
**Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
October 27, 2022
1:30 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	
Commissioner Ron Amidon	EMC/DFG	617-626-1550	
Commissioner Martin Suuberg	EMC/MassDEP	617-292-5856	
Commissioner Doug Rice	EMC/DCR	617-626-1250	

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<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	<u>E-Mail:</u>
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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: July 19, 2022
2. Environmental Officer Update, October 2022
3. Camp Edwards Update 2022
4. Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan, 27 October 2022
5. Climate Resilience at Camp Edwards

Agenda Item #1. Welcome– Commissioner Ronald Amidon, EMC Chair

Commissioner Amidon welcomed everyone to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). The Commissioners introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #2. Review of EMC Minutes and Approval

The July 19, 2022, EMC minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Suuberg made a motion to accept the minutes and Commissioner Rice seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer, summarized the activities in the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (the Reserve) that the EMC has been involved with:

- The Tango Range Design and Operations Maintenance and Monitoring Plan were approved in September 2022. The range is fully operational.
- Mr. Pinaud is working with Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager, Mr. McCumber, and others on a Prescribed Fire Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for ignition and suppression of prescribed burns at Camp Edwards. An Unexploded Ordnance Response SOP for Camp Edwards has been developed. The SOP formalizes current procedures and is pending signature. The final will be available soon.
- The Approved Munitions List has been updated. The list is updated as items used for training change or ammunition designation numbers change.
- Vacancies on the Community Advisory Council (CAC) have been successfully filled. Six members were appointed; there is one vacancy due to a recent resignation.
- The EMC is working with the MAARNG and the US Environmental Protection Agency on its Sole Source Aquifer Review to move the process along.

Agenda Item #4. Camp Edwards Update – Mr. Matthew Porter, Base Operations Manager, MAARNG; Mr. Alex McDonough, Deputy Base Operations Manager, MAARNG

MAJ McDonough provided a Camp Edwards update to the EMC.

- Mr. McDonough is now the Deputy Base Operations Manager. The position is a Title 5 federal technician, which is a civilian position.
- Operation Viking was planned by the 412 Civil Affairs Battalion; 450-500 soldiers were trained and utilized the US Coast Guard Airfield for static line jumps and the Northern Training Area, where they qualified on their weapons and completed civil affairs tasks. Five hundred soldiers were trained during Patriot Crucible; engineers and the firefighting detachment were the main participants preparing for multi-domain operations. During annual training, Camp Edwards supported premobilization training for the aviation battalion.
- Camp Edwards conducted 30 tours for approximately 900 people since last year.
- The annual youth deer hunt was held recently: nine youths and 21 adults/mentors participated with one buck and one doe harvested.
- The small arms range monitoring sampling has been completed. The Tango Range OMMP has been approved and the MAARNG is working on developing a backstop upgrade for Lima Range. Concrete barriers will be installed, replacing the netting. The concrete backstops will prevent the training rounds from going beyond the range footprint.

Commissioner Suuberg asked about the firefighter training during Patriot Crucible and if water or foam is used by the firefighting detachment during training?

- They were getting ready to deploy and were focused on missions operating like regular fire department. They did ride-alongs with JBCC fire, a scenario outside the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve using the Jaws of Life to practice extraction techniques and were on call to deal with any wildfires that may have occurred. There was a high drought index during summer; MAARNG worked closely with the wildfire manager to control use of anything that could start a wildfire and because of that control, there were none.
- Only water was used during the training.

Commissioner Amidon asked if any feedback was solicited regarding the youth hunt.

- There was no specific feedback; the young men and women were enthusiastic to show off their harvest; the youth hunt is one of the highlights of the year.

Mr. Dow asked about monitoring 1,4 dioxane and PFAS6, a contaminant of concern (COC).

- Those questions should be directed to the Impact Area Ground Water Study Program (IAGWSP), which is concerned with historical range use. The EMC's purview is current range use and what is being done to support training today. The two programs are distinct.
- There will be a presentation by IAGWSP at JBCC Cleanup Team meeting on December 7; that is the best place to ask that question.

Mr. Dow asked if 1,4 dioxane an issue on the current ranges?

- The EMC process is designed to look at all range use and develop standard rules that exclude contaminants of concern from affecting the Reserve/Training Area. Camp Edwards' Approved Munitions List and the range Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plans are screened for all those things. The work that has been done from the Admirative Orders in 1997 to the 2017 Decision Document to the work being done currently is all for the purpose of ensuring that we are protective of the Upper Cape water supply.

Agenda Item #5: Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan Update –*Mr. Alex McDonough, Deputy Base Operations Manager, MAARNG; Mr. Mike Ciaranca, Deputy Director, MANG E&RC*

Each active small arms range has an Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan that guides how the range is administered, managed and monitored. Environmental sampling is required annually. OMMPs are required by the Environmental Performance Standard (EPS) 19, which requires the capture and containment of projectiles, managing that and removing them when necessary, sampling and reporting the results. Sovereign, a contractor, sampled the ranges last week and results are pending. Those results will be provided to the EMC and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

OMMPs are living documents. The MAARNG and the EMC's Environmental Officer are going through each range's OMMP, updating it and making it consistent and easily understood for all users. .

Topics were presented to the SAC and CAC for their input including projectile capture and containment, lysimeter monitoring and screening and soil sampling. Filtered versus unfiltered sampling was discussed at the last SAC meeting; the SAC said that unfiltered samples should be taken.

Mr. Dow asked if samples are taken for thallium? Mr. Ciaranca replied the MAARNG does not sample for thallium.

Agenda Item #6: Climate Resilience at Camp Edwards –*Mr. Jake McCumber, Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager, MAARNG*

Mr. McCumber gave a presentation on climate resilience at Camp Edwards. Climate resilience is planning, preparedness, and science-driven policy and action. It requires detailed understanding of ongoing changes and predictions, root causes, scales of impact and affected resources, and complexity of situation and concurrent challenges, such as biodiversity. Resilience is the ability of this system to persist and recover from the threats already ongoing and those that are forecast. Resilience is an important

context for focus for future discussions. He discussed major natural threats; the concurrent crises of climate change vulnerabilities and the biodiversity crisis; planning solutions and key objectives including maximizing diversity, providing healthy natural communities that are a regional or local conservation priority, increasing or stable populations of site or regional priority species, decreasing fire hazard, and maximizing carbon storage while meeting other key objectives through best management practices, land-level planning and long-term ecosystem health.

The EMC Commissioners and audience members asked questions.

What are the next steps in terms of making sure best practices are being used and doing so transparently and incorporating them into the documents that guide the Commission?

- For the Natural Resources/Integrated Training Area being more explicit about how biodiversity works, that biodiversity is relating to climate resistance. What maybe missing is relating all the topics together in the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The program has a contract with the Woodwell Climate Center, which is actively building a climate resilience plan which will fold into the INRMP.

The MAARNG also answered audience questions.

Is a list maintained of the objectives being addressed and is it updated?

- The presentation is an upper-level overview for ongoing discuss, intending to be an overview for the EMC. The INRMP and Annual State of the Reservation Report are both available on-line.

Is scenario planning considered as a possible approach to exploring what is being proposed with the various options over the next 20 to 30 years?

- Restoration management is built into much of what is done; the State of the Reservation Report and the INRMP describes a lot of the monitoring of those results working with Woodwell Climate Center; they are helping provide more data on carbon storage.

Summarize how the planned clear cutting of 150 acres fits into the management plan?

- The MAARNG has the conservation framework to support that managing the 15,000 acres of Camp Edwards. The program is providing improved carbon sequestration and storage through the base. The MAARNG showed, through its Greenhouse Gas Analysis, that the work being done in the training area is offsetting the loss; Woodwell Climate Center looked at that independently. They showed half the carbon loss and half the time to offset those losses, approximately a year and a half, because the MAARNG is protecting those 15,000 acres. The MAARNG is providing exceptional biodiversity at the training site. It is fundamental to what the program does: understanding what is necessary to train soldiers and make sure there is conservation on the ground to offset those impacts with long-term sustainability.

Commissioner Amidon said that this is a bellwether program for the rest of the state. The MAARNG, like other agencies, needs to bring this more to the public to set a good example so the public can convince private lands to start utilizing these practices. The success rates the MAARNG is seeing, and we are seeing in places like Montague Plains, are huge success rates from this type of management.

Agenda Item #7. Public Comment – *Commissioner Amidon, EMC Chair*

Commissioner Amidon asked for any public comment that was relevant to the agenda and presentations.

Mr. Dow stated that he participated in NOAA Fisheries and Atlantic Fisheries Management Council for the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Project, which included physical and chemical oceanographic (inaudible), marine biology, and socioeconomic aspects. He submitted recent comments about the economic component to JBCC (inaudible) Northern 15000 acres and it seems to him, aspects are lacking, and he will leave it to his comments. His comments about the scenario planning was that (inaudible) scenario planning exercise for forest regeneration was informative, that is something you may

want to consider: an East Coast Scenario Operating Fisheries as a case study for JBCC for climate change effects over the next 20 or 30 years. The study that was done by a student for biodiversity for a Livable Climate course; it was an excellent scenario for the next 20 to 30 years.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn – *Commissioner Amidon, EMC Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.