

**Community Advisory Council to the
Environmental Management Commission
Barnstable County Clean Water Center
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
May 14, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

CAC Members:

Andrew Campbell
Heather McElroy

Organization:

Bourne
Cape Cod
Commission
MA ARNG
Mashpee
Wampanoag Tribe
Falmouth
Barnstable County
Commissioner

Telephone:

508-759-3723
508-744-1217

508-968-5154
617-797-3301

339-202-9365

508-317-5376
508-274-8810
508-714-6435

E-Mail:

Cmc-capecod@comcast.net
hmcleroy@capecodcommission.org

Shawn.c.cody.civ@army.mil
argottlieb@gmail.com
mark@wampworx.com
Robert.crevey@mass.gov
Mark.forest@capecod.gov

irishbuckets@gmail.com
jdolan99@live.com
Rocat80@gmail.com

EMC Staff:

Len Pinaud

Organization:

EMC Environmental
Officer

Telephone:

617-694-2644

E-Mail:

Leonard.pinaud@mass.gov

Attendees:

LTC Alex McDonough

Organization:

Camp Edwards, Base
Operations Manager
MA ARNG
MANG E&RC
MANG E&RC
Science Advisory
Council
BCCWC
BCCWC

Telephone:

774-286-1373

339-202-9343
339-202-9358
339-202-9341
508-492-8827

508-375-3645
508-375-3645

E-Mail:

Alexander.v.mcdonough.mil@army.mil
Jacob.mccumber@mass.gov
michael.a.ciaranca.nfg@army.mil
emily.d.kelly2.nfg@army.mil
conservationscientist@yahoo.com

bbaumgaertel@capecod.gov
tracy.long@capecod.gov|

Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Community Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, October 9, 2025
2. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, May 2026
3. Camp Edwards Update, 14 May 2026
4. State of the Reservation Report Camp Edwards Update, 14 May 2026
5. Camp Edwards Natural Resources Update Spring 2026
6. State of the Reservation Report, Overview
7. Tour Camp Edwards, 2026
8. Prescribed Burn Season, Spring 2026
9. Camp Edwards Natural Resources

Agenda Item #1. Welcome – Ms. Heather McElroy, Community Advisory Council Chair

Ms. McElroy welcomed everyone to the Community Advisory Council (CAC) meeting. Community Advisory Council members present at the meeting: Andrew Campbell, Bourne; Robert Catalanotti, At-Large Member; Shawn Cody, Military Representative; Rob Crevey, Falmouth; Jane Dolan, At-Large Member; Mark Forest, At-Large Member; Andrew Gottlieb, Mashpee (participating remotely); Mark Harding, Wampanoag Tribe; John Kelly, At-Large Member; Heather McElroy, Cape Cod Commission. Members not present: Maj. Gen Virginia Gaglio, Military Representative; Robert Prohett, Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative; Ralph Vitacco, Sandwich.

Agenda Item #2. Review of CAC Minutes and Approval – Ms. Heather McElroy, Community Advisory Council Chair

- The October 9, 2025, minutes were reviewed. The following amendments to the minutes were requested:
 - Ms. McElroy asked that in the agenda titles, she be removed and Mark Harding added as she was not at that meeting.
 - Ms. Dolan requested the approval of minutes approved at the October 9, 2025, meeting be adjusted as she was not at that meeting.
 - Mr. Gottlieb said that he explicitly asked if the Massachusetts National Guard's intent was to continue to pursue the development and construction of the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun range and the answer was "yes." He would like that to be reflected in the minutes.
- Ms. McElroy abstained; all others were in favor of the minutes as amended.

Agenda Item #3: Barnstable County Clean Water Center – Mr. Brian Buamgaertel, Wastewater Division Director

Mr. Baumgaertel introduced the Barnstable County Clean Water Center. It runs four main programs:

- Alternative Septic System Testing which tests wastewater treatment technologies.
- The Septic Utility Program, which helps towns choosing to use onsite wastewater treatments systems to manage those technologies in an integrated way.
- The Aqua Fund provides low-interest loans to homeowners for failed septic repairs or sewer connections.
- Workforce development and public education programs help train the local wastewater workforce and educate residents about wastewater treatment options.

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

Mr. Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer, summarized the activities related to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (the Reserve).

- Camp Edwards completed the State of the Reservation Report for Training Year (TY) 2025. There is a summary document that was also produced.
- The advisory council public meetings have been moved off Joint Base Cape Cod and into the community in the hope that community members will attend the meetings. The fall advisory council meetings are also planned to be held in the community.
- Three seats are open on the Science Advisory Council 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

CAC has two open seats: a JBCC family and an At-Large member. An election for CAC chair will be held at the Fall meeting.

- 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. This was presented at the last round of meetings; and all feedback received was incorporated into all the documents approved.
- 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 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 Science Advisory Council, CAC, and the Environmental Management Commission.
- The Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plan is a living document and if there is a change in the way small arms ranges operate or in training doctrine, the plan should be updated to reflect that to ensure there is no adverse effect to the natural resources and groundwater resource. That was recently revised.
- The deadline for the call for experts to the National Academies of Sciences was April 30.

Agenda Item #5: Camp Edwards Update – LTC Alexander McDonough, Deputy Commander

LTC McDonough presented an update on activities at Camp Edwards.

- 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; they are discussing Tribe-specific coordination with Mass Wildlife and the Natural Resources Program.
- 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. It will look holistically at the training site, the small arms ranges, not just the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range. \$1 million is funded for the study and the contract awarded for the approximately 18 month process. Four meetings are anticipated on site. The call for experts ended April 30.
 - Ms. McElroy asked if the committee has been identified yet? LTC McDonough said should be released by the end of the month; the MAARNG has not been notified yet.
 - Mr. Gottlieb asked if there is a commitment on the MAARNG's part to use the study's findings and modify any future gun range to account for the recommendations of their report?
 - LTC McDonough replied that if there is a specific design element that needs to be changed based on the NAS study and that if MAARNG ever gets funding for the range again, it would be incorporated into a future design. He said the

MAARNG would like to build this range in the future; however, there is no funding to build it, and it can't be built without money to do so.

- One unit has conducted pre-mobilization training since the last CAC 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.
- 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 2029.
 - LTC McDonough will provide the request for proposal for the India Range cleanout to Mr. Pinaud.

Agenda Item #6 – State of the Reservation Report Training Year 2025 – LTC Alexander McDonough, Deputy Commander

LTC 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 several 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.

Regarding information provided in the State of the Reservation Report, Ms. Dolan asked about sampling on small arms ranges during the training year. Mr. Ciaranca said that due to a 21-year groundwater low, groundwater samples could not be obtained at Echo Range, requiring grab samples. A resampling attempt was made, and the well was still dry. It will be resampled in the future. Ms. Dolan noted that there were continued exceedances of antimony in another lysimeter and asked why there are continued exceedances if soil amendments ceased more than 10 years ago. Mr. Ciaranca explained that lingering buffering capacity from historical liming and Maectite amendments accounts for the antimony levels.

Ms. Dolan had additional questions and will submit her list of data-related questions to Mr. Pinaud, and he will coordinate review and response to those.

Agenda Item #7: Natural Resources Update – Mr. Jacob McCumber, Natural Resources & Training Lands Manager

Mr. McCumber provided a Natural Resources update.

- The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan update is planned to be completed in December 2026.
- Fauna work included the Christmas bird count, data analysis and reporting. The final results of the bats data analysis will be complete soon. The endangered species consultation for bats was submitted in October 2024 and 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 provide assistance 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.

Mr. Forest asked if there is a particular pine that the beetles like?

- Here, the beetles focus on Pitch pine with a few observations of the beetles infesting White pine, although they do not seem to like it as it is sappier than Pitch pine.

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment – *Ms. Heather McElroy, Community Advisory Council Chair*

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #9. Adjourn – *Ms. Heather McElroy, Community Advisory Council Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Community Advisory Council Action Items

May 14, 2026

Action Items:

LTC McDonough will provide the request for proposal for the India Range cleanout to Mr. Pinaud.

Ms. Dolan will submit her list data-related questions to Mr. Pinaud, and he will coordinate review and response to those.

Appendix A
Massachusetts Army National Guard Responses to Questions Submitted
by Community Advisory Council Member Jane Dolan, May 2026

Question: Statements within the section reporting results from sampling of porewater, groundwater and soil are inconsistent with respect to groundwater sampling. No proper groundwater samples were collected at Echo, Sierra and Tango ranges. Echo-specific discussion reports a grab sample was collected (the draft report stated no groundwater samples were collected even though data was provided in the report); Sierra-specific discussion states that porewater, soil and groundwater were collected but subsequently states that no groundwater was collected from the two wells but data is included for MW466S. Copper may exceed (J value) the new performance standard in the duplicate sample. This presumably was a grab sample and clarity should be sought; Tango-specific discussion states that porewater, soil and groundwater were collected but subsequently states there was insufficient water to sample. Stated at CAC that all but 1 of the groundwater samples were grab samples. Clarity should be sought as to whether a grab sample was collected from Tango range but not reported.

Response: *Both sampling and resampling were similar in results due to the lack of ground water during the current drought. Groundwater is at a 21-year low and all our shallow wells (along with those of the IAGWSP) have been struggling to produce water during this drought. Grab samples should not be reported and in the future no longer taken.*

Unfortunately, with the State of the Reservation report if data was taken after a certain point in the TY or federal fiscal year then it is reported in the next year's report. However, results are provided to the EMC EO.

There was insufficient water for sampling and resampling at Tango Range. We will be sure this is clearer in future reports.

Questions:

1. Sought clarity concerning groundwater sample collected at Echo Range. Grab sample showed exceedances but may not be representative of groundwater conditions since well was not purged prior to collection. Another sample will be collected when possible, and lysimeter(s) will be installed this fall.

Response: *Sampling and resampling of the well proved to have insufficient water to sample at Echo Range and yes, a Lysimeter will be installed this sampling season, may be earlier than fall.*

2. Lead exceeded performance standard in groundwater from MW639S at India range in TY24. Was to be re-sampled in March 2025. Was the well re-sampled? If so, what were the results? Should the data have been reported in the TY25 report?

Response: *Both the original sample and the resampling had insufficient water and had similar sample analysis that should not be reported as such. Yes, it should have been noted in the report, and we can make note of this in next year's report.*

SAC believes the antimony exceedances reflect continuing buffering capacity of soils even though amendments ceased more than a decade ago.

Response: Yes, soil pH shows that the antimony exceedances reflect continuing buffering capacity of soils. However, the buffering capacity is slowly returning to area specific pHs. pHs are in the high 6s with occasional high 7s and should be in the 5s. We can state this with real data comparisons in future reports.

3. Lead exceeded the performance standard from MW467S at Tango in TY24. Was the well re-sampled in March 2025? Should the data have been reported in the TY25 report?

Response: Both the original sample and the resampling had insufficient water and had similar sample analysis that should not be reported as such. Yes, it should have been noted in the report, and we can make note of this in next year's report.