

**Community Advisory Council to the
Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts
May 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

CAC Members:

Andrew Campbell
Heather McElroy

Maj. Gen. Virginia Gaglio
Shawn Cody
Robert Prohett

Ralph Vitacco
Andrew Gottlieb
Mark Harding

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Cape Cod
Commission

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Attendees:

Matt Porter
Alex McDonough

Kathleen Kolva
Jake McCumber
Rob Crevey
Annie Curtis Haines
Erin Hilley
Michael Ciaranca
Emily Kelly
Fran Tishkevich
Robert Catalanotti
Eric Turkington
Mark R. Forest
Katelyn Wheeler
John Sheridan
Mark Dorso

Organization:

Camp Edwards
Camp Edwards

Camp Edwards
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MA ARNG
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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Community Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2023
2. Community Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2024
3. Community Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, October 1, 2024
4. Cape Cod Canal Pipeline Relocation Project, May 15, 2025
5. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, May 2025
6. Camp Edwards Update, 15 May 2025
7. Camp Edwards Natural Resources Update
8. Upper Cape Conservation: the importance of connectivity to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve
9. State of the Reservation Report Overview, Training Year 2024

Agenda Item #1. Welcome – Ms. Heather McElroy, CAC Chair

Ms. McElroy welcomed everyone to the Community Advisory Council (CAC) meeting. Community Advisory Council members present at the meeting: Andrew Campbell, Bourne; Heather McElroy, Cape Cod Commission; Andrew Gottlieb, Mashpee; Maj. Gen Virginia Gaglio, Military Representative (participating remotely); Shawn Cody, Military Representative; Ralph Vitacco, Sandwich; Robert Prophett, Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative; Mark Harding, Wampanoag Tribe.

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

- October 11, 2023, minutes were reviewed. Mr. Gottlieb and Mr. Harding abstained; all others were in favor of the minutes as written.
- May 9, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Mr. Gottlieb and Mr. Harding abstained; all others were in favor of the minutes as written.
- October 1, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Mr. Gottlieb, Mr. Harding, and Mr. Vitacco abstained; all others were in favor of the minutes as written.

Agenda Item #3: Algonquin/Enbridge Update – Ms. Katelyn Wheeler, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Ms. Wheeler provided an update on the Cape Cod Canal Pipeline Relocation project.

- The project will realign Algonquin's existing pipeline near the Cape Cod Canal to accommodate the Department of Transportation's Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program while continuing to provide uninterrupted service to National Grid.
- There will be approximately 5.25 miles of replacement pipeline to maintain service to National Grid, and approximately 4.26 miles of removed or relocated pipeline to accommodate the Bridges Program activities. Two-meter stations will be removed and relocated on the mainland to accommodate the Bridges Program, and two new meter stations will be constructed on Cape Cod to maintain service to National Grid.
- 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.
- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The FERC Docket Number is PF25-4. Other federal permitting The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act was submitted in April 2025. Anticipated Massachusetts State Permitting and consultation needs include the Environmental

Management Commission (EMC) among others. Project activities include stakeholder and landowner outreach, and agency consultation and outreach.

CAC members asked where in the NEPA process the project is and how it is being financed.

- The ENF was submitted on April 25, 2025, and the public comment meeting is on May 20. They plan to complete an EIR for the project and will work through that process in the next 9 to 12 months. The project is being financed through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Mr. Pinaud noted that the EMC has been involved in coordination meetings with Algonquin and FERC; the General Counsel for the EMC (General Counsel for the Department of Fish and Game) is working on Article 97 issues with other lawyers and is reviewing the ENF.

Agenda Item #4: Environmental Officer Update – *Mr. Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer*

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

- There has been success with people applying to be on the CAC and the Science Advisory Council (SAC). The vacancies were advertised, which had not been done before. There are applicants for every vacancy and the applications are moving through the process.
- 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; if CAC members have not taken a tour, he encourages them to do so.
- Ten range inspections were completed since October to ensure range use is compliant with the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) and the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs).
- Seven non-standard training requests/exceptions to policy were completed since the fall. The requests may be for refueling activities, pyrotechnics, or for non-standard use of a small arms range. 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.
- Six hundred-sixty-five acres were treated by the MAARNG using prescribed fire over 9 burn days.
- 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 or have the trails removed from the app.
- 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 also concludes that there are no currently observed PFAS threats to the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative water supply wells.

- Mr. Cody said that additional monitoring wells were installed upgradient of the Water Co-op's drinking water well, WS2, and there is excellent coverage around the well system there. He reiterated that there is no plume and there is no risk.

Mr. Gottlieb asked what happens with the "hits" of PFAS. Mr. Cody explained that they are monitored and are captured by the containment systems already in place that use granular activated carbon and ion exchange, which are very good at removing PFAS. Mr. Gottlieb said that EPA has announced its intent to rescind four of the six PFAS compounds. Mr. Cody said that it will not impact work that is already under contract; more wells are being installed and more samples taken. If a plume were to be found, it will be addressed then. The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program is driven by the federal standard, but they work with MassDEP to meet the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS.

Mr. Gottlieb said he is concerned about the adequacy of the Environmental Performance Standards if repetitive nonstandard training requests/exceptions to policy are routinely approved and noted the lack of public awareness related to nonstandard training request/exceptions to policy approvals until after the fact. Mr. Pinaud noted that the EMC and MAARNG have discussed potentially standardizing certain training aids and that exceptions are discussed after receiving advice from the SAC. Ms. McElroy suggested reducing the number of exceptions by incorporating them as a standard training activity and going through the regular, appropriate testing/analysis and incorporating it into the operations document. Mr. Gottlieb said that if the exceptions have become the norm, the standard should be updated to reflect current practices and reduce exceptions. Mr. Pinaud said those changes could be incorporated into the OMMPs and/or the EPSs could be modified, depending on the training or activity.

Agenda Item #5: Camp Edwards Update and State of the Reservation Report– *Mr. Alexander McDonough, Deputy Base Operations Manager*

Mr. McDonough 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 a Memorandum of Agreement and is working towards some partnership activities.
- The Military Division was able to reallocate funding to keep the Sandwich Gate open until July 1, allowing time to receive additional federal funding to keep the gate 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.

Mr. Gottlieb asked if Camp Edwards is close to being maxed out for large training activities, if the MAARNG is proceeding with additional scope of work for the study with the National Academy of

Sciences and if the MAARNG, or someone on their behalf, is pursuing funding for a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) at Camp Edwards.

- With the ranges Camp Edwards has and its limitations on firing (mostly on weekends), it is close to the capacity it has. There is additional capacity in the barracks and maneuver space, but more ranges are needed for the number of troops in the state.
- The intent is to continue with the National Academy and MAARNG is looking for funding for the study.
- The MAARNG continues to pursue an MPMG, however there is no MILCON money for that range, but the range is needed.

Mr. McCumber provided an update on the Natural Resources Program:

- Flora projects include Liatris (Blazing star) reintroduction, propagating native wild lupine in the Training Area/Reserve and the grasslands with good success, and milkweed conservation areas.
- Fauna projects include bat acoustic surveys at 60 sites, a frosted elfin research project, and bird surveys to include Eastern Whip-poor-will and songbirds.
- Conservation projects are lean and mostly standard in-housework; the program did not get fund 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 several high priority units completed and approximately 800 acres treated. Prescribed fire is essential in the pine barrens community. The MAARNG plans for contingencies during prescribed fires to mitigate risk; to react if something does go wrong and have the communication in place to react to contingencies. The MAARNG trains very effectively with the local fire departments and other state agencies. During a 150-acre prescribed burn on May 1, a wildfire occurred around 181 acres. There was no loss of infrastructure or injuries, and the fire was contained that day. 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.
- Ongoing restoration work is being conducted by the program and efforts continue to build resilience for species and habitat off powerline rights of way.

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

Mr. McCumber provided a JBCC and Camp Edwards Conservation Overview.

- 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.

Mr. Pinaud noted that the EMC reached out to MassDevelopment to provide a presentation regarding master planning at JBCC, potentially in the fall.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment – *Ms. Heather McElroy, CAC Chair*

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn – *Ms. Heather McElroy, CAC Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.