

**Environmental Management Commission
Building 1206
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts
June 5, 2025
9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Commissioner Tom O’Shea	EMC/DFG	617-626-1550
Commissioner Bonnie Heiple	EMC/MassDEP	617-292-5500
Commissioner Brian Arrigo	EMC/DCR	617-626-1250

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Environmental Officer:

Len Pinaud, Environmental Officer

Organization:

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Attendees:

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Gus McLachlan	Enbridge	617-684-1116	Gus.mclachlan@enbridge.com

Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: October 17, 2024
2. Cape Cod Canal Pipeline Relocation Project, June 5, 2025
3. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, June 2025
4. Camp Edwards Update, 5 June 2025
5. Camp Edwards Natural Resources Update
6. Upper Cape Conservation: the importance of connectivity to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve
7. State of the Reservation Report Overview, Training Year 2024

Agenda Item #1. Welcome/Agenda Review – Commissioner Tom O’Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair

Commissioner O’Shea welcomed everyone to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) meeting.

Agenda Item #2. Review of EMC Minutes and Approval – Commissioner Tom O’Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair

The October 17, 2024, EMC minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Arrigo made a motion to accept the minutes; Commissioner Heiple seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3. Algonquin/Enbridge Update– Mr. Gus McLachlan, Algonquin Environmental Project Manager

Mr. McLachlan provided a presentation on the Cape Cod Canal Pipeline Relocation Project

- The Project will realign Algonquin’s existing pipeline system near the Cape Cod Canal to accommodate the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s (MassDOT’s) Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program, which includes replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges, and continue to provide uninterrupted service to National Grid. The project includes approximately 5.25 miles of replacement pipeline, approximately 4.26 miles of removed or relocated pipeline; removal and relocation of two meter stations on the mainland side and construction of two new meter stations on Cape Cod to maintain service to National Grid. There is no increase in capacity of the existing natural gas system.
- Part of the pipeline will be constructed and co-located on Eversource’s right of way that runs through the Camp Edwards Training Area/Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. One new meter station will be located by Pave PAWs Road and the other will be located by Route 28 in Bourne near an existing solar panel site.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead federal agency completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. Other federal agencies being coordinated with include the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There are number of Massachusetts agencies that will be coordinated with including the EMC, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and the Bourne Conservation Commission. Algonquin and the EMC have been working together for more than a year and have also been working with Mr. McCumber, the MAARNG’s Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager.

Commissioner Heiple asked how much new pipeline will be installed on JBCC? Mr. McLachlan replied the new pipeline will be around 3 to 4 miles, primarily in the Eversource corridor.

Mr. Pinaud noted that most of the pipeline is within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve and parallels the Eversource easement. He said he ensured that meetings he attended with FERC, Algonquin and Enbridge and Fisheries and Wildlife and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program that people knew that the Environmental Performance Standards applied and that the EMC would need to work with them on the Article 97 issue. The general council for Fish & Game is leading that effort to resolve the Article 97 issue.

Commissioner O’Shea asked if there is a sense of how much acreage is involved in the Article 97 issue?

Ms. Kist replied that the acreage is still being calculated and in the next week or so they will know between the permanent easement and temporary workspace impacts.

Mr. McCumber said that there has been a lot of discussion from the wildlife habitat protection perspective of Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002 regarding tree cutting and most of that has been focused on expanding the right of way habitat that will support the majority of the MAARNG’s listed and rare species on the base. There is a lot of opportunity here, anchored on the long-term maintenance, he said.

Mr. McDonough said that Camp Edwards has worked closely with Algonquin and Camp Edward's concern is impacts to soldier training. He noted the Camp has talked with Algonquin about the depth of their pipeline to ensure there is no impact for heavy vehicle traffic along Canal View Road, which is essentially where the Eversource easement is. One of the temporary staging areas close to their termination point is near to Dig Site 2 and the Camp wants to ensure there is clear signage where the gas pipes are in proximity to heavy engineering equipment. There is also a real property piece the office is involved in.

Agenda Item #4. Environmental Officer Update – Mr. Leonard Pinaud, Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer

Mr. Pinaud provided an update on the activities related to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (the Reserve).

- The Science Advisory Council (SAC) and the Community Advisory Council (CAC) both had quorums at their spring meetings, and the CAC was able to approve 1 ½ years of meeting minutes. Andrew Gottleib was appointed to the CAC. Background checks are being completed for other potential appointees for the advisory councils. Mimi McConnell recently resigned from the CAC, but enough people have applied for the CAC that her position will be filled.
- The Annual State of the Reservation Report was completed for Training Year 2024. The CAC had recommended a summary document be developed for the report, which was prepared and is available.
- Camp Edwards is holding public tours again this year, for the fourth year. Mr. Pinaud attends and talks about MassDEP and the EMC's roles. Mr. Pinaud will schedule an orientation session for new CAC and SAC members to acquaint them with their roles and open meeting law requirements.
- Ten range inspections were completed to ensure range use is compliant with the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) and the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs).
- Eight non-standard training requests/exceptions to policy were completed since the fall. When Camp Edwards receives a training request that is not consistent with the OMMPs, the plan is reviewed by Camp Edwards, the Environmental & Readiness Center and the EMC EO to see if the training can be made compliant with the EPSs and OMMPs; if it can be made compliant or altered, the request is approved. At the CAC meeting it was brought up that the same types of exceptions to policy were being made repeatedly and instead should be formalized. To do this, Camp Edwards is in the process of modifying Echo Range's OMMP to allow transition firing and shotgun training with constraints. Camp Edwards will also modify the approved munitions list.
- Exceptions to policy for refuelers in the Training Area/Reserve have been received and approved over the years. EPS 15.3.3 states that stored fuel cannot be brought into the Training Area/Reserve in more than a 5 gallon container, often truck-mounted tanks of 100 gallons or more are required for contractors or units training. In the fall, modifying EPS 15.3.3 may be proposed to allow refuelers up to 1,500 gallons with secondary containment in certain areas and certain roads away from Zone 2 areas for water supply wells.
- Trespassing issues: the SAC chair reported to the EMC EO, who notified Camp Edwards, that it was posted on several user-supplied apps that large portions of the Training Area/Reserve were a great place to hike and bike. Camp Edwards contacted the apps to have Camp Edwards identified as restricted.
- The EMC has been involved with turkey and deer hunting coordination with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Environmental Police at Camp Edwards
- The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program's Draft Comprehensive PFAS report was completed and sent to US EPA and MassDEP in November. From 2019 to 2023, IAGWSP

collected approximately 600 groundwater samples from PFAS in multiple areas of evaluation in the Training Area/Reserve. Sampling also included influent samples from 10 groundwater treatment system plants and 15 wells associated with former munitions disposal activity areas. There was concern that ordinance items possibly had PFAS and were contributing to groundwater. Based on the draft report, they found no PFAS exceedances in groundwater in the Central Impact Area. The report concluded that the lack of PFAS in the Central Impact Area was indicative that the munitions are not a source of PFAS in groundwater at Camp Edwards. The PFAS detections that were found were primarily associated with former contractor ranges for which there is limited information regarding what was done and used at those ranges. The report also concludes that there are no currently observed PFAS threats to the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative water supply wells.

Commissioner Heiple asked what is the process to amend or update the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans and the approved munitions list? Mr. Pinaud said that the Approved Munitions List was an approval by him passing it through legal counsel. Most of the items added to that list, such as pyrotechnic items, were presented to the SAC; other items, like shotguns or transition fire, were verified for compliance with Environmental Performance Standard (EPS) 19. Mr. Pinaud anticipates having a revised Approved Munitions List sometime in the summer, he will review it and it could be held for the fall meeting. Commissioner O'Shea said it is good for the EMC to be knowledgeable about what is being approved, so they can weigh in if needed. Mr. Pinaud said the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans are the same process; he is currently reviewing that and can forward the changes to them prior to the fall for awareness; and it could also be held until the fall meetings.

Commissioner O'Shea asked if the PFAS detection locations are in surface soil, where were they detected? Mr. Pinaud answered it is primarily in groundwater as PFAS travels quickly through soil. Mr. Pinaud can follow up with information where PFAS was detected.

Agenda Item #5. Camp Edwards Update and State of the Reservation Report Training Year 2024—
Mr. Matthew Porter, Base Operations Manager

Mr. Porter presented an update on activities at Camp Edwards.

- Administrative updates at Camp Edwards are: COL Jeffrey Arleque is the new Garrison Commander; MAJ (P) Alexander McDonough is the new Deputy Commander, and the new Range Operations Manager is Mr. Christopher Stewart. A Camp Edwards tour was conducted on May 9; four more will be held through October. The State of the Reservation Report for Training Year 2024 was released.
- Camp Edwards is meeting with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and is looking to establish an MOA on different programs and is working on partnership activities.
- Camp Edwards continues to look for funding for the Sandwich Gate. They received about one quarter of the funds required and hope to be able to keep it open.
- There are units at Camp Edwards mobilizing for deployment; unit equipment is staged to be deployed. Major events for the training year are the Best Warrior Competition (completed), Regional Cooperation 2025 in June, the Garrison Commanders Leadership Course in August and Air Assault in September. The focus for the next fiscal year is individual Weapons Qualification. The projected utilization for May, June, and July is 4,790, 3,280 and 1,601 respectively.
- The Range Operations Control Area (ROCA) construction is complete. A new monitoring well was installed on Echo Range, replacing the well that was damaged last year. The new monitoring well was installed to capture water coming from the highest use lanes on the range. Lysimeters were installed under bullet pockets on Tango and India ranges at the request of the SAC. On Tango and India ranges with the drought there were exceedances of lead in groundwater as the samples were drawing up mud. The ranges were resampled, the values were half, but it was still

difficult to get samples. The ranges will be resampled again. Camp Edwards worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure those wells are located at the proper depth and they are.

- At the last CAC meeting, Mr. Gottlieb asked if the MAARNG or someone on their behalf was pursuing money for the MPMG range. Mr. Porter said that at this point, there is no range money for an MPMG. The MPMG range is still something that the MAARNG wants and will continue to identify as a strong need for the Army National Guard. If money becomes available, they will pursue it.
- The MAARNG will continue to pursue money for the study, which is around \$1 million. The MAARNG is in discussion with NGB and is trying to build a STEP project under the Environmental Program to fund the study.
- EMC logistical support, Camp Edwards will continue to examine what it can support, as all are under fiscal constraints.

Mr. Pinaud noted it is difficult to provide a virtual component for the SAC and CAC meetings if needed; Camp Edwards has provided it in the past but there have been security and connection issues. He asked if the Commissioners could help provide a virtual component if needed. Mr. McDonough said that there has been some interest in holding the meetings outside of Camp Edwards and having the capability and logistical capacity to virtually host meetings is an important part of that. One challenge, he explained, is that as the Army increases its cyber protection posture, it becomes increasingly difficult to use collaboration software like Zoom or MS Teams.

Mr. Bagaglio noted that it is written in Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002 that the EMC is allowed to raise, garner and manage funds in trust. Commissioner O'Shea said it would likely be one of three Commissioner's agencies that would administer that trust and that can be looked into. Mr. Porter said MAARNG wants to ensure the EMC is robust and able to pivot to a separate course of action that may not necessarily be in a facility at Camp Edwards or using funds provided through the MAARNG. Commissioner O'Shea said they could investigate that.

Mr. McCumber provided a Camp Edwards natural resources update.

- Flora projects include *Liatris* (Blazing star) reintroduction, propagating native wild lupine in the Training Area/Reserve and the grasslands with good success.
- Conservation projects are lean and mostly standard in-house work; the program did not get funded for many requested projects. One project that did receive funding was an update of the bat acoustic surveys; they will survey 60 locations through the summer.
- The program has been building University interest in the base as a study site; the lack of public access and the amount of conservation work done in landscape management is a great opportunity. The program is getting more interest and has a butterfly research project ongoing with a student doing a mark and recapture study on Frosted Elfin to get a population estimate.
- The program is finishing its federal consultation for bats.
- The prescribed burn season was successful with a number of high priority units completed.
- During a 150-acre prescribed burn on May 1, a wildfire occurred. Around a third of the way into the prescribed fire, a person not associated with the prescribed fire was inside the burn unit and all focus was shifted to human safety and getting the person out of the unit. During this time, a spot fire occurred and grew because attention was on removing the person from the burn unit. A call for resources was sent out to JBCC fire and then regionally. It became an opportunity to test contingency plans, communication and emergency response, and the plans worked well. The wildfire remained within the same fire management zone and within a single operational day.
- Ongoing restoration work is being conducted by the program and efforts continue to build resilience for species and habitat off powerline rights of way.

Commissioner O’Shea asked Mr. McCumber to expand on what funding is not being received, is it state or federal? Mr. McCumber explained that their funding is exclusively federal; this year funding received was for salaries with little project funding. Mr. O’Shea asked if funding cuts have halted restoration projects. Mr. McCumber said that over the last few years, they have increased in-house capacity through hiring and equipment and are still able to complete mechanical restoration work. He said they may need to work with the state to look for additional sources of money. Commissioner O’Shea suggested Mr. Pinaud help prepare an accounting of the reductions to identify gaps that may or may not be filled with state funding.

Commissioner O’Shea noted that regarding the wildfire, it was good that there is DCR support and the ability to respond with other partners in the community. It also highlights how flammable this type of habitat is. Mr. McCumber said that this highlights the need for proactive management; the wildfire occurred in a previously burned area with good firebreaks, demonstrating the benefit of fuel reduction and good fire breaks.

Commissioner Heiple asked if any corrective actions have been taken or are under consideration. Mr. McCumber explained that three after action reviews have already been conducted with more planned. There are lessons learned on the structure and communications and integrating aviation resources. Mr. McDonough praised the professionalism of the JBCC Fire Chief, the Wildland Fire Program Coordinator and his crew and the new Range Operations officer.

Agenda Item #6. JBCC and Camp Edwards Conservation Overview – Mr. Jake McCumber, Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager

Mr. McCumber provided an overview of conservation at JBCC and Camp Edwards:

- The Cantonment Area, which is approximately 7,000 acres in the southern portion of JBCC, is a key connector between Camp Edwards’ northern 15,000 acres, Crane Wildlife Management Area and Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. He discussed biodiversity importance, the North Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens and Sandplains, regional conservation and existing priorities, conservation management, and master planning opportunities.
- There is a diversity of habitats in the Cantonment area that are intentionally managed. In a regional context, the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan notes that “Given JBCC’s economic and environmental footprint on Cape Cod, the Services based there should strive to balance their essential activities (training, intelligence, and other military preparedness operations) with climate change planning and emissions reductions. Agencies and Services at JBCC should continue comprehensive planning, including developing climate resilience plans that integrate the ongoing landscape-scale conservation management and mission activities.”
- Conservation management undertaken at Camp Edwards and its core success factors include the broad use of wildland (prescribed) fire combined with other management tools; undeveloped land buffer; rotational patchwork management to emphasize diversity; and extensive flora and fauna monitoring and surveys. Conservation priorities rely on active conservation management at JBCC and surrounding properties. Land use that limits fire and other management will have far-reaching negative impacts beyond the directly impacted area.
- Department of Defense land use planning and master planning opportunities: Land use and master planning needs to include conservation requirements (Sikes Act, Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act/Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, etc.) as a core consideration for mission sustainability.

Commissioner O’Shea said it is important to accommodate both housing and biodiversity goals to the best of everyone’s ability; the issue is challenging as it is localized and the base provides habitat in condition found nowhere else. Mr. Pinaud noted that MassDevelopment has been contacted to provide an update at a future meeting. Mr. McDonough noted that underlying property ownership on JBCC is complex and controlled by different commands. The parcels being looked at are all in the Cantonment area and are in

the process of excessing property. Master planning is important, he said, and it is important to have equities from the natural resources team and the EMC's agencies involved in the master planning to ensure the best uses of that land to meet the requirement of protecting groundwater and natural resources.

Agenda Item #7. Public Comment – *Commissioner Tom O'Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

Mr. Gottlieb, Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), said that APCC recommended and requested review of the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs) last year. He said it is important to restate the hierarchy in the statute: habitat preservation, water quality preservation and then what is compatible with that; not the other way around. One of the concerns from the CAC meeting was the number of variances from the EPSs would indicate that there is a lack of synchronicity between the standards and what the public is led to believe is the standard based on because notice of the waivers, while they may be perfectly appropriate, come after the fact. He said it seems given the volume, it seems the EPSs are ripe for a review; people have an expectation that is set by the EPSs and the variance process is creating a secondary set of standards that are the real ones to support the training requests, but they are not what the public really, if it chooses to, has the opportunity to understand. From a process point of view, we are not telling people what is allowable and what is not allowable.

Mr. Gottlieb said the second aspect is that the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) is likely to come back, now is the right time to review the standards and ideally put in more of a preventative approach, one which is not quite so reliant on having an activity, monitoring it, and then cleaning it up if there is contamination. He said he believes we can all agree that the contamination that is avoided is the least costly contamination to deal with. He said that although PFAS is not coming from the area that is proposed for the MPMG, the reality is that there is a large PFAS load on JBCC that is leaving the base that is going to potentially impact future water supply viability for the surrounding communities, making the preservation of this source as the last resort source that doesn't require large scale treatment all the more important. He said that directing staff to do a preventative review focusing on the standards would be great; if that does not happen or something from the public is needed, APCC will start the process themselves.

Commissioner Heiple said that the EMC felt one of the precursors was having a fully staffed and functional SAC to advise what updates may be appropriate, and she believes it is appropriate to have the SAC members in place.

Commissioner O'Shea said if he is hearing Mr. Gottlieb correctly, it would be with an eye towards how the variances relate to the existing standards and suggests the updates be in line with the variances or more preventative aspects. He asked what could be provided as an update on in terms of a review of the EPSs or those gaps at the next meeting? The volume of variances may mean review is needed to align the EPSs with actual practice.

Commissioner Heiple said that it would be useful information to know which EPSs are tied to variance requests and it would be a worthwhile review for the EMC Environmental Officer to undertake. Mr. McDonough suggested Mr. Pinaud could consider that information for his next update. He also recommended revising the language for EPS 15.3.3 for the fall meeting.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn – *Commissioner Tom O'Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Environmental Management Commission Action Items

June 5, 2025

Action Items:

1. Mr. Pinaud will provide follow-up information to Commissioner O’Shea on where PFAS is in the groundwater profile.
2. Mr. Pinaud should help the MAARNG prepare an accounting of reduction in natural resources funding with a more explicit accounting from Mr. McCumber to see where it could be filled with state grants.
3. EMC Commissioners will investigate funding for virtual meeting support.
4. The specific EPSs should be reviewed relating to the “variances” (non-standard training requests).
5. Present the updated, “Approved Munitions List” at the fall meetings.
6. Present the I-OMMP at the fall meetings.