
**Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
July 19, 2022
9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	
Commissioner Ron Amidon	EMC/DFG	617-626-1550	
Commissioner Martin Suuberg	EMC/MassDEP	617-292-5856	
Commissioner Doug Rice	EMC/DCR	617-626-1250	

<u>Environmental Officer:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	<u>E-mail:</u>
Len Pinaud, Environmental Officer	EMC	508-946-2871	Leonard.pinaud@mass.gov

<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	<u>E-Mail:</u>
COL Matt Porter	MA ARNG	508-789-8375	Matthew.n.porter.mil@army.mil
MAJ Alexander McDonough	MA ARNG	508-968-5980	Alexander.v.mcdonough.mil@army.mil
Brig. Gen. Chris Faux	JBCC Ex. Dir. Office	339-202-3913	Christopher.m.faux.civ@army.mil
Rob Crevey	MA ARNG	339-202-9365	Robert.j.crevey.nfg@army.mil
Annie Curtis	MA ARNG	339-202-9325	Annie.e.haines.nfg@army.mil
Kathleen Kolva	MA ARNG	774-286-6108	Kathleen.a.kolva.civ@army.mil
Dave Hill	IAGWSP	339-202-9335	David.l.hill2.ngf@mail.mil
Steve Simpson	USCG	207-610-2315	Steven.m.simpson@uscg.mil
Scott Amirault	USCG		Scott.f.amirault@uscg.mil
Mike Ciaranca	E&RC	339-202-9358	Michael.a.ciaranca.nfg@mail.mil
Emily Kelly	E&RC	339-202-9341	Emily.d.kelly2.nfg@mail.mil
Mimi McConnell	CAC	508-428-9573	Mmccconnell934@comcast.net
Eric Turkington	Falmouth Water Quality Management Committee		

Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: October 24, 2019
2. Environmental Officer Update – July 2022
3. IAGWSP PFAS Investigation Update
4. Camp Edwards Update, 19 July 2022
5. Natural Resources & Training Lands Management Update
6. Tango Range, 2022

Agenda Item #1. Welcome– Commissioner Ronald Amidon, EMC Chair

Commissioner Amidon welcomed everyone to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). The members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #2. Review of EMC Minutes and Approval

The October 24, 2019, EMC minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Suuberg made a motion to accept the minutes and Commissioner Rice seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3. Environmental Officer Update – Mr. Leonard Pinaud, Environmental Management Commission Acting Environmental Officer

Mr. Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer, summarized the activities in the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (the Reserve) that the EMC has been involved with:

- The Annual State of the Reservation Reports for 2020 and 2021. The reports capture Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) activities in the Reserve including environmental, soldier training, sampling and training days.
- Non-standard training requests. The EMC reviewed 20 non-standard training requests over the last year and a half. The MAARNG requests a non-standard training activity to the EMC and the EMC Environmental Officer (EO) reviews that activity to ensure there is no adverse effect to the Reserve.
- The EMC has a new website under the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Information pertaining to the EMC is consolidated there, and Mr. Pinaud encourages the public to use that website for information related to the EMC.
- Prescribed fire. The MAARNG has conducted thirteen prescribed burns this year. There will be further information during Mr. McCumber's presentation later in the meeting.
- Non-compliance with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs). The MAARNG self-reported to the EMC that an unauthorized training item was used. There was no adverse environmental effect associated with that; so, the EMC responded to the MAARNG that the self-report was acceptable. The issue is resolved.
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Groundwater Review. Mr. David Hill will present an update on PFAS.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Sole Source Aquifer review. The status of the Sole Source Aquifer review can be found at <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/capecod.html>. The EMC has had conversations with EPA staff, answering questions and educating them about the EMC's role, range inspections and other items.
- The Science Advisory Council (SAC) met on June 16, 2022; the Community Advisory Council (CAC) met on June 30, 2022, and a CAC orientation for new members was held on June 15, 2022. Five vacancies have been filled on the CAC, with a sixth vacancy in process. Science Advisory Council vacancies are in the process of being filled.
- Twenty-three range inspections have been conducted, mostly during 2022.

Mr. Pinaud noted the SAC Ad Hoc Committee was under a two-year authorization which expired in October 2019. Mr. Pinaud asked if there is a consensus to reinstate the SAC Ad Hoc Committee for two years. The committee is discussing geochemistry and sampling issues. Commissioner Amidon asked if the EMC members had any questions or concerns; there were none. He asked if all agreed to reinstating the SAC Ad Hoc Committee; all agreed.

Agenda Item #4. Impact Area Groundwater Study Program Update – Mr. David Hill, Impact Area Groundwater Study Program

Mr. Hill discussed the history of PFAS sampling by the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP).

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- IAGWSP began sampling for PFAS in 2019 at open burning/open detonation munitions disposal sites. There is potential for firefighting foams containing PFAS to have been used in these areas, including Demolition Area 1, and the J Ranges.
 - The IAGWSP has taken 243 water samples throughout its existing network of treatment systems and monitoring wells. There have been no exceedances of the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) for PFOS/PFOA. There were 16 exceedances of the MassDEP 20 ng/L MMCL for PFAS6; at J-2 Range Northern there were 10 exceedances at seven monitoring wells, and at J-3 Range there were six exceedances at five monitoring wells.
 - The J-2 Northern plumes flow directly toward the Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative Supply Well #2. The granulated active carbon (GAC) and ion exchange resin used in the IAGWSP treatment systems appears to be effective in removing PFAS compounds.
 - The IAGWSP is working with the Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative to sample their sentinel wells and additional wells upgradient of Supply Well #2. Additional drilling and sampling are planned in the area of Gibbs Road and Supply Well #2.

Commissioner Suuberg referred to the EPA draft health advisory for PFOS/PFOA and establishing a draft MCL. He asked if the new information is being considered? Mr. Hill responded that the IAGWSP is gathering more data. The Department of Defense has adopted EPA's new screening levels for certain PFAS compounds. Mr. Pinaud said that the concern is that the water supply well is protected; from the Gibbs sentinel well there are two to three years travel time to Water Supply Well #2; time is of the essence and any discussion with the Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative for well treatment is appropriate. Mr. Hill said that the FS-12 treatment facility is next to the Cooperative's water pipeline and there may be other assets available as well —everything is on the table as this is clearly urgent.

Agenda Item #5. Camp Edwards Update – *COL Matthew Porter, MAARNG; MAJ Alex McDonough, MAARNG; Jake McCumber, Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager, MAARNG*

MAJ McDonough provided a Camp Edwards update to the EMC.

- Staff changes at Camp Edwards and the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program were announced and the public outreach program was discussed. Thirteen public tours have been conducted since Fall 2021, with one public tour to be conducted monthly until October 2022.
- Training exercises at Camp Edwards during 2021: Operation Viking 2021, with 250 soldiers from the 412 Civil Affairs Battalion and Patriot Crucible 2021 (canceled due to funding). Training during 2022 includes Operation Viking 2022, from July 17 to July 30 with approximately 500 soldiers. Press releases were sent to the surrounding communities advising them of the increased activity at the base due to that training. Patriot Crucible 2022 will be held August 7 to August 20 for engineer units.
- Camp Edwards is conducting its usual range and training area support from pre-mobilization to weapons qualification.
- The STAPP systems on Juliet and Kilo ranges were decommissioned in October 2020 as they had reached the end of their useful life and the MAARNG moved from using lead ammunition to the copper Enhanced Performance Round (EPR). The ranges were decommissioned and placed in caretaker status.
- Camp Edwards continues its range monitoring program. The last samples were taken in Fall 2021, and the monitoring data shows that range management continues to be protective of the environment.
- The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range is pending the US EPA's Sole Source Aquifer Review; the MAARNG is answering questions posed by US EPA. Once that review is complete, the EMC process will continue.

Commissioner Amidon asked if the cameras placed in the Reserve were helpful with trespassing. MAJ McDonough replied that the challenge is manning; the cameras can document where trespassing occurs and help identify the trespassers. The only way to curb it is more Environmental Police patrols.

A prerecorded update on Natural Resources and Training Lands Management was provided for the EMC to view by Mr. McCumber.

- Updates included information on annual and long-term monitoring and surveys.
- The youth and general turkey hunts held in April/May and last fall's deer hunts. An overarching road maintenance and trap shrimp management plan/permit was developed with MassWildlife; there is coordination and planning for road maintenance priorities and in-house puddle improvement.
- Natural communities identification and mapping is ongoing with US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- There has been substantial development for the Wildland Fire program; as of early June, 306 acres burned, 11 burn operations and 20 position task book evaluations for three agencies were completed.
- Habitat rehabilitation and restoration is ongoing including BA-3 barrens and maneuver restoration, dig sites rehabilitation, and Range Area West 3/East 3.
- The program is monitoring the Southern pine beetle: monitoring, and conducting resilience planning, partnership development, and preparedness through habitat restoration.
- Broad public outreach has been a dominant focus since summer 2021 including public tours of the training site, public grassland bird tours, and clubs/group presentations on rare species and conservation.

Agenda Item #6: Tango Range Design and Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan – COL Matthew Porter, MAARNG; MAJ Alex McDonough, MAARNG

MAJ McDonough provided information on the Tango Range Design and Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan.

- The Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs) were discussed along with the range development process including the EPS requirements including an Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP), input from the SAC and CAC and the EMC's review of the input from the councils and the Environmental Officer.
- The EMC provides authorization through its Environmental Officer for range design and operational approval.
- Tango Range was redeveloped into a 32-lane zeroing range utilizing the Enhanced Performance Round (EPR, copper).
- The MAARNG coordinated with the EMC through the development, design and creation of the Tango Range OMMP.

Agenda Item #7: Vote: The EMC shall discuss a vote to authorize the EMC Environmental Officer to review and approve the Tango Range Design and the Tango Range Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan – Commissioner Amidon, EMC Chair

The MAARNG requests that the EMC authorize its Environmental Officer to approve the redesign and rewrite of the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan for the redeveloped Tango Range at Camp Edwards.

- Mr. Pinaud said that Tango Range is not a new range; it is an operational active range redesigned for use with the EPR; the EMC reviewed the 30/60/90 percent design, and the comments were incorporated.

Commissioner Amidon entertained a motion that the EMC authorize its Environmental Officer to approve the redesign and rewrite of the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan for the redeveloped Tango

Range at Camp Edwards. Commissioner Rice moved the motion and Commissioner Suuberg seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Agenda Item #8. Public Comment – *Commissioner Amidon, EMC Chair*

Ms. McConnell noted that the open seats on the CAC have been filled. An orientation was held for new members, which was a good step so they know what they're talking about. She believes Section 6 of Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002 needs work to be less confusing. She thanked the EMC and said it is a "labor of love" and she wants to see it carried on.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn – *Commissioner Amidon, EMC Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.