

**Community Advisory Council to the
Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts
October 11, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

CAC Members:

Mimi McConnell
Brig. Gen. Virginia Gaglio
Heather McElroy
Shawn Cody
Andrew Campbell
Robert Prohett
Ralph Vitacco
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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Eversource Joint Base Cape Cod Update
2. Community Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2022
3. Community Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, May 25, 2023
4. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, October 2023
5. Camp Edwards Update, 11 October 2023
6. Camp Edwards Natural Resources
7. Small Arms Ranges Projectile Removal at Camp Edwards

Agenda Item #1. Welcome – Ms. Mimi McConnell, CAC Chair

Ms. McConnell welcomed everyone to the Community Advisory Council (CAC) meeting. A moment of silence was held for the passing of CAC member Raymond Jack.

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

- The October 13, 2022 minutes were reviewed; all were in favor of the minutes as written.
- The May 25, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Prophet and Mr. Phelan abstained; all others were in favor of the minutes as written.

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

- Ms. McConnell nominated Ms. McElroy for CAC Chair.
- Mr. Pinaud identified two other nominees: Mr. Phelan and Mr. Campbell. Mr. Phelan and Mr. Campbell both deferred their nominations.
- Ms. McConnell made a motion to nominate Ms. McElroy as the CAC Chair; Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Ms. McElroy was elected CAC Chair.

Agenda Item #4: Eversource Update – Eversource Staff

Mr. DeFusco, Eversource Senior Environmental Specialist - Licensing & Permitting, gave an update on Eversource's work on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), which is part of the "Cape Cod Solution," a multi-phase transmission program to improve electric reliability on Cape Cod and allow for the integration of offshore wind energy.

- Eversource's clean energy strategy, the electric grid and how energy is transmitted, and the benefits of transmission were discussed.
- The Cape Cod Solution Phase I project schedule, which will run through the third quarter of 2024, was reviewed. During Phase I, Eversource will install an additional line on their existing right of way through JBCC to the Bourne Switching Station.
- Phase II of the project will involve constructing a new substation in Bourne and upgrades to the West Barnstable substation that will enable the transmission line to operate at 345-kV. It will be able to accept energy from offshore. On JBCC, a new 345-kV switching station will be built next to the existing 115-kV station located in the Camp Edwards Training Area/Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (Training Area/Reserve). The new station will stay mostly in the existing footprint.
- The Bourne Switching Station construction was substantially completed in Fall 2022 and line cutover work will be completed by the end of 2023. He said decommissioning of the old station is planned for late October/early November 2023 to March 2024.

Will it have the capacity to accept all wind energy generated offshore? Sandwich has several large scale solar farms down the line, will it help facilitate those projects?

- This line will facilitate the energy proposed by Park City. There is a System Planning Department that assesses how much solar is coming in; they work with regulators to see what is permitted; this project isn't aimed to accommodate solar resources.

Agenda Item #5: 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).

- Nine range inspections were conducted from July to the present. Inspections were geared towards determining the number of projectiles in the backstop berms on the ranges. This year, Camp Edwards had a standard training cycle with no large training events.

- There was a decrease in non-standard training requests because of the training cycle this year and because a lot of the previous requests were due to Tango Range which wasn't yet approved and some troubleshooting was being done on it.
- The Infantry Squad Battle Course (ISBC) is a current range; the range requires a redesign to ensure it fits with current training requirements. The EMC will generally be involved in the 30/60/90 iterations and provide comments. After the comments are resolved, the range will come before the SAC, CAC and EMC for approval, but it is not ready for that yet.
- Eversource is continuing their Cape Cod Solution right-of-way work; they have been very good at communicating with the EMC and MAARNG.
- The Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) are reviewed yearly and are living documents; as the ranges change, the OMMPs are updated to reflect those changes.
- Camp Edwards has held public tours and will continue to hold them next year. Six MassDEP staff attended a recent tour and were impressed. Senior MassDEP staff will join the October 20 tour.
- There are three vacancies on the CAC: Falmouth, the US Coast Guard and an At-Large member. Mr. Pinaud has reached out to Falmouth and the Coast Guard to inform them of the vacancies, two inquiries for the At-Large position were sent to the Governor's office. There are five open seats on the Science Advisory Council (SAC), all of which are subject matter experts. Mr. Pinaud is working with the SAC members to see if they have peers who may be qualified and interested in sitting on the SAC.
- HB 919, an Act Relative to the Environmental Protection of JBCC, sponsored by Representative David Vieira, was heard by the Joint Commission on Environment and Natural Resources on September 27. The Act updates the name of the base from the Massachusetts Military Reservation to Joint Base Cape Cod, updates the names of the environmental agencies comprising the EMC and updates Section Six, relating to CAC and SAC member appointments and how they serve. The appoints would be changed to three-year appointments that can be renewed and proposes changing appointments from the Governor's Office to the EMC.

CAC members discussed the information and asked questions.

Was the EMC consulted on the language for HB 919?

- The EMC was consulted and the MAARNG submitted a letter of support as the bill would resolve the issue of how long it takes to appoint members to the SAC and CAC; the bill would streamline that.

Are term limits a concern because more vacancies would be introduced and would require staying on top of memberships. Are there term limits?

- Term limits would require more work for Mr. Pinaud to track memberships and bring it to the groups' attention; but that is okay.
- There are no term limits. If the legislation passes, it may make sense to adjust the bylaws to add clarity on that process.

Agenda Item #6: Camp Edwards Update – *Mr. Matthew Porter, Base Operations Manager, MAARNG, Mr. Jake McCumber, Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager, MAARNG*

MAJ McDonough provided a Camp Edwards update to the CAC.

- A tour was held for the JBCC Cleanup team, and Camp Edwards has held monthly tours from May to October, as well as a tour for the Cape Cod Commission members. A MAARNG representative attended the OneCape conference and attends the Upper Cape Regional Water Cooperative meetings.

- This year, approximately 1/3 of MAARNG units are deployed for Federal missions. Camp Edwards is supporting standard National Guard training such as weapons qualification, land navigation, and maneuvers.
- Small Arms Ranges: standard fixes are being made to the ranges; repairs are identified via regular inspections.
- The ISBC range is planned to be renovated to current standards and the OMMP reviewed.
- The EPA's Sole Source Aquifer Review is continuing.
- Range monitoring and sampling was conducted from October 2 to October 6; that will be reported in the Annual State of the Reservation Report.

Mr. McCumber provided an update on Natural Resources/Training Lands Management.

- An external, state-wide environmental assessment gave a positive review for natural resources planning and management at Camp Edwards; there are ongoing environmental review and permitting efforts.
- Mist netting and acoustic surveys were completed for bats during the summer where no state-listed bats were caught; analysis and consultation efforts are ongoing for training and conservation efforts. The tri-colored bat is expected to be listed this winter.
- Frosted Elfin were documented colonizing the habitat restoration site at C-14. Clam shrimp are showing rapid colonization of repaired and new puddles and recolonization was also observed.
- One doe was taken during the fall deer youth hunt. A fall turkey hunt will be held next week.
- The rare plant survey is ongoing with two new Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) listed and watchlist species found. The onsite expansion of several rare plant species has been noted.
- A vernal pool effort for creation, planning and cultural investigation is underway; Natural Resources Program staff are coordinating with the towns. An archeological survey is being conducted for cultural sites.
- Updates to the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan are ongoing. The fall burn season is underway and has been a challenge; a 2.5 acre burn was conducted in the grassland area. One hundred-eighty acres were burned in the spring.
- There is ongoing trapping, planning and preparedness around the Southern Pine Beetle, along with holistic resilience and ecosystem health planning and outreach.
- The program is doing extensive outreach for MAARNG including six public tours; events with the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, public grassland bird tours, and participation in public meetings and presentations on rare species and conservation.

Agenda Item #7: Projectile Recovery at Camp Edwards Small Arms Ranges – Mr. Matthew Porter, Base Operations Manager, MAARNG

Mr. McDonough discussed projectile removal at Camp Edwards small arms ranges.

- It is required by the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs) and the OMMPs. Environmental Performance Standard 19 governs the small arms ranges and states that projectiles must be recovered to the maximum extent practicable.
- The Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) also have projectile removal requirements. The India and Sierra ranges OMMPs state that projectiles should be removed after 500,000 rounds fired or five years, whichever is first, or by concurrence of the EMC on an alternative schedule. The Echo and Tango ranges OMMPs state that the MAARNG will develop

timelines and plan for projectile removal in coordination with the EMC. To date, no projectiles have been removed from the ranges.

- Projectile removal prevents bullet on bullet impacts, the “tiddlywink” effect where projectiles leave the bullet pocket via ricochet and projectile fragmentation.
- The MAARNG and EMC EO recently excavated bullet pockets on India Range and Echo Range and found that the projectiles have not significantly moved with erosion; significant projectile debris is not found until just under the primary projectile pocket; and the steel penetrators initially oxidize and accrete before falling apart as oxidation (rust).
- Camp Edwards would like to move to a formal removal schedule, removing projectiles on one range every two years; there are currently five ranges for a 10-year cycle. The schedule would be administratively institutionalized. The OMMPs should be made consistent with range-specific requirements detailed; the OMMPs are currently under review.

CAC members discussed the information and asked questions.

Will the berms be removed? Money may be saved by recovering the bullets yearly.

- The berms will mostly likely be scraped. With the cost of contracting and shutting down the range, yearly removal would risk berm sustainability.

How is saturation determined? Is it determined by fragmentation?

- Saturation may be determined when bullets start to “tiddlywink” out of the berm.

What is the bid process timeframe, cost, and range downtime?

- The MAARNG should have a better idea after projectile recovery on India Range, down time may be weeks to a month or two.

If recovery is time based, it may shift if there is a change in training.

- That would be reflected in the OMMP.

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment – CAC Chair

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #9. Adjourn – CAC Chair

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.