

**Science Advisory Council
to the
Environmental Management Commission
Falmouth Public Library
April 30, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

SAC Members:

Tara Lewis	SAC	508-362-3828	Tara.lewis@capecodcommission.org
Phil Gschwend	SAC	781-354-7781	pmgschwe@mit.edu
Denis LeBlanc	SAC	978-501-3065	dleblanc@usgs.gov
Melissa Lombard	SAC	603-799-6575	mlombard@usgs.gov
Mark Faherty	SAC	774-288-9465	mfaherty@massaudubon.org

EMC Staff:

Leonard Pinaud	EMC	617-694-2644	Leonard.pinaud@mass.gov
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Attendees:

LTC Alex McDonough	MA ARNG, Base Operations Manager	774-286-1373	Alexander.v.mcdonough.mil@army.mil
Kathleen Kolva	MA ARNG	339-202-9307	Kathleen.a.kolva.civ@army.mil
Jake McCumber	MA ARNG	339-202-9343	Jacob.mccumber@mass.gov
Annie Curtis Haines	MA ARNG	339-202-9325	Annie.curtis@mass.gov
Michael Ciaranca	MANG E&RC	339-202-9358	Michael.a.ciaranca.nfg@army.mil
Emily Kelly	MANG E&RC	339-202-9341	emily.d.kelly2.nfg@army.mil

Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Science Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, September 30, 2025
2. Science Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2025
3. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, April 2026
4. Camp Edwards Update, 30 April 2026
5. State of the Reservation Report Camp Edwards Update, 30 April 2026
6. Camp Edwards Natural Resources Update Spring 2026
7. Prescribed Burn Season, Spring 2026
8. State of the Reservation Report Overview, Training Year 2025
9. Tour Camp Edwards
10. Camp Edwards Natural Resources

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Agenda – Ms. Tara Lewis, SAC Vice Chair

Science Advisory Council (SAC) Vice Chair Tara Lewis welcomed everyone to the SAC meeting.

Agenda Item #2: Review of SAC Minutes and Approval – Ms. Tara Lewis, SAC Vice Chair/SAC Members

- May 1, 2025, draft minutes were reviewed. Mr. Gschwend made a motion to approve the May 1, 2025, minutes as written; Ms. Lewis seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- September 30, 2025, draft minutes were reviewed. Ms. Lombard made a motion to approve the September 30, 2025, minutes as written; Mr. Faherty seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Agenda Item #3: Environmental Officer Update – Mr. Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer

Mr. Pinaud reviewed action items from the September 30, 2025, SAC meeting.

1. Mr. Pinaud will provide the IAGWSP PFAS report to SAC members if he has not already done so.
 - The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program PFAS report is still draft; it will be provided to SAC members when it is final.
2. Mr. Pinaud will compile a list of constituents in ammunition/pyrotechnics that qualify as an automatic denial of that ammunition/pyrotechnic for use at Camp Edwards (e.g. tungsten, etc).
 - Mr. Pinaud will present this in his update.
3. Mr. Pinaud will provide the refueling map and digital version of the refueling language to the SAC.
 - The refueling map and refueling language were provided to SAC members and it will be presented in Mr. Pinaud's update.

Mr. Pinaud provided an update:

- Camp Edwards completed the State of the Reservation Report for Training Year (TY) 2025. There is a summary document that was also produced.
- Three seats are open on the SAC in the areas of public health, land use management, wildlife habitat management or water protection. Over the last two years, Mr. Pinaud has been looking for a specialist with public health expertise to join the council. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) has two open seats: a JBCC family and an At-Large member. An election for SAC chair will be held at the Fall meeting.
- The advisory council public meetings have been moved off Joint Base Cape Cod and into the community to see if more community members would attend the meetings. Mr. Pinaud is looking for suggestions how to reach a wider audience to advertise the public meetings.
 - Ms. Nye recommended publishing the meetings in Southeastern Massachusetts Coastal Outreach (SEMCO), an email listserv that reaches Southeastern Massachusetts.
- The Environmental Performance Standards were revised on March 19, 2026. The Environmental Management Commission voted on the revised performance standards at their October 2025 meeting and the Environmental Performance Standards were open for public comment with comments received from the Cape Cod Commission.
- The deadline for the call for experts to the National Academies of Sciences is today; however, there may be some flexibility with that deadline.
- The Approved Ammunition List was revised November 18, 2025. When exceptions to policy (for Soldier training) are requested, the Approved Ammunition List is consulted to ensure that ammunition items requested for the training are allowed at Camp Edwards. The process for including an item in the Approved Munitions List includes reviewing chemical constituents listed for the item in the military's MIDAS database. Camp Edwards also performs initial internal assessments to filter out unfeasible requests and steer units towards similar, compliant training. Constituents in ammunition items that would incur an automatic "no" include some PFAS compounds and tungsten.
 - Mr. Gschwend emphasized taking advantage of SAC members' chemical and other expertise.
- The Field Refueling Operations Standard Operating Procedure and its associated refueling map were finalized on March 19, 2026. Input on the SOP was solicited from the SAC, Community Advisory Council, and the Environmental Management Commission.

- Mr. Gschwend said that refueling and transport locations should be evaluated using groundwater transport information to determine whether any spills could migrate to public or private wells.
 - Reminding SAC members that the refueling information had been presented to the group pre-Covid, it was noted the locations had been compared against MassDEP Zone 1 and Zone 2 areas, with most locations outside of the Zone 2 areas. Refueling procedures on the northern 15,000 acres are also stricter than those outside of the Reserve.
 - Add something in about Denis saying the SOP is good. Mr. LeBlanc said that the refueling SOP seems to be very protective. He noted that Zone 2 areas account are modeled conservatively and suggested a “back of the envelope” calculation by placing refueling locations on the groundwater map and drawing flow paths which could address concerns.
- Mr. LeBlanc asked what the process is if a spill occurs?
 - A release triggers immediate notification to Range Operations, and, if appropriate, to the environmental compliance manager and MassDEP. Then soil excavation and cleanup begin the same day.

Agenda Item #4: Camp Edwards Update – Mr. Alex McDonough, Base Operations Manager

Mr. McDonough provided a Camp Edwards update.

- The Camp Edwards tour schedule has been set for the summer.
- Meetings with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe continue and a Memorandum of Understanding is at National Guard Bureau. Camp Edwards has opened the Military Deer Hunt to members of the Tribe; it was well attended.
- The Integrated Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plan (IOMMP) has been modernized and approved—ensuring consistency for Soldiers and Range Operations.
- An ad hoc committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will address scientific and technical issues related to potential aquifer contamination from small arms ranges. \$1 million is funded for the study and the contract awarded for the approximately 18 month process. Four meetings are anticipated. Mr. McDonough will reach back to ask the time for invitation to ad hoc committee be extended if SAC members are interested.
- One unit has conducted pre-mobilization training since the last SAC meeting; three units are expected to return during the next two quarters. There are no major exercises planned for this year; most events supported this year are standard weekend drills and annual training events. August will be the largest month for training by number with more than 4,000 Soldiers planned to train at Camp Edwards during the month.
- Electrical upgrades are planned for Sierra and Echo ranges to enable installation of new target lifters. The design is in progress, and contract solicitation is scheduled for this fiscal year pending funding availability. Ammunition round cleanup is planned for India Range. A work order has been produced, and the award is projected for contract this fiscal year. Round cleanup is planned for Echo Range in 2028.

Agenda Item #5: State of the Reservation Report Training Year 2025 – Mr. Alex McDonough, Base Operations Manager

Mr. McDonough provided a presentation on the State of the Reservation Report for Training Year 2026.

- The State of the Reservation Report is divided into five sections (Introduction, Small Arms Ranges and Military Training Activities, Environmental Program Management, Remediation Program Activities, Miscellaneous Military and Civilian Activities) and a number of appendices and is more than 200 pages.
- The report provides information on copper and lead ammunition use, range usage, number of soldiers trained during the year, small arms range monitoring, environmental program resource management activities, and the status of compliance with the Environmental Performance Standards.
- The report is distributed through both the Camp Edwards and Environmental Management Commission websites, provided to Cape Cod town managers, select boards and the Barnstable County Commission, and made available at the Jonathan Bourne Public Library. A six-page summary report is also available.

Agenda Item #6: Natural Resources Update – *Mr. Jake McCumber, Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager*

Mr. McCumber gave presentation on Natural Resources a Camp Edwards.

- The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan update is planned to be completed in December 2026.
- Fauna work included the things like the Christmas bird count, data analysis and reporting. The results of the data analysis will be completed soon. The endangered species consultation for bats submitted in October 2024 is still in process.
- The fall hunt was successful with good hunter participation and the highest deer harvest since 2024.
- Flora projects include restoration of the buffer on Deep Bottom Pond, reintroduction of Liatris and frost bottom rehab. Thirty-three acres were harvested in Training Area C-13 in January/February with pine barrens restoration adjacent to the C-14 restoration area. Eighteen acres were harvested in Training Area BA-3 where snag reduction work was also completed.
- Wildland Fire was originally planned for 1,700 acres; however, the fire manager is on medical leave and plans are being adjusted. The Natural Resources Program will assist at Wildlife Management Areas and other partner sites and is hopeful for potential burn opportunities at Camp Edwards in Training Area A-4 and the grasslands.
- Southern pine beetles are expanding northward and have killed thousands of acres of pitch pine in New York and New Jersey. Southern pine beetles were first observed at Camp Edwards in December 2025; there are 22 confirmed sites, ranging from one tree to dozens infested. He set up a Southeastern Massachusetts communication group and is working to set up an education or outreach session in June. They are advocating proactive work as much as possible although there are challenges with that. Southern pine beetles highlight the need for resilience in the Pine Barrens and restoration work.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment – *Mr. Paul Cavanagh, SAC Chair*

Mr. LeBlanc announced that he will be stepping down from the SAC and will provide a letter stating that. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #8: Adjourn – *Mr. Paul Cavanagh, SAC Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Science Advisory Council Action Items

April 30, 2026

Action Items:

- A “back of the envelope” model could be devised by overlaying refueling locations with groundwater-flow information and likely downgradient pathways to identify whether any locations could be hydrologically connected to public or private wells.