
Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
May 30, 2024
9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

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Commissioner Tom O'Shea
Commissioner Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner Brian Arrigo

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EMC/MassDEP
EMC/DCR

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Len Pinaud, Environmental
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Attendees:

Matthew Porter
Alexander McDonough
COL John Bagaglio
Joel Carlson
Kathleen Kolva
Jake McCumber
Keith Driscoll
Jason Oberton
Shawn Cody
Mike Ciaranca
Emily Kelly
Heather McElroy

Organization:

MA ARNG
MA ARNG
MA ARNG
MA ARNG
MA ARNG
MA ARNG
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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: October 19, 2023
2. Environmental Officer Update – May 2024
3. State of the Reservation Report, 30 May 2024
4. Camp Edwards Update, 30 May 2024

Agenda Item #1. Welcome – *Commissioner Tom O’Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

Commissioner O’Shea welcomed everyone to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) meeting.

Agenda Item #2. Review of EMC Minutes and Approval – *Commissioner Tom O’Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

The October 19, 2023, EMC minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Arrigo made a motion to accept the minutes; Commissioner Heiple seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

- The Massachusetts Army National Guard produces an Annual State of the Reservation Report; the final report has been distributed and there is a QR code that goes directly to the website where the report is available.
- 2024 Wildland Fire implementation: prescribed burns were conducted on 620 acres over 11 burn days. Prescribed burns will continue until the season ends on June 30.
- The Range Operations Control Area (ROCA) are facilities needed to support range operations and improve safety on small arms ranges. Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Certificate was issued on April 22, 2024.
- The EMC is working with the MAARNG to update the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans. Recommendations for frequency and degree of range maintenance was discussed at the Science Advisory Ad Hoc meeting in November and that discussion will be incorporated into the plan.
- Community Advisory Council member Marion “Mimi” McConnell was honored for her decades of work devoted to the environment at Joint Base Cape Cod through the Community Working Group and ultimately as a CAC member and Chair. She received a citation from the Governor of Massachusetts, citations from the Massachusetts Senate and House, a citation from the EMC Commissioners, received a Minuteman Statue and Commendation Medal from the Massachusetts National Guard, and from the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program, a piece of bedrock drilled from under JBCC.
- There are three vacancies on the CAC; he is working with the US Coast Guard and Town of Falmouth for appointments to those. Two requests for appointment have been received for the At-Large vacancy, which has been forwarded to the administration. There are three At-Large members on the CAC who have not been attending meetings for the last few years.
- Mr. Pinaud is coordinating with Enbridge as they work to remove natural gas lines from the bridge on to the utility right of way in the Training Area/Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.
- US EPA Region 1 sent a Request for Information to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environmental Management and Restoration on May 15. Information was requested on the occurrence and content of PFAS and fluorinated polymers in munitions items including propellants, explosives, pyrotechnics, and other components of munitions, used or potentially used in the Reserve by the military and government contractors. The information was requested to assist in identifying if PFAS is present in munitions used at Camp Edwards to determine if there are areas of PFAS release that would need to be addressed.
 - Mr. Cody said PFAS first was discovered at JBCC in 2013 by AFCEC. They identified areas it may be at such as firefighting areas and from a rollover at the Otis Rotary, none were identified in the Training Area/Reserve. Sporadic detections have been found in the Training Area/Reserve. IAGWSP conducted tests in the Impact Area and found no PFAS problem in the Reserve. IAGWSP will continue to monitor for PFAS.

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- The SAC Ad Hoc Committee term expires in July 2024. Mr. Pinaud recommends the EMC authorize an additional two-year term to allow for the continued discussion of geochemistry, small arms range environmental sampling and range maintenance. The EMC Commissioners renewed the SAC Ad Hoc Committee for an additional two years.

Ms. McElroy, CAC chair, said the bylaws provide for the CAC chair to suggest action may be taken regarding members who have not attended meetings. Her suggestion is to advise them to attend or get new appointments. Ms. McElroy said she encourages action being taken. Commissioner O'Shea acknowledges there are issues ongoing with attendance and filling vacancies and the EMC will support that action. He asked if there has been any ability to contact the three At-Large members? Mr. Pinaud said he reached out by phone and email and received no response. Commissioner O'Shea said that something in writing should be the next step. Commissioner Heiple agreed. Mr. Pinaud noted that it has been difficult finding a way to reach out to people who have the expertise required for the SAC vacancies and ask them to serve. Commissioner O'Shea said that his Chief of Staff has been advised to support that effort.

Agenda Item #4. Camp Edwards Update and State of the Reservation Report Training Year 2023—
Mr. Matthew Porter, Base Operations Manager, MAARNG

Mr. Porter provided a presentation on the Annual State of the Reservation Report for Training Year 2023.

- The MAARNG produces an Annual State of the Reservation Report; the report is divided into five sections and covers military training activities and military and civilian usage, small arms range monitoring, environmental program management, remediation program activities, and miscellaneous military and civilian activities.
- It was noted how Soldiers are counted and reported as they move through the training area and the different civilian organizations using Camp Edwards training area. Usage numbers for military and civilian personnel differs from year to year depending on training requirements. Data points presented included total copper ammunition fired, and lead ammunition fired and how that fluctuated over time and why, small arms ranges monitoring, rare species counts and deer and turkey hunting, and fire management.
- The report is distributed online, copies or a notice of availability is sent to town managers and Select boards on Cape Cod and the Barnstable County Commissioners, a Notice of Availability is placed in the Environmental Monitor, a copy is distributed to the Jonathan Bourne Public Library, and it is made available at Camp Edwards outreach events.

Commissioner O'Shea asked if any members of the public follow up with MAARNG after the report is released; is there any engagement? Mr. Porter said there will be occasional phone calls or interaction with Ms. Kolva, Camp Edwards' community outreach specialist.

Mr. Porter noted that during discussion at the CAC and SAC meetings, several recommendations were made: the addition of a glossary; potentially formatting the document so it may be added to the Massachusetts State Library, which may take significant work, potentially aggregating trends in a 10-year review, and creating a stand-alone executive summary for the public to easily absorb trends and other information.

Commissioner Heiple concurred with creating an executive summary and suggested thinking about differing "points of entry" for people reading the document with interesting and engaging facts.

Mr. Porter presented an update on Camp Edwards.

- Camp Edwards tours began May 17 and run through October.
- The Best Warrior Competition was held; Cyber Yankee training was held from May 6 to May 17, which consisted of more than 250 soldiers conducting an unclassified cyber defense exercise. He also discussed upcoming weekend and annual training at Camp Edwards.

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- 2024 Wildland Fire implementation: prescribed burns were conducted on 620 acres over 11 burn days. Prescribed burns will continue until the season ends on June 30. In Spring 2025, approximately 1,602 acres over 15 burn days are planned. MAARNG's partner agencies are integral to conducting prescribed burning at Camp Edwards.
 - The Range Operations Control Area (ROCA) are facilities needed to support range operations and improve safety on small arms ranges. The current support buildings are dilapidated or not on the range; ROCA facilities include buildings like a tower and a covered mess.
 - Mr. Porter said the MAARNG continues to move forward with the MPMG range. The MAARNG has no intention of building the range without prior approval from the EMC.
 - Ad Hoc Committee and Projectile Removal: the MAARNG is proposing to conduct projectile removal on one small arms range every two years for an eight-year cycle to help prevent significant bullet on bullet impact, projectiles leaving the pocket via ricochet, and projectile fragmentation. In the future, if the MAARNG has 6 ranges, it would be a 12-year cycle. The science supports that schedule. This was presented to the SAC Ad Hoc Committee at their meeting on November 9. At the Ad Hoc meeting, it was suggested a lysimeter be added under a projectile pocket; a lysimeter will be added on India and Tango ranges under bullet pockets.

Commissioner Heiple asked what are the next steps? Mr. Ciaranca replied that several fate and transport studies have been completed and monitoring on the range shows no movement to groundwater; the new lysimeters under the bullet pockets will show if anything is percolating through. Mr. McDonough added that the next steps would be updating the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans, which the MAARNG is in the process of doing. Once that is done, contracting actions could be executed if needed or more lysimeters installed.

Mr. Porter also noted MAARNG and US Army have reached out to the National Academy of Sciences to fund a study concentrated on mobility of metals specific to Camp Edwards' soils. They will be nominating subject matter experts in different fields. The study may take around 18 months to complete.

Agenda Item #5. Public Comment – *Commissioner Tom O'Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

Commissioner O'Shea read a statement on behalf of the EMC:

The EMC review of the proposed MPMG continues to be suspended pending the resolution by the Federal government of the issues. The construction and operation of the proposed range cannot commence without final approval of the EMC. The EMC's review, if undertaken, would include consideration of advisory committee recommendations and evaluating whether the project needs specific Environmental Performance Standards. These are a set of standards that guide both the military and civilian users in protection of Camp Edwards's natural and cultural resources and the groundwater beneath the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.

Commissioner O'Shea said the EMC has received the May 7, 2024, correspondence from the council representing the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. That letter is currently under review. He said we will continue to review this, and we acknowledge the public's concern about that project.

Commissioner O'Shea then read a public comment letter from Rosemary Carey, North Falmouth, 350 Cape Cod organizer:

I am writing to urge you to assess and consider the US EPA's provisional report on the proposed MPMG at Joint Base Cape Cod and prohibit any further project development of the gun range until the EPA completes its final report. The EPA's provisional report confirms that JBCC's neighbors in Bourne, Sandwich, Mashpee and Falmouth anticipated from the very first time we heard about the project that it would pose irreparable risk to the Upper Cape water supply and our sole source aquifer. As you know, the UCWS is legally protected for protection of water quality and habitat and would allow activities that are compatible with this protection. The provisional report clearly states that the grave potential risk to our

sole source aquifer and to sensitive ecosystem exists. As a breast cancer survivor, I believe allowing the risk of further harm to our water supply and to humans is unacceptable, especially given the history of pollution at the base that is still unresolved after decades of remediation and tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money. Please ensure that no further action is taken on the project until you have had the time to assess the EPA provisional report and all the public hearings that brought out neighbors who are dismayed by the proposed plan and want to see it stopped. Thank you for your consideration, Rosemary Carey, North Falmouth.

Agenda Item #6. Adjourn – *Commissioner Tom O'Shea, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.