

**Community Advisory Council to the
Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts
May 25, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

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Mimi McConnell
Brig. Gen. Virginia Gaglio
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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Community Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, October 13, 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 – Ms. Mimi McConnell, CAC Chair

Ms. McConnell welcomed everyone to the Community Advisory Council (CAC) meeting.

Agenda Item #2: Review of CAC Minutes and Approval – Ms. Mimi McConnell, CAC Chair

Review of the meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting when there is a quorum.

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

The CAC Chair election was postponed until the next meeting when there is a quorum.

Agenda Item #4: Environmental Officer Update – Mr. 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.
- The Annual State of Reservation reports from 2018 to 2022 are posted on the Massachusetts National Guard's website and the EMC's website. Describe nature and extent of military training and other activities on Camp Edwards Northern Training Area and Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. It describes the status of the Massachusetts Army National Guard's (MAARNG's) compliance with local, state, and federal laws and the Environmental Performance Standards. It is a very comprehensive document.
- 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 one type of training but is instead used for a different type of training.
- Mr. Pinaud attended the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) virtual meetings for the Bourne and Sagamore Bridge replacements 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.
- 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 pre-authorized tracer rounds. The wildfire was addressed quickly.
- Eversource is upgrading its switching station and transmission lines. Mr. Pinaud is coordinating with Eversource for proper authorization and remaining in the loop for any coordination issues.
- There is one vacancy on the CAC; all members are needed to attend meetings. If a member can no longer serve, Mr. Pinaud would like to know.
- 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 was held in Sandwich, MA on May 24.

CAC members discussed CAC attendance.

- Ms. McConnell suggested looking into how best to change the quorum requirement, which would have to go through the legislature to be changed. Mr. Jack suggested reducing the number of CAC members or have any votes be counted by a majority of CAC members present at the meeting. Mr. Pinaud said that any changes to the structure of the CAC must be made by statute.
- Ms. McElroy noted there is a process in the EMC bylaws for removing members who fail to attend two consecutive meetings.
- Brig. Gen. Gaglio requested a list of CAC members who have missed more than two meetings in a row and the subject matter experts needed for the SAC so recommendations could be made for those positions. Mr. Pinaud will forward that information to CAC members. Recommendations for Science Advisory Council (SAC) appointments may be made to Mr. Pinaud directly.

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 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. She said supporting documents are available on the US EPA's website, available to anyone.

Mr. Pinaud will send the link to the website to CAC members.

Ms. Cutler, IAGWSP Remediation Manager, discussed Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in groundwater and the Upper Cape Water Supply WS-2.

- IAGWSP is installing seven wells north and south of Gibbs Road and upgradient of WS-2 to check for the presence and migration of PFAS. No regulated compounds have been found above detection level; one analyte, PFOSA-a precursor for PFOS-was found at such a low level it is below the reporting limit and is a "J" or estimated value at 0.57 parts per trillion (ppt).
- The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and EPA do not regulate it; however, Hawaii, Texas, Oregon, and Denmark do. In comparison, it is regulated at 24 to 290 ppt. As a J value, MassDEP considers it on par with non-detect.
- IAGWSP has resampled and hopes to have the results by the Environmental Management Commission meeting on June 15. During the Science Advisory Council meeting, Denis LeBlanc from the USGS, reported that he talked to an expert within USGS and said when they find PFOSA that low, it is usually perceived as a lab contaminant.

Mr. Pinaud said he ensured the MassDEP water supply folks were aware and noted the estimated J value is above the method detection level but below the quantifiable level for the method.

Mr. Seaver asked, given the increase in restrictions on military activities, what would happen if the military decided to leave. If the base were to close, it would be bad for the environment, he said. Mr. Cody said that speaking only for the MAARNG, there are no plans to leave. Land is needed to maneuver, and all the same weapons are fired as would be on the machine gun range. The weapons are used in a familiarization way, meaning they are not shot at a standardized target, so soldiers cannot qualify on it. Brig. Gen. Gaglio explained that after the last Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created the Military Asset Security Strategy Task Force. There are seats for the Lieutenant Governor, The Adjutant General, members of the state's House and Senate, and military leaders. The sole reason is to focus on all installations in the Commonwealth and think of strategy that would fortify the installations from closure. There have been several efforts to make the installations more secure.

Agenda Item #5: Camp Edwards Update – COL Matthew Porter, MA ARNG, MAJ Alex McDonough, MA ARNG, Mr. Jake McCumber, Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager, MA ARNG

MAJ McDonough provided a Camp Edwards update to the CAC.

- COL John Bagaglio is the new Camp Edwards Commander, replacing COL Matthew Porter.

- The Annual State of the Reservation Report was published; the important document includes a lot of information about Camp Edwards, including training, ammunition fired, conservation work and IAGWSP's work. It is a reference not looked at enough, especially by the public.
- Several units deployed this year including the Aviation Battalion and the Firefighter Detachment. This year is busy for individual training and annual training. The only named exercise of note is the Best Warrior Competition. A soldier from Camp Edwards won and went to the regionals in Maine, although he did not make the cut in the grueling competition.
- Camp Edwards has been working on updating the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) for the ranges. The main goal is making the plans easier to implement and consolidate the individual OMMPs into one document. The individual OMMPs share language; the individual range requirements will be retained, and the forms modernized so they are easier to fill out at the range operations level and soldier training level.
- While not required, COL Bagaglio will provide a written response to the Five-Year Review. The MAARNG is implementing a lot of the recommendations, most of which are sections for the State of the Reservation Report, updating the OMMPs, and looking at quantitative versus qualitative metals removal requirements.
- Soil, porewater and groundwater monitoring are conducted on five ranges at Camp Edwards. Monitoring was last conducted in the fall. There were no detections above action levels in soil or groundwater. Porewater detections of antimony are from legacy soils. Cold Regions Research Laboratory determined the phosphates used to immobilize lead in 1997 and then the lime added to ranges for neutral pH was mobilizing metals as opposed to immobilizing them. The MAARNG stopped liming and pH is back to normal. Porewater levels of antimony are decreasing. One item to think about is the need to look at the pH in the legacy material in the backstop berm to see if it is stabilizing and coming down.
- The MAARNG is developing a written comments to the EPA's Sole Source Aquifer Review and will release them when they are finished. Mr. Pinaud will send that to the SAC, CAC, and EMC.

Mr. McCumber provided a brief update on Natural Resources/Integrated Training Area Management (NR/ITAM).

- The Northern Long-eared Bat, previously listed as threatened, is now listed as endangered. When listed as threatened, there was a "4(d) Rule" under the Endangered Species Act, which alleviated a lot of the regulations that applied to a potential take for a species. With the endangered listing, and the Tri-color Bat also being listed as endangered in a few months, it makes things far more restrictive. NR/ITAM has done its first formal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); they established a one-year interim process for the consultation with an incidental take permit for the MAARNG's actions. NR/ITAM will still be able to complete the spring burn season and other things of that nature because of the conservation work and surveying done at Camp Edwards. The knowledge over several years allows NR/ITAM to effectively support the training mission, to effectively support the conservation work and do the formal permitting with USFWS. There is a mist netting contract for 10 nights this year; the work was last done in 2016.
- 180 acres were burned with prescribed fire around the NBC area, which was last done in 2004. The area is bouncing back well and is a hotspot for Whip-poor-wills. Last fall's deer hunt was good, with 68 deer taken-an import part of conservation management and recreation at Camp Edwards. There was a spring turkey hunt and a youth hunt where 7 or 8 children harvested turkeys.
- A new state-listed species, the Purple Tiger Beetle, was found on base, which was fairly expected as it was found at Crane Wildlife Management Area. It was found at eight different spots on base.

- Outreach included public tours, a presentation at the Natural History Conference on the results of long-term bird monitoring and species of greatest conservation need. There also was a poster on the Agassiz's Clam Shrimp, specifically discussing how Army training roads are the central habitat for a globally endangered species. Grassland bird tours are being held, with another date added. They are a great opportunity to showcase Army conservation at work.

Mr. Jack asked if NR/ITAM has made presentations at Cape Cod College or other places, as it would be very beneficial at the environmental science level for them. Mr. McCumber said a presentation was given at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. They were invited by a math professor and brought monitoring data and looked at trends and how NR/ITAM relates that to management on the ground and how it informs decisions. MAJ McDonough said he participated and tied military training in with conservation efforts. Camp Edwards has contracted with an educator for science programs to educate at the lower grade levels, meet their education requirements, and relate it to things being done in the Training Area.

Mr. Pinaud asked Mr. McCumber if he is sharing information with MassDOT related to bats on the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges. Mr. McCumber said their endangered species lead is Dave Paulson and MassDOT has been, with the MAARNG, one of the two most active agencies for bat conservation and monitoring in Massachusetts. MassDOT is well informed and would reach out if they wanted to coordinate.

Agenda Item #6: Public Comment – CAC Chair

Brig. Gen. Gaglio recommended that Mr. Pinaud give Ms. McConnell a list of CAC members who have not attended meetings and she can make a recommendation to the EMC chair, and the EMC chair can advise the Governor, who can make replacements.

Agenda Item #9. Adjourn – CAC Chair

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

**Community Advisory Council Action Items
May 25, 2023**

Action Items:

1. Mr. Pinaud will forward a list of CAC members who have missed more than two meetings in a row and subject matter experts need for the SAC to CAC members.
2. Mr. Pinaud will send the link to the US EPA's website to CAC members.