

**Science Advisory Council
to the
Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805, West Inner Road
May 23, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

SAC Members:

Paul Cavanagh
Denis LeBlanc
Tara Nye Lewis
Phil Gschwend

Organization:

SAC
SAC
SAC
SAC

Telephone:

508-492-8827
508-490-5030
508-362-3828
781-354-7781

E-Mail:

conservationscientist@yahoo.com
dleblanc@usgs.gov
Tara.lewis@capecodcommission.org
pmgschwe@mit.edu

EMC Staff:

Leonard Pinaud

Organization:

EMC

Telephone:

508-946-2871

E-Mail:

Leonard.pinaud@mass.gov

Attendees:

MAJ Alex McDonough
COL Matthew Porter
COL John Bagaglio
Jake McCumber
Paulo Baganha
Mike Ciaranca
Emily Kelly
Shawn Cody
Jane Dolan

Organization:

MA ARNG
MA ARNG
MA ARNG
MA ARNG/NR
MA ARNG
MANG E&RC
MANG E&RC
IAGWSP
USEPA

Telephone:

774-286-1373
508-789-8375
774-696-7493
339-202-9343
339-202-3960
339-202-9358
339-202-9341
508-968-5154
617-918-1272

E-Mail:

Alexander.v.mcdonough.mil@army.mil
Matthew.n.porter.mil@army.mil
John.s.bagaglio.mil@army.mil
Jacob.c.mccumber.nfg@army.mil
Paulo.a.baganha.mil@army.mil
Michael.a.ciaranca.nfg@army.mil
emily.d.kelly2.nfg@army.mil
Shawn.c.cody.civ@army.mil
Dolan.jane@epa.gov

Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Science Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, September 29, 2022
2. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, May 2023
3. Camp Edwards Update, May 23, 2023
4. Camp Edwards Natural Resources

Agenda Item #1. Welcome

Science Advisory Council (SAC) Chair Paul Cavanagh welcomed everyone to the SAC meeting.

Agenda Item #2: Review of SAC Minutes and Approval

- Mr. Cavanagh made a motion to accept the September 29, 2022, meeting minutes, and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion. All were in favor of the minutes as written.
- Ms. Lewis requested that follow up responses to action items be sent to all SAC members.

Agenda Item #3: SAC Chair Election (Vote) and Membership Review – Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer

- Mr. LeBlanc nominated Mr. Cavanagh for Chair; Ms. Nye seconded the nomination. All were in favor.
- Mr. Cavanagh nominated Ms. Nye for Vice Chair; Mr. LeBlanc seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

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

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

- The EMC has three new commissioners: Mr. Tom O'Shea, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Ms. Bonnie Heiple, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and Mr. Brian Arrigo, Department of Conservation and Recreation. The EMC will meet on June 15, 2023.
- Mr. Jack Duggan resigned from the Science Advisory Council (SAC), having served since 2005. The SAC is comprised of five to nine members total and is now at four members, leaving up to five vacancies. Vacancies may be filled with someone with backgrounds in public health, wildlife habitat, groundwater, or environmental planning. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) has 15 members total and currently one vacancy (At-large member).
- The Annual State of Reservation reports from 2018 to 2022 are on the Massachusetts National Guard's website and the EMC's website. It is a good document with information on military training and environmental issues, water supply date and items covered by Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002.
- Ten nonstandard training requests (exceptions to policy) have been granted since September 2022. These requests are for the use of the training ranges in a nonstandard or non-typical way. An example is if a range is built for pistol marksmanship, a unit may ask to use that range to transition from firing a pistol to firing a rifle, which requires special approval.
- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Bourne and Sagamore Bridge replacement: Mr. Pinaud attended the MassDOT virtual meetings to keep informed regarding the potential for any impact to the Training Area/Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve from the new bridges or roadway reconfigurations. Currently, he does not believe there will be any impact to the Reserve, however the design is not finished. Mr. Pinaud will attend future meetings to monitor any changes.
- Over the past six months, three prescribed fires (207 acres treated) were conducted by the Natural Resources/Integrated Training Area Management program. There was one wildfire at Sierra Range (11 acres total on the range floor) resulting from the use of tracer rounds.
- Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Response Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): this SOP is for UXO finds on the training ranges or in the Cantonment area that are not associated with UXO work being done by the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP). Occasionally, a soldier or security officer will discover ordnance items in the training area and a process was developed to deal with UXO outside of IAGWSP. The SOP is a decision matrix that informs staff how to respond. The SOP includes public notification and notification to UXO technicians, either military Explosive Ordnance Disposal team or the State Police Bomb Squad. There were two UXO finds in the last six months and the SOP was used for those finds.
- Eversource Switching and Mid-Cape Reliability coordination: Eversource held a dedication ceremony last week for its switching station built on a right of way in the Training Area/Reserve; that is complete. Eversource is in the process of upgrading its transmission lines, some of which transverse Joint Base Cape Cod. Mr. Pinaud, the Environmental & Readiness Center, and Camp Edwards have been meeting virtually and in person to address Eversource's questions and ensure the group understands the work they are doing. Eversource requested one exception to policy for refueling in the Training Area/Reserve.

- The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has issued a draft determination for its Sole Source Aquifer Review of the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards. It is out for public comment and a public meeting will be held in Sandwich, MA on May 24.

Ms. Dolan, US EPA Remediation Project Manager, discussed the US EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act, Administrative Order 2 (AO2), Five Year Review Report. In 2017, the modification to AO2 allowed for lead ammunition or other live ammunition and certain pyrotechnics to be used on the small arms ranges at or near the training ranges to the extent that the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) received continued approval and oversight from the EMC and followed the Environmental Performance Standards. US EPA recently issued a five-year review report for that action. The report validated whether the decision to modify the prohibition of firing lead ammunition and pyrotechnics is protective of the aquifer. Ms. Dolan looked at five years of data, did a site inspection, looked at range inspection forms and considered the evidence. She said all conditions were met and any violations corrected. The five-year review report documents that the ranges were operated as they were designed to be in accordance with the Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs). The overall opinion is that this modification is protective of human health. The document was co-signed by the division director. She said supporting documents are available on the US EPA's website, available to anyone.

Mr. Cody, Impact Area Groundwater Study Program, discussed Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in groundwater and the Upper Cape Water Supply WS-2. Mr. Cody reported that since the last meeting, PFAS detections were found at Gibbs Road. The IAGWSP is installing eight wells, seven of which are in between the detection and WS-2. Samples were taken from WS-2 using EPA Method 1633. The analytes were run and there were no detections of PFAS, either regulated or unregulated. There was a detection of PFOSA, a precursor, at .57 parts per trillion, which is a J value because it is so low. Mr. Cody said they are resampling, and the results should be available by the EMC meeting. Mr. LeBlanc said that he spoke to a colleague at the US Geological Survey, who is a PFOS expert. That compound is detected, not always but reasonably frequently, in lab blanks. He said there have been issues with its analysis at these very low levels where there are false positives, which argues for resampling. He said it is odd for it to show up with nothing else and is not what you see first in a leading edge.

Agenda Item #5: Camp Edwards Update – Mr. Matthew Porter, Camp Edwards Base Operations Manager, MAARNG; Mr. Alex McDonough, Deputy Base Operations Manager, MAARNG

Mr. McDonough provided a Camp Edwards update to the SAC.

- This year, the main training activity is more traditional weekend training and annual training support. The Aviation Battalion based out of Camp Edwards conducted its premobilization training at Camp Edwards; they are now mobilized in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. The battalion did briefly travel to a major training site for its final combat checks.
- The major training event executed this year was the Best Warrior Competition. A soldier from Camp Edwards won and went to Maine for the regional competition but did not make the cut; it was a very tough competition and Camp Edwards is very proud of that soldier.
- June is the busiest training month at Camp Edwards with a downtick in July. Training picks up again in August and September and resets in October with the end of the training year.
- Camp Edwards has been working with Mr. Pinaud to update the OMMPs, a work in progress over several years. The main goals are to consolidate the documents and ensure the end user can use it effectively and efficiently. The OMMP will be updated for consistent administration across all the ranges. With the SAC Ad Hoc Committee's input for the monitoring section, sampling will be reviewed in some areas.

- Monitoring: There is nothing trending upward in groundwater or soil. Antimony is still seen in the lysimeters that were issues before but that is trending down. pH is normalized on the range floor. The MAARNG had been required to place lime on the ranges to manage the pH, but once that was stopped, the pH is back to the surrounding levels between 5.6 and 6.1. Antimony is leaching from the range berms; for 2023, the MAARNG will measure the pH in the berms to depth. The MAARNG received the draft Copper Fate and Transport Study and would like to propose an SAC Ad Hoc meeting to review that document.
- The MAARNG is working on responses to the US EPA's Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Sole Source Aquifer review. The MAARNG will present the highlights at the upcoming meeting so the public can understand the MAARNG's position. For the US EPA's Five-Year review discussed earlier by Ms. Dolan, the MAARNG is responding to some of the recommendations put forth and concurs with most of them. In the future, a discussion will move forward about quantitative versus qualitative analysis for ammunition removal, based on science and best management practices. A section will be added to the Annual State of the Reservation Report discussing any modifications to the OMMPs so that is in the record.

Mr. Pinaud said he wanted to reinforce that the Five-Year review had many good recommendations, some of which are already performed. All the recommendations are being seriously considered. When the OMMP is revised and reviewed, many or all the recommendations will be incorporated into the way the ranges are run and monitored.

Mr. Pinaud will provide the draft Copper Fate and Transport Study to the SAC members.

Agenda Item #6: Public Comment – SAC Chair

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Science Advisory Council Action Items

May 23, 2023

Action Items:

1. Mr. Pinaud will provide the draft Copper Fate and Transport Study to the SAC members. (*Sent to SAC members via email May 24, 2023, by Michael Ciaranca*).