
Environmental Management Commission

Building 1805

May 23, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members:

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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: October 25, 2018
2. Environmental Officer Update – May 23, 2019
3. Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Co-Operative Well Network
4. Massachusetts National Guard Environmental Readiness Center Current Activities
5. Natural Resources Update
6. MA National Guard Combined Arms Exercise 2019

Agenda Item #1. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions– Commissioner Ronald Amidon, EMC Chair

Commissioner Amidon convened the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. The members and attendees introduced themselves.

Commissioner Amidon stated that Ms. Rooney, CAC member, who was the Chief Planner for the Cape Cod Commission is retiring after several years of service. He presented Ms. Rooney with an award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on behalf of the citizens for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in recognition of Ms. Rooney's eleven years of dedicated service to the Environmental Management Commission CAC for her commitment and advocacy on behalf of the drinking water supply and wild habitat at the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve on this 23 day of May 2019 from Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

Ms. Rooney stated that it has been her pleasure to serve on the CAC and involved in the start of the Master Plan effort. It has been great to see the relationship evolve and change over the years from when it was very contentious and controversial to what we have today and she was very proud to be part of this group.

COL Porter stated that he appreciates Ms. Rooney's service on the CAC and all the work that she has done and the dedication protecting the environment of Cape Cod.

Agenda Item #2. Review and Approval of EMC Minutes

The October 25, 2018 EMC minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Roy stated on page 4, Agenda Item 7, Commissioner Roy asked if the deed restriction has been "dropped" to change to "resolved." Commissioner Roy "stated that" the permit is ready to change to Commissioner Roy "asked if" the permit is ready. "Commissioner Suuberg will contact" the Commissioner at DCAMM change to "Commissioner Roy offers to" contact the Commissioner at DCAMM. Commissioner Roy made a motion to accept the minutes as edited; Commissioner Suuberg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Eversource Switching Station Update

Mr. Howard stated that he is from Epsilon Associates, Inc. a consulting and engineering firm in Natick working on the Eversource Switching Station.

Mr. Howard displayed a map of the Eversource Switching Station location in the northwest corner of JBCC; there is an existing switching station that the project proposes to replace. He noted that the existing station has been in service for over 60 years. The new switching station will replace it.

Mr. Howard explained that the process to site the switching station started in 2016. After discussion with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Massachusetts National Guard, Site 6 was identified as the appropriate site for the switching station. In order to obtain the land for Site 6, an Article 97 process was required. The easement swap and modifications proposed by Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for NHESP resulted in protection of over 6 acres of higher quality habitat and state water protection in exchange of 3.5 acres: a 1.7 to 1 protection

ratio. The mitigation package includes demolition of the existing station and restoration of the area to a more natural state of habitat.

Mr. Howards stated that the challenges were having the new switching station as close as possible to the existing station and the land there is very steep. There are 85,000 yards of soil that will need to be removed. The soil has been sampled; suitable soil will be repurposed and disposed of on site or off site with coordination from Mr. Pinaud and Dr. Ciaranca.

Mr. Howard stated the construction schedule is anticipated to begin in 2020 Q-1 and the replacement switching station scheduled for 2021-Q4. The underground utility lines will be moved in 2023-Q4. Currently, there is coordination with the Massachusetts Army National Guard and the EMC to provide comments on the MEPA review.

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

Mr. Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer, gave an update on items that the EMC has been involved with since the last meeting in October 2018.

Mr. Pinaud stated that Sierra and India Ranges Pilot letter requesting to end the pilot period was completed in December 2018.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the CAT Road Clam Shrimp Letter – December 2018 prior there was a violation of the EPSs in the fall 2018. The MAARNG notified the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The EMC Commissioners requested that process for the CMP and it was so comprehensive that there were no other requirements from the EMC; therefore, the violation has been closed out formally.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the 2018 State of the Reservation Report – February 2019 was a fantastic summary of what happened over the course of the training year. Ms. Kelly and Dr. Ciaranca put a lot of effort into the report which is a group effort, he noted.

Mr. Pinaud stated that a fueling exemption request was made for the Wheelock Timber Harvest in April 2019 and the EMC had an opportunity to visit the site after the meeting.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the MPMG 35% Design Review was brought to their attention in April 2019 and is in process for EMC review.

Mr. Pinaud stated that Range Expansion and Mitigation Plan Review is ongoing, working with Mr. McCumber and Mass Wildlife.

Mr. Pinaud stated that there was a Regional Waste Water planning meeting in May 2019 to review a planning document with the 102nd IW.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the contract to place signage and cameras in the Reserve has been let and they are currently installing the signage; three cameras will be placed in the Reserve.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the Wildfire Class A Foam Policy discussions are ongoing to ensure that there will be no risk in the foam with per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Reserve.

Mr. Pinaud reported that there were explosive concentrations in some Sentinel Wells in Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative Wells Long Term and MassDEP was working with the Cooperative for sampling, which continues to be monitored. The Cooperative has decided to go off site for PFAS but for explosives and propellants Mr. Gregson, IAGWSP, will present the sampling program information.

Mr. Gregson stated that approximately a year ago there were reported detections at J-2 Range Eastern and Northern in the Water Cooperative Sentinel Wells specifically C-4 and C-1 at WS-1, WS-2, and WS-3. He pointed out on the Figure 1 Legend Map Rte. 6 and Rte. 130 Northeast Corner of the Base. The program has been working on groundwater plumes south of the location which made contact in disposal sites on the J Ranges, J-2 East and J-2 North plume locations. The concentrations were reported as false positives and response to the detections were resampled the Sentry Wells August 2018 and were non-

detect. Also, there were samples collected from Water Supply Wells which were non-detect and there was sampling at monitoring wells that were at MW-330M2 and MW-345M2 and were non-detect. All the evidence collecting support false positive detections from the Water Supply Sampling.

Mr. Gregson stated that in September and October of 2018 there was routine sampling at J-2 North and J-2 East Ranges results were for Water Supply Well-2 North, Sentry Wells on Gibbs Road RDX sampling fall 2018 confirms no concentrations. The only RDX detections are near the plume on J-2 Range Northern which is a mile distance from the Water Supply Well sampling in 2018.

Mr. Gregson stated that for Perchlorate on J-2 Range Northern there was detection near the plume but in the case of RDX and the water supply well has two extraction wells for perchlorate.

Mr. Gregson stated that for J-2 Range Eastern plume which wells at Wood Road is to the East of the plumes, RDX location and extraction. The Water Supply Well is located to the North East and was monitored last fall 2018.

Mr. Gregson stated that additional sampling for explosives and perchlorate was established for June 2019 for plumes and Water Supply wells that non-detect for a period of time. The sampling program for PFAS continues on base with a number of sites with open burning and detonation occurred at disposal sites. The treatment systems for the plumes will be sampled and selective wells in the heart of the plume that tracks back near the source areas J-2 North and J-2 East Ranges. He noted that he sampling for the Sentinel Wells for PFAS sampling will start up in June 2019 and results will be given to the EMC.

Agenda Item #5. Reports from the Community and Science Advisory Councils – Council Chairs

Ms. McConnell, CAC, stated that there was a CAC meeting on May 15 with a quorum of 10. She noted that during the meeting, Ms. McConnell was asked to serve as the CAC Chairperson and Mr. Harding agreed to continue as the CAC Vice Chair. A representative for Sandwich has been open for the past seven years and she would like to work with the EMC on filling the nomination.

Ms. McConnell stated that the CAC is looking forward to better communication with the Science Advisory Council (SAC).

Ms. McConnell stated that Cantonment area planning is a concern--whether it is consistent with the entire JBCC and environmental protections. There is a potential future Fire Training Center being considered on JBCC but a site hasn't been decided. There has been insurance that there will be no foam used and it will not be damaging to the environment. She said with the acceptance of the public training the door becomes open for other public functions important and necessary. In the Master Plan and Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. Ms. McConnell asked once the Fire Training center becomes acceptable what other public entities, nonprofit and municipal, could potentially come to the Cantonment area? What guidelines and criteria could be developed that would help the military if the entity is not a good fit?

Commissioner Amidon asked Mr. Pinaud for advice on obtaining usage on JBCC. Mr. Pinaud stated that the EMC has narrow authority for the footprint at JBCC and has been confirmed that the Police Academy will be located in the Cantonment area not in the Reserve. There is a separate advisory council called the Military Civilian Community Council (MCCC). Mr. Rendon stated that there is the JBCC Commanders Group and the MCCC that involves the community and planning issues. It would be presented to them to discuss and negotiate, etc.

Col. Gaglio said BG Faux, JBCC Executive Director, will review any concerns with the JBCC mission. She noted that the MCCC is reviewing the Fire Academy Center proposal for the Cantonment area. Ms. McConnell stated that she appreciates the effort but if there was something more specific and understood without a lot of bureaucracy and building on what is established is what she requested.

Mr. Pinaud stated that there are four vacancies on the CAC and the additional vacancy from Ms. Rooney who submitted a resignation for retirement. The Executive Director of the CCC has appointed a replacement that was communicated to the Governor's office and appointments could be processed quicker and vacancies filled and anything the EMC could do to help would be appreciated.

Commissioner Amidon replied that he has a meeting next week specifically regarding appointments with the committee's vacancies.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the SAC recent meetings went well and the Ad Hoc will be meeting again in July 2019. Commissioner Roy stated that he is open to extending the Ad Hoc Committee's term if it is functioning well. Mr. Pinaud said that if there is more work to be done after the July 2019 meeting he will request an extension at the fall meeting.

Agenda Item #6. Vote – *The EMC shall discuss and vote on the revised Guidelines and Procedures for the Administration of the Environmental Management Commission and its Advisory Councils*

Mr. Pinaud stated that a final draft was submitted for the By-Laws to the EMC and noted that there was a number of meetings with the SAC and CAC resulting in a number of changes that have been incorporated. The SAC and CAC support the final draft version of the By-Laws.

Commissioner Amidon moved the acceptance of the guidelines and procedures of the Final Draft Revised By-Laws and Commissioner Roy made a motion to accept the By-Laws and Commissioner Suuberg seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #7. Camp Edwards Update – *Dr. Mike Ciaranca, Environmental and Readiness Center, MA ARNG*

Dr. Ciaranca gave an administrative update for Camp Edwards Staff changes - MAJ Alex McDonough is now Plans and Training Officer; Warrant Officer 1 (WO1) Christopher Corbett is the new Range Control Officer.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that there is a MassDOT proposal to work the Canal Area Improvement Project with the Army Corps of Engineers. He pointed out on the slides Rte. 6 relocating exit 1 from the bridge area down to the easement along Rte. 6. There are no impacts to the side where the Reserve can be but construction can change and there are trespassing concerns. Commissioner Amidon stated that the exit also cuts through the State forest and there are conversations to be had about that topic.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the trespassing signage is being made and a contract has been bid out to install the signs in the Reserve. Mr. Pinaud stated that the signs and cameras have been delivered and waiting on the contract for installation; signs will be placed every 100 feet on trees.

Dr. Ciaranca reported that the draft SOP and map are ready for review for the Reserve/Training Area Refueling EPS 15.3.3 update. The draft EPS language has been developed. In Fall 2019, the EPS change will be proposed to the SAC, CAC and EMC.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that there are 25,000 rounds of lead ammunition remaining in Camp Edwards' inventory; in 2019/2020 Camp Edwards will be using copper ammunition only. Lead-based pistol ammunition will be in use at Echo Range only. He said that Echo Range was used on April 6 by Rhode Island Special Forces. They suggested adding two targets at each end of the range on their own lanes for corrective actions. The range should be opening by summer 2019.

Dr. Ciaranca said that the STAPP systems on Juliet and Kilo ranges will be dismantled upon availability of funding. There is the potential to retain one range for outside agency use. Dr. Ciaranca stated that Tango Range STAPP has been removed. The design for rebuilding it as a copper zeroing range is at more than 30%. The range size will double from 15 to 32 lanes.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) is a Military Construction (MILCON) project for 2020. The design is at 35% and the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs) are being incorporated. The NEPA/MEPA is being developed and coordination with NHESP is ongoing.

Agenda Item #8: Natural Resources Update – *Mr. Jacob McCumber, Natural Resource Manager, MA ARNG*

Mr. McCumber gave an update on the Natural Resources Program activities.

Mr. McCumber said that he started planning how to mitigate the MPMG focusing on development, fire breaks, and habitat management. Mass Wildlife is part of the mitigation, he noted. Mr. McCumber said there was a meeting regarding mitigation with Mass Wildlife, BG Faux, LTC Porter, and others to create a joint mitigation bank for Air and Army National Guard working together as partners. The Army National Guard has opened up land transfers which make the mitigation much more possible.

Mr. McCumber stated that the Solar Project planned for the landfill is on hold and land transfers for supporting that project (130 acres) were transferred and 150 acres from the Volpe Center site in the middle of the Cantonment area are in process of transfer.

Mr. McCumber stated that there is a draft Conservation Management Plan in process with Mass Wildlife that should be finalized in the next 6 months. The permit is specifically for the MPMG but will be established for the overall mitigation bank

Commissioner Roy asked how big is the grassland. Mr. McCumber stated that the grassland is 150 acres and additional 120 acres. The parcel has capacity for all the planned projects they may do with the strategy moving forward, he noted. Commissioner Roy asked how much of the 150 acres is in grassland or if the MAARNG is proposing to do the conversion. Mr. McCumber said there are approximately 70 acres of the 150 acres that still needs conversion and the rest were already maintained as grassland.

Mr. McCumber stated that Natural Resources have been working very closely with NHESP and need to ensure net benefit of State listed species that is mandated through Natural Resources Program to ensure no net loss of training capacity or area. The strategy was developed to enhance the training value focusing all the emphasis on Pine Barrens restoration improvement are key training areas increasing Army training capacity for improving the training.

Mr. McCumber stated that the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was completed for the Agassi Clam Shrimp mitigation permitting and Clam Shrimp puddle relocation was started in the spring. He displayed a photo on Herbert Road and noted that it was impassable for one of the most used training areas on the base. The puddle was drained with sediment samples taken to collect the Clam Shrimp eggs and move them to the other site. He noted that Roads and Grounds have already fixed the road, which is passable for training. Mr. McCumber said that on CAT Road in the Northern part of Training site and in June/July adult Clam Shrimp will be scooped up in buckets to be transported to other puddles to make the road more passable.

Mr. McCumber stated that there was one of the best yearly springs for burning in 2019 for prescribed fire; 524 acres were burned.

Mr. McCumber stated the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan is ten years old and the update will be contracted out. The primary goal is to be much more specific on the objectives with partnerships over the next five years.

Commissioner Roy would like a copy of the study map for mitigation strategy for MANG projects at JBCC.

Agenda Item #9. Combined Arms Exercise – Request for the Use of Training Simulators – MAJ Alexander McDonough, MA ARNG Camp Edwards/Dr. Michael Ciaranca, E&RC, MA ARNG

MAJ McDonough said the Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) will be held 27 July – 10 August 2019. It is an exercise for units getting evaluated and assessed on readiness at Camp Edwards. There will be approximately 900 soldiers and staff attending. The primary units are Combat Service Support and Infantry, Engineers, Military Police, Chemical Signal, Cyber Aviation, Intelligence, Close Air Support, Brigade Support Battalion, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Transportation, and DoD units. The main goal of the exercise is to bring units into a tactical setting so they can be evaluated against any threat.

There will be Non-Standard Training Requests for tactical fueling, Sierra Range non-standard use, use of CS (Tear Gas) outside the former NBC chambers, and for use of training simulators.

MAJ McDonough said the MAARNG would like to test the following simulators in the 2019 Combined Arms Exercise: Smoke Grenades (M18), Star Clusters, Parachute Flares and Smoke (M158A1 and M127A1), Ground Burst (Artillery) Simulators (M115A2).

MAJ McDonough stated that the constituent of concern is potassium perchlorate, which can inhibit thyroid function. MAJ McDonough said that the regulatory standards are Massachusetts Drinking Water Standard of 2 parts per billion (ppb), 1ppb-sensitive populations. The Massachusetts Soil Standard is 100ppb.

MAJ McDonough stated that the objective is to provide data regarding potassium perchlorate residue from simulators in a military field training setting and to determine whether or not the simulators are appropriate for use at Camp Edwards during the 2019 CAX.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the M115A2 (artillery or ground burst simulator) has the greatest concentration of potassium perchlorate as compared to the other proposed devices. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the tests done in 2009 showed: in sand 3 to 78ppb (0.15-26ppb/device). The dunnage was 2,840ppb.

MAJ McDonough stated that the devices to be tested are smoke grenades and the ground burst simulator. The initial field test will be conducted at TTB Kelley. The results will be provided to the SAC.

Commissioner Suuberg asked how many tests would be conducted. Dr. Ciaranca replied they will conduct 100 point Multi Increment Sampling in a ¼ acre area where the simulators were thrown. The testing results will be presented to the SAC Ad Hoc Committee for review.

Commissioner Roy asked if it is possible for the Ground Burst Simulator to be fired in any type of containment. Dr. Ciaranca said that the Best Management Practice (BMP) is to pick up the dunnage at the site depending on the type of exercise because there may not be an opportunity for a container to capture it but will be reduced as much as possible.

MAJ McDonough stated that the simulators are used at mostly every installation with no issue and risk of fire which is the biggest concern, therefore, precautions are taken. Dr. Ciaranca said that BMPs are utilized at the training site.

Commissioner Roy requested for photos be taken and focus on minimizing the deposition of perchlorate.

Agenda Item #10. Public Comment

Col. Gaglio gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The 102nd IW utilities with the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the water distribution system and wastewater treatment plant effluent pipe that runs through the range and any change to the pipe would go under review with the EMC and Article 97 Legislation.

Col. Gaglio stated that there have been efforts trying to privatize the utilities for a long time. She noted they are working with the four Upper Cape Towns and town of Barnstable has been added.

Col. Gaglio stated that the Air National Guard Federal Facility support continues, neither the 102nd nor the MANG have the authority to make a decision on the plan because it is a 100 percent Federal Facility, she noted. Col. Gaglio is working with the community on possible interest in the utilities and there are interested parties in different stages of development.

There is a company that has given the Air National Guard a presentation that is under consideration. The town of Barnstable has been serious about an independent offer of taking over both the water and wastewater utilities. The four Upper Cape towns are 3 to 5 years away from any desire to take over the utilities but they will propose joint power. She said that Wright Pierce Engineering in Andover, MA has been doing studies for the Upper Cape towns independent of the 102nd IW.

There was a meeting on May 9 to discuss the desire to expand the infiltration beds. There is an 800,000 gallon per day permit through Mass DEP to discharge effluent from the utility near the Cantonment area through the effluent pipe to the infiltration beds by the Canal in the Reserve. The Upper Cape and

Barnstable would like to expand the infiltration beds two to three times. The 102nd IW continues to look at partners regardless of expansion to take over utilities.

Mr. Pinaud displayed a map and on the Reserve where the wastewater treatment is located and the main, which travels through the Cantonment area and into the Reserve. He pointed out the current infiltration beds adjacent to the Canal. There have been a number of suggestions, some of them effect the Reserve and some do not. Any of the alternatives because of the increase flow would mean a constraint on the volume of wastewater influent in the main. Most of the alternatives included doubling the size to increase flow constraint.

Col. Gaglio stated having a much larger effluent pipe which the cost allowed the town of Barnstable to be included and interested. There is a lot of support from the four Upper Cape towns and Falmouth is specifically interested in the effluent ability because they are reaching their maximum capability. Mashpee needs a treatment plant and effluent pipe. Sandwich has a smaller interest in treatment and effluent for discharge, she noted.

Col Gaglio stated prioritizing utilities is mission insurance not only for the 102nd IW but for all the JBCC branches in the military and organizations that would also help the Upper Cape.

Commissioner Roy asked if they are only using half the 800,000 gallons a day capacity. Col. Gaglio replied they are using 40 percent for the current users of JBCC but if the five towns were added would want to double or 2.5 size capacity. Commissioner Roy said that increasing from 400,000 gallons a day to 4.5 million. Col Gaglio replied that is the desire to increase and wanted awareness with no decision at this time.

Agenda Item #11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.