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**Environmental Management Commission  
Building 3495  
May 24, 2018  
9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members:**

Commissioner Ron Amidon	EMC/DFG	617-626-1550
Commissioner Martin Suuberg	EMC/DEP	617-292-5856
Commissioner Leo Roy	EMC/DCR	617-626-1250

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Len Pinaud, Environmental Officer

**Organization:**

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**Attendees:**

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**Handouts Distributed at Meeting:**

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: November 2, 2017
2. Environmental Officer Update – May 2018
3. Massachusetts National Guard Current Activities
4. Natural Resources Update
5. Multi Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards May 24, 2018

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

Commissioner Amidon convened the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) at 9:00 a.m.

The members and attendees introduced themselves.

**Agenda Item #2 Review and Approval of EMC Minutes**

The November 2, 2017 EMC minutes were reviewed. Commission Amidon made a motion to accept the minutes; Commissioner Suuberg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item #3 Environmental Officer Update – *Mr. Leonard Pinaud, Environmental Management Commission Acting Environmental Officer***

Mr. Pinaud, Acting EMC Environmental Officer, gave an update on items that the EMC has been involved with since the last meeting in November 2017. In November 2017, the MAARNG requested the EMC end the Pilot Period for Sierra and India Ranges. The EMC completed a number of inspections and found issues on the ranges. Those issues were repaired and are now in compliance with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs).

Mr. Pinaud displayed a photo of the Army Community Partnership Award on February 8, 2018. BG Faux said that the Army Community Partnership Program has improved relationships and he hopes to take the process further. Mr. Pinaud said that the EMC has been involved with two initiatives.

Commissioner Amidon stated the Department of Fish and Game has been involved with the Big Moe outdoor exposition in Sturbridge and JBCC would be a good venue for a Cape Cod outdoor exposition. He said that JBCC has been invited to set up a tent at the Big Moe in September to see how it is operated.

The other issue EMC is working on is through the emergency services group of first responders, law enforcement and fire, and one of the initiatives is the trespassing in the Northern 15,000 acres. Law enforcement has been asked for additional support in return for training using the resources at Camp Edwards.

Mr. Pinaud discussed signage planned for the Reserve funded through penalty money received from a utility company's on-base violation. The EMC has been working with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Commissioner of Fish and Game to come up with signage that can be posted every 100 feet around the perimeter of the Reserve. The boundaries were reviewed to make sure all postings will be on the boundary of JBCC. Commissioner Suuberg asked when the signs will be installed. Mr. Pinaud replied that the signs will be made and installed over the next few months.

Mr. Pinaud reported that he, along with Natural Resources staff and Range Control, attended a meeting of the Barnstable League of Sportsmen, some of whom hunt on JBCC, to introduce themselves. Mr. Pinaud discussed the EMC and plans on attending another meeting before hunting season.

Commission Amidon stated that the hunt meeting was very well received and he received a lot of comments that were very appreciative. Mr. Pinaud said that there should be more community outreach meetings.

Mr. Pinaud stated that there are three new members for the CAC; they received a briefing and a tour of the Reserve.

**Agenda Item #4 By Law Discussion – *Mr. Leonard Pinaud, Acting Environmental Officer, EMC***

Mr. Pinaud discussed the 2002 EMC By-Laws, which were revised in April 2004, but never voted on. He has updated the By-Laws and a draft was sent to the CAC and SAC for review and comment. He recommended a decision be made during the fall meeting to change or keep the By-Laws.

Commissioner Amidon asked if the Draft By-Laws have been reviewed by Legal Counsel. Mr. Pinaud said that the Draft By-Laws has been sent to Rich Lehan with the Office of Counsel, Department of Fish and Game.

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Commissioner Roy asked that comments be received from the CAC and SAC prior to the next meeting. Mr. Pinaud will send out a reminder to the advisory councils.

**Agenda Item #5 Vote** – *The EMC shall discuss and vote on the hiring of an Environmental Officer in accordance with Chapter 47, Acts of 2002, Sections 7 and 8*

Commissioner Amidon stated that Mr. Pinaud has been the acting Environmental Officer for two to three years. Commissioner Suuberg made a motion to make Mr. Pinaud Environmental Officer; Commissioner Roy seconded the motion. Mr. Pinaud is officially the Environmental Officer.

**Agenda Item #6 Natural Resources Update** – *Mr. Jacob McCumber, Natural Resources, MA ARNG*

Mr. McCumber gave an update on Natural Resources. Mr. McCumber said that the Agassiz Clam Shrimp Conservation Management Plan is making progress and has been submitted to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and will be going to the Bourne Conservation Commission. The Agassiz Clam Shrimp are scattered in road puddles in the training site and will be relocated to other sites. Mr. McCumber stated that they are surveying road way puddles with the Bourne Conservation Commission and working through solutions. Mr. McCumber discussed the Vegetation Management Plan. In the spring, bracken fern will be removed from the frost bottoms, and honeysuckle and rose will be removed during the summer along with other invasives and cutting. The Whip poor will migration study is ongoing; they are recapturing the birds with geolocators and will replace them with GPS transmitters and try to recapture them next year.

Mr. McCumber described habitat restoration activities including prescribed burning: only one prescribed burn was completed in the spring with 30 acres burned. Forestry management activities included clearing 80 acres at OP 9/10, 50 acres at C-14, removing pitch pine at BP-11 and plans to burn and thin BP-29/30. Southern Pine Beetles have been getting a lot more emphasis, which is the driver behind the forestry management.

Mr. McCumber said that the attendance and harvest was lower at the 28 April youth turkey hunt; the spring turkey hunt runs from May 7 to May 11. Mr. McCumber reported that the Stafford Act agreement was signed, which included all of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Wildland Fire Agencies with one master partnership agreement.

Southern Pine Beetles are the driver behind the forestry management. There is a Massachusetts Management Group which consists of Mr. McCumber and five other biologists from US Forest Service, National Seashore and others. They are working on preparedness and partnership for the Southern Pine Beetle, but a big focus is Pine Barren Restoration work, which thins the forest.

Commissioner Amidon asked if there are any programs working on pollinators on the base. Mr. McCumber replied that there is not a general pollinator program. He noted that in 2017 an intensive bumblebee survey was conducted that focused on the Rusty-patch Bumblebee. There were butterfly surveys focused on the Frosted Elfin that has received federal and state emphasis for federal listing. He said most emphasis has been in the battle positions restoration to native grass from pitch pines pickets. The restoration program is the main focus, he noted.

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

Dr. Ciaranca stated that there was an episode with an Agassiz Clam Shrimp puddle being filled by mistake. There was a violation of EPS 3.1 and 3.4 (Rare Species) not to interfere with state or federal listed species. Mr. Pinaud was made aware of the violation. Dr. Ciaranca said that proactive approaches are being taken to avoid any future unnecessary action.

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Commissioner Suuberg inquired how this action should be closed out and documented. Mr. Pinaud said that he would consult with Mr. Lehan. He said he would like to touch base with NHESP and either take enforcement action or close out the violation. Dr. Ciaranca stated that in the past the former EO would send a letter recognizing the actions that are being implemented and any other steps needed.

Dr. Ciaranca gave an update on the pilot period for Sierra and India ranges. The MAARNG requested to end the Pilot Period; the request was denied because the India and Sierra range berms were out of compliance. Range maintenance was requested to be done. He said that record keeping documentation wasn't being managed and as a result he met with CPT McDonough and they are integrating all of the ranges Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) into one plan. Dr. Ciaranca said that the new inspection forms are more user friendly and OMMP documentation will be inspected by the E&RC quarterly. Dr. Ciaranca displayed a photo of the India Range bullet pockets that were repaired and Sierra Range auxiliary berms repair. He said that he and Mr. Pinaud saw that the line of sight wasn't lining up and that was corrected by Range Control. Mr. Pinaud authorized a return to use at both ranges. The Pilot Period for India and Sierra Ranges was extended through December 31, 2018.

Dr. Ciaranca explained that the STAPP system was removed from Tango Range. Plans are to reconfigure the range to become an all-copper zeroing range; design work is planned to begin in 2018. All the reground and projectile debris removed out of the STAPP system were disposed in accordance with State and Federal requirements and coordinated with the EMC EO.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the Combined Arms Exercise planned for 2018 and 2019. The MAARNG plans a brigade force level, multi-echelon, multi-domain, combined arms exercise with joint elements. The purpose to build ready Army units/organizational readiness to conduct Unified Land Operations and demonstrate the capability to integrate National Defense Requirements. Dr. Ciaranca stated the 2018 exercise will involve combat support units from 6-11 June. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the training in 2019 will incorporate lessons learned from the 2018 training.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the Proof of Concept III: EPS 15.3.3: Reserve Training Area Refueling Purpose to illustrate that field refueling can be conducted in a safe and environmentally protective manner. The need to refuel vehicles in the Reserve for remediation, range construction, and training area and habitat management in a cost effective, efficient, and environmentally protective manner. Critically, there is a need for MANG Soldiers to train effectively with refueling, a primary training task for many MAARNG Soldiers, he said.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that three Proof of Concepts have been conducted: Helicopter Hot fueling: 13 June 2017; Vehicle Fueling: 3 March and 5 May 2018. They were coordinated and observed by the EMC EO, Range Control, and the Environmental & Readiness Center. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the Proofs of Concept will help develop the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) best management practices. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the next steps are: finish developing the SOP and map; and develop EPS language in coordination with the EMC.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that there will be a refueling map with locations to refuel "no go" based on sensitivity, resources, terrain, and grade, etc. Dr. Ciaranca explained that the next steps are to finish developing the SOP (map) and develop the EPS language in coordination with EMC.

**Agenda Item #8: Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range** – *CPT Alex McDonough, MAARNG, Mr. Jacob McCumber, Natural Resource Manager, MAARNG*

CPT McDonough explained that the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) is similar to the Sierra Range 350 meter rifle range, and is used to qualify soldiers on weapons, primarily, the M249 and M240

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(5.56 and 7.62 mm) and .50 caliber. He said for the project that has been submitted consists of eight lanes, 800 meters long.

CPT McDonough stated that the MAARNG presented the project in 2012 as a nomination for a MILCON project, which was subsequently awarded. The range supports the Army's qualification requirement for those weapons. The MPMG was selected in 2012-2013 and was put in for funding in 2020, he said. The Range construction piece is \$9.67 million for construction and \$1.8 million for targetry for eight lanes.

The range will be similar to Sierra Range with a series of buildings, a tower and an ammo storage building, an operation storage building and classroom. There are eight firing lanes all the targets are fully automated and programmable through the range computer. There are three main types of targets: infantry, stationary infantry, moving infantry, and stationary targets. All targets are fully automated and the scenario is computer driven with immediate performance feedback. There are 24 standard stationary infantry target (SIT) mechanisms, 32 double arm mechanisms and 8 widened SIT emplacements.

CPT McDonough noted that there was a noise study done a few years ago which is an Army requirement to validate noise with the Army Public Health Command through a computer modeling program. Noise sensors were set up at the base boundary and in other areas. In addition to firing on KD Range, firing was conducted on Juliet, Kilo and India ranges. There were no findings of significance for the noise study, he noted.

Mr. Pinaud said that during the 2015 noise study, MassDEP and EPA took a noise meter into the neighborhoods near KD range and found that it averaged 45 decibels during firing. Spikes on the noise meter were from lawn mowers and UPS trucks, he said. He said that during firing, the sound in the neighborhood was subdued, there were no sharp noises from firing. Mr. Pinaud said that he forwarded the noise study report to MassDEP noise experts. The expert said there is an exemption to noise regulations for military training. MassDEP would become involved if the noise became a nuisance condition. The expert suggested that after the range is built, another noise study be conducted to validate the model.

Commissioner Suuberg stated during the noise study the total noise in the neighborhood was 45 decibels and asked was there a reading for how many decibels the delta increase was when the weapons were fired. Mr. Pinaud replied no, because the noise levels were so loud in the background. Commissioner Suuberg said that there wasn't a measureable increase in decibels. Mr. Pinaud said it wasn't quiet enough. Mr. Pinaud said there was no measurable spike, although it may have been due to the neighborhood being busy that day. Commissioner Suuberg asked if the range would be used in the wintertime. CPT McDonough stated that the MAARNG generally trains with live fire from April to November. He said the purpose of the study was to validate the noise modeling, which backs up the EPS requirement that states the MAARNG must follow the Army's noise program.

Commissioner Suuberg stated the noise results are encouraging and asked how far are the ranges from the nearest house or school. CPT McDonough replied probably 800-1000 meters. The noise modeling sets up certain rings outward from the range; Zone 2, is to "consider alternatives." The MAARNG has considered all the alternative and the only alternative to building this range is to build over an existing range which means taking away a capability, so that was excluded, which leaves KD Range as the option.

CPT McDonough displayed a diagram of KD Range with the current range 92 acres and MPMG would encompass 120 acres.

Mr. McCumber stated that there is a need to mitigate the fuel risk with more management. There will need to be 250-300 acres of mechanical pretreatment with fire fuel management to reduce the risk of fire at the ranges on a frequent basis with the overgrown woods. The habitat mitigation will benefit from the fire hazard reduction to support the ranges.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the environmental review process: when siting the MPMG, there are two processes, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy

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Act (MEPA). He said concerns include noise issues, which there will be another study done but scoped through MEPA. The process will be approximately 12 months, he noted. He also discussed the general EPS and EPS 19, which requires the MAARNG to capture and contain ammunition, manage and monitor the ranges and report. The MAARNG will receive input and advice from the SAC, CAC and EMC. The Environmental Officer will review and provide authorization for range design approval and operation.

Mr. Pinaud stated that at KD Range in preparation of the design work for MPMG. There is still some targetry and munition items that IAGWSP will take care of with a project note. The range will be completed in terms of environmental work. He said that there is still work to be done in the Central Impact Area in terms of munition removal before the range is opened.

Commissioner Roy asked if the project budget includes the UXO removal or funded separately. CPT McDonough said it is funded separately.

CPT McDonough stated that several other studies have been done, including an archaeological survey and endangered plant and species surveys.

Mr. Pinaud said that berms should be developed to try to capture projectiles because EPS 19 states all projectiles will be captured at the ranges. He said that if bullets impact the range floor in front of the targets something will need to be designed to capture them.

**Agenda Item #9 Public Comment** – *Commissioner Amidon, EMC Chair*

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item #10 Computer Aided MPMG Simulation and Participatory Demonstration – Camp Edwards Staff**

CPT McDonough stated that the weapon systems load and function similar to the soldiers own weapons and the MPMG goes through courses of fire. There may or may not be a range officer present on a civilian range, however, on a military range there is an appointed Range Safety and/or Lane Officer who manages the conduct of the range.

SPC Thomas Depalo, Camp Edwards Training Simulation Center, demonstrated the computer aided MPMG simulation using one of the 10 meter qualification practices.

**Agenda Item #11 Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.