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**Community Advisory Council to the  
Environmental Management Commission  
Building 1805  
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts  
May 25, 2017  
5:30 p.m.**

***Draft Meeting Minutes***

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## **Handouts Distributed at Meeting:**

1. Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2016
2. Massachusetts National Guard Current Activities
3. Natural Resources Update
4. Massachusetts Army National Guard Camp Edwards Update

### **Agenda Item #1. Chairperson's Comments**

Community Advisory Council Vice (CAC) Chair, Mr. Dishner, welcomed everyone. He noted that recently there was a news article on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). There has been no announcement of a new round of BRAC, but that may come up in 2021.

### **Agenda Item #2: Review of CAC Meeting Minutes**

The October 5, 2016 CAC meeting minutes were reviewed. Ms. Valiela motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Mr. Cole seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #3: Massachusetts National Guard Current Activities – Dr. Mike Ciaranca, Deputy Director, Environmental and Readiness Center**

Dr. Ciaranca stated that since the last CAC meeting, COL Magurn received a promotion to Brigadier General.

Mr. Pinaud reminded the CAC that National Grid requested approval from the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to discharge water from a hydrostatic test into the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (the Reserve). The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) and the EMC worked with them to try to make sure the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs) were satisfied. The proposal was presented to the CAC and Science Advisory Council (SAC). After the SAC meeting in October 2016, National Grid made a business decision not to discharge the water in the Reserve. The water was trucked off to a wastewater treatment plant, he noted. Dr. Ciaranca stated that National Grid's infrastructure has been removed from the Reserve. Mr. Dishner asked if there are any other discharges on the base than what we control. Mr. Pinaud responded no, he is not aware of any other discharges.

Mr. Pinaud stated that there is an Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve Trust Fund, which was established when a utility company had a violation and paid \$70,000 into the trust fund, which is managed by Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Pinaud and Dr. Ciaranca have been working with Jason Zimmer, Department of Fish and Game, on how to use the trust fund. Some of the trust fund has to be used for the easement and right of way for the utility company, but money can be used toward controlling trespassing. The best way to accomplish this would be to create signage and install it in certain areas of the base, Route 28 and Bourne. Mr. Dishner asked if the new signage is metal. Mr. Pinaud replied the signs are plastic. Dr. Ciaranca asked if there has been any recent ATV activity. Mr. McCumber replied that there has been periodic activity.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that Annual State of Reservation Report was completed and sent out for dissemination. He said suggestions for improvement may be made at any time during the year.

Dr. Ciaranca said that the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has modified Administrative Order 2; the Pilot Period for the STAPP ranges is concluded and the EMC is the recognized authority for Small Arms Range oversight. In addition the MAARNG must conduct five year reviews.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the metals removal on J Range. Metals must be cleaned out of the STAPP systems after a certain amount of bullets have been fired into the systems. Dr. Ciaranca said that approximately 4,160 lbs. of projectiles were fired into the J Range STAPP system. The weight of the projectiles removed is estimated at 3,800 lbs. He displayed a photo of the STAPP system that showed the demarcation where rounds stopped within the system: approximately 8 inches to 1 foot.

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Mr. Dishner asked if there was a contractor hired to do the work and submit the information. Dr. Ciaranca replied yes and metals were supposed to go to receiving facility in New Jersey.

Dr. Ciaranca said that pre and post sampling was conducted; the sampling results at LYJRG003 (lysimeter on J Range) were 141 ppb for Antimony. The action level is 6ppb. Dr. Ciaranca explained that the granular material in the STAPP system was vacuumed out and the metals separated. The granular material was then returned to the system. He explained that an incident occurred with the contractors; the granular material was being pumped back into the system and some escaped the back of the system, blowing dust onto snow-covered ground. He noted that an independent sample was done and nothing was found. There was some bullet penetrations on the STAPP bottom liner. There were two bullet penetrations: one penetrated and one was stuck up in the bottom liner. There were four other pin holes on the STAPP system liner that were patched.

Dr. Ciaranca reported that construction is complete on Echo Range. Pre-construction sampling was completed and post-construction sampling is being contracted. Split core sampling will be included in the post-construction sampling to establish a baseline before the range is used. Dr. Ciaranca said that the draft Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plan is complete. EMC final approval is forthcoming; it was contingent on the Administrative Order 2 modification.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed split core sampling versus lysimeters and said that elevated levels of antimony have been found in some samples. He noted that legacy range soil was used on those ranges; that soil was treated with Maectite to inhibit lead mobility; however, Maectite (phosphate) makes antimony more mobile. Levels of lead and copper have remained static, however antimony levels continue to climb. There have been various samples offset from the lysimeters that always come back non-detect. The phosphates were sampled and the range was from 10 to 60,000 ppm for phosphates, which has been seen on the STAPP ranges and India Range, a copper range. There are phosphates in the soils and sediments in the lysimeters which may need to be removed and cleaned out. The SAC will be meeting to discuss a new sampling scheme and timeline.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that metals mobility through soil with depth versus lysimeters use, there will be concurrent sampling of lysimeters and split core sampling.

Mr. Cole asked how split core sampling is done. Dr. Ciaranca replied that the split core sampling can be divided or not be divided. The sampling will be done to 200 centimeters in 25 centimeter increments. For Echo Range, there will be two samples, one on each side that doesn't receive bullets and three on the back berm and each will be combined making a multi-unit sampling process.

Dr. Ciaranca said that the MAARNG would like to use a Theatrical Fog Machine as a training aid. A Proof of Concept was conducted during the 2017 Best Warrior Competition to demonstrate and evaluate theatrical fog generators for training use. It was determined that the machine could be used for fixed position scenarios only. The MAARNG conducted pre and post use sampling for propylene glycol and triethylene glycol; there was no detection found post use.

**Agenda Item 4: Natural Resources Update** – *Jake McCumber, Natural Resources Manager, Massachusetts National Guard*

Mr. McCumber displayed a photo and explained that in January 2017 there was a North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange held on Camp Edwards with almost 60 fire scientists and practitioners from Virginia to Maine in attendance to learn about the fire program at Camp Edwards.

Mr. McCumber said that the Natural Resource Program is conducting ongoing acoustic surveys and regional coordination for bats. There will be no netting this year.

Mr. McCumber discussed the Whip-poor-will annual survey; they have conducted mist netting for Whip-poor-wills at one of three sites with overwintering. He said that through a legacy grant, Upland Sandpiper migration was tracked from Camp Edwards to the Amazon and back.

Mr. McCumber said that the Rusty-patched bumble bee was federally listed under the Endangered Species Act; the Natural Resource Program has been conducting surveys throughout training area; there are no records of them on Camp Edwards. One of twenty locations known for that species in the past ten years was in Harwich in 2000.

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Mr. McCumber said that the program has conducted surveys for Frosted elfin through training area; the Frosted elfin is under consideration for federal listing and the program is conducting a status review on that now. They are working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a range-wide conservation strategy for that species.

Mr. Dishner asked what is the latest federal status on bees. Mr. McCumber replied that the European honey bees are the most common across the country and haven't declined specifically here as in the Mid-West. The East is much more concerned about the native bees that are federally listed and declining severely. The reason is habitat loss and pesticide use according to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, he noted.

Mr. McCumber said that another species under consideration for federal listing is the spotted turtle. The program has conducted spotted turtle trapping/tracking on base.

Mr. McCumber reported that in Fall 2016, 82 acres were burned with prescribed fire along with 24 acres of grassland area. In Spring 2017, 86 acres burned in the Southwest buffer unit, with 323 more planned (4 units). He said also there is an interagency team assisting the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife with prescribed fire program development and planning.

Mr. McCumber gave an update on non-fire restoration efforts including grassland management collaborations and invasive plant management; OP 1 through OP 4 habitat improvement, and BP 27 and BP 28 rehabilitation. Pitch pines were removed for native grasses to grow, benefiting both training and the habitat. One upcoming project is over story thinning on Wood Road.

Mr. McCumber gave a summary of the activities for rabbits including pellet searches, coordination with the range-wide Conservation Technical Committee and diet analysis on some of the pellets. There was work searching for New England cottontail with wildlife dogs, which was confirmed that the New England cottontail are in the low density area habitat, i.e. scrub oak.

Mr. McCumber also gave an update on emerging or recurring threats including the impact of Gypsy moths on the state and the base; the Southern pine beetle has devastated pines in New Jersey and Long Island. Best management practices are tree thinning combined with prescribed fire, and proactive timber thinning with 20-foot tree spacing. The Natural Resources Program is coordinating with the National Forest Service and is planning pine barrens restoration projects.

Mr. Dishner asked if the MAARNG has done the preventive work for the Southern pine beetle yet. Mr. McCumber replied that there was a thinning project during the 2016-2017 winter and there are further plans for Fall 2017.

Ms. Valiela asked if the Southern pine beetle only attacks the scrub pines. Mr. McCumber replied the beetle's preference is pitch pine. Ms. Valiela asked if there is any white pine forest on the base. Mr. McCumber replied there's no forest but there are patches of white pine.

Mr. McCumber summarized the hunting activities: the Fall 2016 deer hunt was a total of 17 days, 899 hunter days, with 45 deer harvested; 12 hunters participated in the youth hunt this spring, taking 5 turkeys, and 13 turkeys were harvested during the regular season.

**Agenda Item #5: Proposed Environmental Performance Standards Revisions – Dr. Mike Ciaranca, Deputy Director, Environmental and Readiness Center**

Dr. Ciaranca stated that EPS 2.7 "Seasonal Road Closures (Under: EPS 2.0 Wetlands and Surface Water Performance Standards) was proposed on 10 January 2017, approved, and revised. The SAC and CAC provided input and support of the request at the last SAC and CAC meetings. The EMC approved the revised EPS on 8 October 2016. The EPS revision was placed in the "Environmental Monitor" on 15 February 2017 and didn't receive any comments. The EPS was updated and published on 6 April 2017. The EPS document will be disseminated to all relevant parties and documents will be updated as they come up for review and in the State of Reservation Report.

Mr. Dishner asked what effect specifically. Dr. Ciaranca replied the roads will be closed seasonally from February 15 to May 15.

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Dr. Ciaranca discussed EPS 15.33: “No storage or movement of fuels for supporting field activities, other than in vehicle fuel tanks, will be permitted except in approved containers no greater than five gallons in capacity.”

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the MAARNG is requesting to allow refueling of remediation contractors, resource management, and military vehicles within the Reserve/Training Area while being compatible with the intent of Chapter 47 so that habitat and groundwater remain protected. Exceptions to the standard have been made for contractor refueling as it was not practical.

Dr. Ciaranca said the MAARNG will conduct a Proof of Concept to demonstrate the feasibility of conducting field refueling activities in the Reserve.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the guiding regulations are Federal and State regulations and compliance with Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. In addition, he said, there are specific Army Regulations and guidance: Individual Task Number 101-92F-1414 Perform Petroleum Tank Vehicles Operations and its sub task: Individual Task Number 101-92F-1413 Employ Environmental Stewardship Protection Program Measures. The drivers are licensed through the Commander’s licensing program, which includes required inspections, classroom instruction, and written and driving tests. Camp Edwards Range Regulations would also apply.

Dr. Ciaranca said that the MAARNG will create a Camp Edwards Refueling in the Reserve Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)/Checklist for sensitive areas and allowable roadways map.

Mr. Dishner said that he was unaware that off-base entities were allowed up to 3,000 gallon tanks, while the military is only allowed 5 gallon tanks. LTC Bagaglio stated that Chapter 47 specifically exempted any non-National Guard remediation and contractor activities from the refueling restriction. The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program contractors are able to fuel on site using day tanks on a pickup truck.

Ms. McConnell said that the question is why can’t the big refueling continue in the Cantonment Area. Dr. Ciaranca replied there would be extreme limitations for refueling based on tank capacity. Ms. McConnell inquired about making a distinction between refueling in one place rather than the other. BG Magurn stated that refueling in the Cantonment Area is similar to a service station. The soldiers that are refueling vehicles in the fashion of a service station, but the goal is to train soldiers to fuel in a combat situation, managing fuel from vehicle to vehicle, deploying containment and managing security.

Mr. Virgilio said that the proposed change to refueling is easy and safe and containment is very controllable and simple. Mr. Dishner agreed that using 5 gallon cans is a waste of manpower but recommended having fuel transported in one truck.

Ms. McConnell stated that the question is where does the refueling take place. Dr. Ciaranca stated that any Proof of Concept refueling would take place outside of the Reserve.

Ms. McConnell asked if the practice would be duplicated from the Proof of Concept in the Reserve. Dr. Ciaranca replied yes and transportation is critical with sensitive habitat, “public wells” must consider the depth to aquifer. There would be a limit to 1,500 gallon capacity and secondary containment utilized.

Dr. Ciaranca said that Denis LeBlanc, USCG, SAC member stated the following at the SAC meeting: “Protocols should not be designed to rely on natural degradation as the first line of defense. But well designed and monitored procedures for fuel transportation and handling, when coupled with the assimilative capacity of the aquifer, should be protective of groundwater quality in the Reserve.”

CPT McDonough described the process of the EPS 15.3.3 Proposed Change Proof of Concept exercises and plans to utilize the proposed refueling change at Range Control. The containment system is rated for the maximum 5,000 gallons. The proposal is to fill the fueler for project use for 24 to 48 hours. The vehicle goes to the training area to fuel, deploying the secondary containment system for the operation. The equipment checks and documentation for fuelers describes and meets safety requirements for the Department of Transportation (DOT). Fuel handlers, in addition to basic training, are certified for additional training and allowed to operate the refueler vehicles.

CPT McDonough stated that in terms of the process, the unit identifies areas for refueling compatible to the training area. Prior to training there would be an inspection with Range Control of the area.

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Ms. McConnell said we must think about the accomplishment in creating the Reserve and what the drinking water means to the future of Cape Cod. Billions of dollars were spent cleaning up the Reserve, a process which is not finished; we need to adhere to the safety guidelines built into the Master Plan and not start to erode those.

CPT McDonough stated the Army has fully-integrated environmental protection standardized throughout training. The systems used are part of the standard training package and there are teams inspecting and supervising.

Mr. Dishner stated that moving to the proposed refueling change away from 5 gallon fuel containers is key; soldiers are not training as in war. CPT McDonough replied there are two primary purposes using a fueler specialist, much like construction efforts for contractors, engineering units have heavy vehicles such as front end loaders that are impractical to move to one fuel point, along with the tactical side of training reason for fueling.

Mr. Cole stated that if there is a vehicle in the field on a training exercise at the current time and needs to be refueled that vehicle drives where there is a large number of five gallon cans. CPT McDonough replied if possible, vehicles drive into the Cantonment area to be refueled or refuel with emergency five gallon cans in the training area. Mr. Cole asked if the driver is a fuel specialist. CPT McDonough replied they currently may or may not be a fuel specialist. Mr. Cole asked where are the 5 gallon cans stored. CPT McDonough replied in the training area. Mr. Cole said in the future, the fueling tank would be stationed in the training area with a specialist but where is the vehicle going to be located. CPT McDonough replied the refueler would be in the field.

Ms. Valiela stated that the fueler vehicle won't be on concrete. CPT McDonough replied no. Ms. Valiela replied it that seems to be a misrepresentation but would like to see training as realistic as possible. She said there is a history of really serious problems on JBCC and when regulations were put in place they were very stringent. When working in the field, the type of containment is going to be on uneven ground and she's not sure it would contain fuel if there was a spill. She said, if the MAARNG wants to move forward with the Proof of Concept, they need to think about the actualities in the field. She said we need to see the containment for the hose going to the equipment being fueled. She said we also need to see whether the MAARNG stays away from sensitive areas including water supply and habitat; with that kind of information, this could be revisited.

LTC Bagaglio stated that the technician carries the nozzle from the truck to the equipment with protection. He referred to the refueling photo with the aircraft; there is a tripod with secondary containment which can be demonstrated. At the last meeting, transportation was discussed with the routes to make sure it's safe enough for the truck; sites can be limited to provide the least amount of risk to the Reserve in terms of water, habitat and animals.

Mr. Dishner recommended a map showing the sensitive areas to see where the fuel trucks could be. Films of the refueling Proof of Concept would be beneficial.

Ms. Valiela stated the coupling and decoupling with fuel are the most sensitive time and she would like to see the procedure.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the discussions at the SAC and CAC meetings have been very good. At the start of the last SAC meeting, the MAARNG had a different plan, but that changed based on feedback from the SAC. The Proof of Concept will be conducted at the Tactical Training Base Kelley (TTB) rather than in the Reserve. Mr. Pinaud plans on taking a video of the demonstration. He encourages anyone to come and watch the procedure.

#### **Agenda Item #6: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Agenda Item #7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.