively have going on. You guys are here. To sit back and read a letter about another County's issues and say "well I'm here let me go and take that problem on", that I think is probably less appealing. It doesn't hurt to try. That's why I'm questioning how are we going to get this contact list and information out?

Mrs. Mihalic: Well First Coast No More Homeless Pets does have pickups here in Volusia County. They do have a transport that transports to Jacksonville. When I talked to (inaudible) up there, he was at one point in time interested even to the point that they might just supply a van for us. But they were actually looking for a satellite program. But I don't know because of what they're doing up there, they're still desperately trying to fix the program there. I would still reach out to them because you may not get them to commit to that but you may get them to commit to something else.

Dr. Emerson: Can't you get a list of all the 501c3 organizations similar to us getting a list of licensed doctors or what have you? Can't you go in and get a list of organizations that have that 501c3 in their contract information?

Mrs. Mihalic: You can from the IRS

Mrs. Clark: Only if you went to the IRS and just put the word animal. You would have to do a name search and include something like that and a lot of them don't have the word animal in the name.

Dr. Emerson: So how do you reach out to everybody we can? You know about this group in Jacksonville because you're familiar with them, but there are a lot of other groups between here and there that we don't know about. How do you get that information?

Mrs. Mihalic: That's why I'm saying that we should send it to the ones that we know here in the County, and then ask them to cross-post. They'll pass it on to people that they've dealt with. That would be my suggestion to get the word out there. The other thing is if you send it to us, a lot of us can send it to groups that aren't 501c3 but that are nonprofits that are working ones who may know of ones who are 501c3's that wants to take it on or at least help with it. The more information you get out there the better off you are.

Dr. Emerson: I agree with Bob as well. Those big groups like Alley Cat Allies they should be presented with this. They have funds that are huge. Maybe they would look at this and say we'd love to take this on.

Mr. Baird: There are people like Bob Barker too.

Dr. Emerson: So how far out do you reach? That's a big question that I have.

Mrs. Clark: You still need to have some sort of a base because if you reach out to someone like that and they have the dollars, that's like getting a grant. But it still has to have somebody who organizes it. We're putting the cart before the horse in this case. But all these ideas, I'm writing down, that once you find the group there's nothing wrong with us still reaching out to those other organizations nationwide.

Mrs. Mihalic: The other thing too, Alley Cat Allies works with nonprofits within all the states. They may have a group here that they're already working with that would be willing to expand their program. ASPCA has tnr programs. Humane Society of the United States has a tnr program. A lot of them have grants out there. Again, I would make that that list on there include a letter that we could send to everybody who is doing the animal work that they could send to somebody else.

Ms. Wilson: I think Karen had a good point about doing the thing locally. Nothing keeps the local person from reaching out for support from the larger entities.

Dr. Emerson: So do we have a contact list for local groups?

Ms. Wilson: What we sent out was when Andy Kelly had formed a task force and he gave invitations out to everybody that he had had contact here. And they in turn invited people. We have a list of those groups. That's who we sent those out to.

Mrs. Mihalic: Can we have a copy of that?

Ms. Wilson: Yes

Dr. Emerson: So we feel that contact list is adequate?

Mrs. Mihalic: What we can all do is look and see if there's anyone else.

Mr. Baird: There's another thing you're missing. A lot of people like me; I know a lot of other people who are out there fixing as many as they can are not part of any group. They're privateers like me. And you have to get a hold of them too.

Dr. Emerson: I thought some of the criteria was you had to have a group that could handle the load. Individuals probably don't have the man-power to handle this task.

Mrs. Clark: That's why he said it's under the umbrella. All the people out there like C.A.R.E. there are troops like Bob.

Mr. Baird: My situation is like most of them. I probably feed a hundred cats a day at four different spots. A lot of the spots I got most of them fixed and ear-tipped. Some of them are about 30% done. I'm running out of money. And I went to a post office yesterday and the old lady attacked me and asked when are you coming to get this feral cat out of here? I said the answer is you fix it and feed it. Well I don't want it here; I want it out of here. There are a lot of cases where people just don't want the cats. I went to the Blue Moon Cat Sanctuary a couple of weeks ago which I'm very impressed with. It's up in Flagler. Also the Flagler County Humane Society is really a nice run place.

Mr. Baird discusses Nickel Day in Flagler County.

Mrs. Clark: They would still incorporate the people like you that they would say okay you're under our umbrella so this is what we're all going to do as a team.

Mrs. Driggers: The nonprofit would come up with those types of things. They may have days like you're saying but our goal is to find the nonprofit.

Mrs. Mihalic: Back to what he's saying about the vet, that's why I say if we get a nice letter that we can send out to all of the people on all of our contact lists that are doing this that aren't on that list. Even some of the ones that are on the list because it will come from a different source rather than from the County. It may be a 501c3 that you're sending it to that maybe is missed on the list. Or that may reconsider because it's coming from someone else.

Mrs. Driggers: They're working on the letter now. They are getting a letter so we can do that. Everybody will get a copy of that. It will be on letterhead and sign so you can distribute that along with your cover to it to somebody you may know. They are going to reissue what they've already done and send it back around, just following up on the letter that did go out so they will contact them again. Then everybody will get a letter that they can distribute to people they may know.

Mrs. Clark: I'd like permission when we do get that letter that I can send it out to every newspaper in central Florida for their letters to the editor.

Mrs. Driggers: Yes. That's something that we said at the last meeting that we would hit all of them. It did go out to some newspapers and then to the tv media already. But definitely, anybody that you know, contacts in media, those are avenues we want to use.

Mrs. Clark: So I have permission to do that when I get the official letter that we're allowed to hand out?

Mrs. Driggers: It can be distributed to anyone that can be of help.

Mrs. Clark: Okay, that works.

Mrs. Driggers: Any other suggestions or anything on this topic before we move on? Okay, is there any other business that is not on the agenda that anybody wanted to bring up?

Mrs. Mihalic: Port Orange passed mandatory neuter and spay finally. They've also allotted \$40,000 to a tnr program so they are going to looking to do that. They are asking for help and suggestions from the County.

Mrs. Clark: I know Nick had mentioned it before, that because of the economy, is there any way that through the proper channels, that horses can be put in as a companion

animal as well besides being an agriculture. They are companion animals; they are therapy animals just like dogs. There are a lot of horse issues out there.

Mrs. Driggers: Because of the way they are classified I don't see that that would ever happen.

Mrs. Clark: It does say companion animals. And horses are companion animals and they are also therapy animals.

Mr. Pacheco: You're talking about a whole change to the ordinance.

Mrs. Clark: Yeah well, anything can happen.

Mr. Pacheco: Anything can, but right now we just do dogs and cats with the staffing that we have. You add more different types of animals that means more staffing.

Mrs. Wood: But there's such a strong need for it. I'm supposedly representing the large animal population and I do use horses for equestrian psychotherapy work. But there's so many horse that are starving. It's hard to drive by day in and day out. So I'm not really familiar with the whole protocol of the Board and its situation. I was kind of asked to be a part of it of which I'm proud to do. But I would like to know what can I do? I'm on the Board now I want to try and help out where there's a super strong need. We all know that. You can drive by anywhere and see skinny horses all over the place. No one can afford to feed them. You can only call the Sheriff's Department so much and they'll make their runs out there and the next day you'll see a bale of hay. Then that's it and the cycle goes on and on. To me that's so unacceptable to do that.

Mr. Pacheco: What's in place now are the Sheriff's Department land rangers handling those types of calls. And we refer those calls to them.

Mrs. Driggers: So you're wanting to see a change?

Mrs. Wood: Absolutely, We'd love to be a part of it. Like I said I don't know what all it entails in terms of paperwork and protocols and all that, but I can certainly do whatever is needed. I'd be more than willing to do so. If we can change their classification, if that allows them more help from us, then yes I'd love to do that.

Mrs. Mihalic: The only thing you're going to run in to again, is the County can change their classification and if the cities don't there are 16 cities. If they don't change theirs you can only take care of what's in the unincorporated area. The County has no jurisdiction anyplace else. They can't go to Daytona Beach they can't go to Port Orange or Orange City. None of those.

Mrs. Clark: Well that would be a start though.

Mrs. Mihalic: It would be but I thought the Sheriff's Department, don't they handle it?

Mrs. Clark: Ask Nick. He knows about that first hand.

Mr. Pacheco: I don't know if they go into the cities. Do we know if the Sheriff's Department handles horses and livestock in the city? I'm not aware of it.

Mrs. Clark: When you were calling the Sheriff's Department for those horses that were having that green swill, you experienced that whole thing.

Mr. Mongello: Yes.

Mr. Mongello describes a situation of horse abuse that the Sheriff's Department responded to.

Mr. Mongello: The point is, in a situation like that, it's a life and death situation. You can't play around with that. And I still have a problem with horses or any animal being livestock versus domestic like cats and dogs. To me an animal is an animal. And if it's being abused somebody has to step in.

Mr. Mongello: How about in that letter if you change the terminology and say "to assist the County"?

Mrs. Driggers: The letter has already been approved and sent out.

Mrs. Clark: Once you say the word assist that means they're partners and that means they would both be liable. They would be running it with County resources available.

Mr. Mongello: I understand. What I have the problem with is I'm the County saying it's your full responsibility. I want no part of it.

Mrs. Driggers: We're on a different topic now. We need to finish this right here. We're talking about the horses right now.

Mr. Mongello: I'm finished with the horses.

Mrs. Driggers: Well we're not. I was asking Kris how familiar she was with the different cities and the County and how they're addressed. We know how they're classified but do you know the cities how they're handled?

Mrs. Wood: I don't but I can certainly find out. Typically it's the phone calls made, the Sheriff's Department comes out. If they see that there's water or even a bale of hay whether there's ten horses or one, then they consider that that the horse has hay and water and they leave. That's the typical standard protocol. It takes an awful lot to get the Sheriff's to either make sure there's proper round bale.

Mrs. Wood discusses neighbors she had with horses who were starving.

Mrs. Wood: Typical protocol is they cruise out and make their presence known. Let them know there has been concern about the welfare of the animal and they'd like to see it improve. Whether they follow up on it I'm not sure. As far as when they decide that an animal needs to be impounded, I don't know where it goes. I don't know who pays for it. I've certainly offered it because I've got eight free stalls right now.

Mrs. Driggers: Can I ask you to do some of that research and maybe we can put that on an agenda for a later meeting?

Mrs. Wood: Sure

Mr. Pacheco: Kris let me ask a question. Have you ever addressed that problem with whoever's in charge of the Land Rangers?

Mrs. Wood: Here in Deland?

Mr. Pacheco: Yes, in Volusia County.

Mrs. Wood: I don't really know who is in charge. So I'd have to find that out.

Mr. Pacheco: You may want to address that too and find out what their ordinances are. What they cover and if they do follow-ups. That's no different than us. We have an ordinance; we have a policy and procedure that the officer's follow. So maybe it would be in your best interest to follow that up.

Mrs. Driggers: So if you find out that in your research and contact them and address the issue they may be able to fix or at least help improve what they're already doing.

Mr. Pacheco: And also if you're willing to volunteer maybe they can put your name of their list and use you. And use some of your contacts. That's just an idea I'm throwing out there.

Mrs. Wood: Well I'd take in all of them. It's just a matter of who pays to help me feed them?

Mr. Pacheco: That's something you would have to address with them.

Mrs. Wood: My labor would be nothing. It's a labor of love. But I will start with that and try and figure out what the different cities around here do and who's in charge and that sort of thing.

Mr. Pacheco: They may want volunteers. If there are just two Land Rangers in the entire County again I'm just assuming, they may need some volunteers to help out when they confiscate animals. That's something you may want to look in to.

Mr. Mongello: I was told by the Sheriff's Department livestock would have to be prone. It would have to collapse before they get involved. Does that seem right?

Mrs. Driggers: Well she's going to find out the answers.

Mr. Pacheco: I can only address our dog and cat situation. I can't address livestock because again not knowing their policies or procedures. That's something that needs to be looked at if that's what your interest is.

Mrs. Mihalic: Also, Sergio's right about volunteering your services. For birds the city of Daytona Beach calls me. If they have a case they think has been abuse they call me because I know what to look for. Your Rangers going out or Sheriff isn't going to know that that type of hay isn't good for the horse. They're not going to know that. So they may call you to the scene to be their expert in case it went to court. They would have an expert who knows. Again that's a good idea to volunteer for that.

Mrs. Driggers: We need to set a date for the next meeting. Do we want to schedule one and try to get a nonprofit here?

Mrs. Mihalic: I said we would make a presentation next time.

Mrs. Driggers: OK

The next meeting was set for November 16, 2011 at 9:00 am

Meeting adjourned