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**Community Advisory Council to the  
Environmental Management Commission  
Building 1805  
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts  
October 4, 2018  
5:30 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes**

**CAC Members:**

Mimi McConnell  
Mark Harding  
Sharon Rooney  
CAPT Michael Hudson

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**Attendees:**

Brig. Gen. Chris Faux  
Paul Rendon  
CPT Alex McDonough  
Ralph Vitacco  
Michael Ciaranca  
Sally Hartmann  
Emily Kelly  
Jake McCumber

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**Handouts Distributed at Meeting:**

1. Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for May 25, 2017
2. Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2017
3. Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2018
4. Environmental Management Commission Read Ahead Fall 2018
5. Environmental Officer Update Environmental Management Commission October 2018
6. Community Advisory Council Massachusetts National Guard and Environmental and Readiness Center Update; Natural Resources Update October 2018
7. Draft Guidelines and Procedures for Administration of the Environmental Management Commission and Advisory Councils Environmental Management Commission October 2018
8. By-Laws Massachusetts Military Reservation Environmental Management Commission

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

Community Advisory Council (CAC) Chair, Mr. Harding, welcomed everyone. He noted it has been difficult getting a quorum for the CAC meetings and getting appointments made to the council. There are three vacant CAC seats; a list will be compiled of all members' attendance at recent meetings to determine total vacancies.

Mr. Pinaud displayed a list of the current CAC members. There are three vacancies: Mashpee, Sandwich, and a military representative. Mr. Pinaud noted that the military representative needs to be nominated by the Adjutant General's office.

Ms. McConnell suggested discussing the CAC appointments with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). Mr. Harding replied that he would like to discuss the CAC appointees with the EMC at the next meeting.

Brig. Gen. Faux asked why the CAC appointments are a long process. Mr. Pinaud replied that there is a background check.

Mr. Pinaud stated that he has been working with the Department of Fish and Game's Chief of Staff, Bob Greco, the Secretary's office and the Governor's office for the appointees. There has been three appointments in the past three years - CAPT Hudson, Ann Canedy, and Ernest Virgilio. He will bring the discussion to the EMC at the next meeting on October 25.

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

The May 25, 2017, October 25, 2017 and May 2, 2018 CAC meeting minutes review was postponed until the next meeting when there is a quorum.

## **Agenda Item #3: Environmental Officer Update – Mr. Len Pinaud, EMC EO**

Mr. Pinaud discussed the Cat Road Clam Shrimp violation, which was presented at the last EMC meeting. The EMC Commissioners asked Mr. Pinaud to follow up when all the Natural Resources work has ended in compliance with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

Mr. Pinaud said that he and Dr. Ciaranca updated the Approved List of Munitions and an official letter was submitted to ensure everyone is referencing the correct, updated list.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the inspection forms for the India, Juliet, Kilo, and Lima ranges have been updated over the past six months. The form was field tested by Mr. Pinaud and Range Control. There were some small issues with the ranges but those were fixed. The inspection forms were successful, he noted.

Mr. Pinaud stated that Secretary Beaton and staff attended a tour of the Camp Edwards ranges on August 29, 2018. He said that Dr. Ciaranca, the Environmental & Readiness Center (E&RC), Natural Resources, Range Control and Army Corp of Engineers coordinated the tour.

Mr. Pinaud stated that there was an issue with some detections of contaminants in Sentry wells for the Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative wells, August 2018. He displayed the well locations WS-1, WS-2, WS-3, and Sentry wells. Mr. Pinaud said that in May 2018, the explosive compound RDX was detected in groundwater samples collected by the Upper Cape Regional Water Cooperative from sentry wells C-1S (0.43 µg/L) and C-4S (0.27 µg/L). The Massachusetts Contingency Plan Groundwater 1 standard for RDX is 1 µg/L (ppb) and the Environmental Protection Agency Health Advisory is 0.6 µg/L.

The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program resampled sentry wells C-1S and C-4S for explosives and perchlorate. No explosives were detected; however perchlorate was detected at low, estimated values in

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C-1S (0.043-J µg/L) and C-4S (0.018-J µg/L), below the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MMCL) for perchlorate of 2 µg/L. Travel time from the sentinel wells to the water supply wells is approximately 3 years. The Cooperative water supply wells WS-1, WS-2 and WS-3 were sampled for explosives and perchlorate on August 6, 2018 with no detections.

Mr. Pinaud said he has requested the monitoring wells (MW) 330 and 345 be sampled. No explosives were found in MW 330; .022 µg/L J-flagged for perchlorate. MW 345 had no explosive detections.

Mr. Pinaud said that MassDEP is planning on increasing the frequency of the sampling on the wells in the area. There is a long term monitoring plan and the next step is to sample for RDX and perchlorate on a frequency that allows for an early warning. He said the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program is actively monitoring the situation and the Cooperative's long-term monitoring program for the wells would be changed to make sure information is provided in a timely fashion.

Mr. Harding asked if the extraction wells are the mobile wells for pump and treat. Mr. Pinaud replied that the extraction wells are treatment systems in CONEX boxes, which uses activated carbon.

CAPT Hudson asked if the contaminants reach the water supply well, could they be treated. Mr. Pinaud replied yes, if there were sustained detections in the Sentry Wells, the Cooperative would shut the impacted well down and initiate treatment on the well, or if possible, they could rely just on the other two wells. Mr. Harding stated he confident about the three extraction wells will treat the plume. He asked what is the plan for the end result. Mr. Pinaud replied there is an option for the three extraction wells to capture the majority of the plume. Another option is to install another extraction well further downgradient, but that is expensive and would require monitoring wells. Another option is treatment for the water supply wells, he said. There was no detection of RDX in the second round of sampling. The perchlorate is at estimated values, which are very low in the Sentry wells--not in the water supply wells.

#### **Agenda Item #4: EMC By-Laws Discussion and Review – Mr. Len Pinaud, EMC EO**

Mr. Pinaud reminded the CAC that the EMC Commissioners directed him to revise and update the 2002 EMC By-Laws to be consistent with Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002 and current Open Meeting Law (OML). Mr. Pinaud said that the Revised Guidelines and Procedures document was drafted and distributed to the EMC, Science Advisory Council (SAC) and CAC in June 2018. The following revisions were made: the document name was changed from "By Laws" to "Guidelines and Procedures" to be consistent with Chapter 47. The articles were reorganized for better flow; the agency names were updated, and the text changed to be consistent with Chapter 47 throughout document. The term of Chair/Vice Chair was changed from 1 year to 2 years, and the meeting frequency was changed from four times per year to two times per year to reflect the current meeting schedule. In addition, significant changes were made to Article IV Meetings, to be OML compliant. Mr. Pinaud said he added the ability to participate in meetings remotely, per OML. He noted that the EMC has requested that comments be submitted from the SAC and CAC.

Ms. McConnell said that the 2004 version of the By-laws included a section on member absences, which is not in the new version. She discussed with Mr. Pinaud if the Revised Draft could include wording which states at how many meetings the members could be absent. Mr. Harding said other boards usually have a maximum number of meetings missed—usually three in a row. CAPT Hudson stated that there is a standard with other boards for attendance frequency per year. For example, if there are two meetings a year, the expectation should be that members attend two meetings a year. He said for two absences consecutively, the Chair has the option to send a letter to the Governing authority recommending a replacement for the absent member.

Mr. Harding said that he agreed with the new absence language in the Revised Draft By-Laws which would give incentive to attend the third meeting. Ms. McConnell stated that the attendance language

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could be built into the new member orientation meetings. Mr. Pinaud stated that the draft attendance language could be included in the Revised By-Laws to be reviewed by the EMC in spring 2019.

Ms. Rooney stated that absences come up occasionally with outside commitments. Mr. Harding asked if a substitute could vote for the member. Mr. Pinaud replied that only appointees can vote. Ms. Rooney asked if remote participation would have a quorum. Mr. Pinaud replied that is correct and rules that everyone would have to be heard clearly.

Mr. Pinaud stated that a Revised By-Law vote will be in the spring 2019 to allow comments to be reviewed and presented to the EMC. Mr. Harding recommended the comments be submitted by January 2019 and a vote held in the spring. Mr. Vitacco recommended having a meeting before the spring 2019 meeting because of a quorum. Mr. Pinaud stated that there could be a CAC meeting before the spring 2019 meeting.

Mr. Harding suggested a CAC meeting in February 2019.

**Agenda Item 5: Camp Edwards Update – Dr. Ciaranca, E&RC, MAARNG**

Dr. Ciaranca discussed NHESP permitting and the property transfer for the Eversource Switching Station; the Article 97 legislation required for the transfer has passed. Eversource will need a small piece of property but will release rights to their current property. He noted that it is a net gain for training land.

Dr. Ciaranca said that the Soldiers Field Card was updated during 2018 to include several additions: no unauthorized road trail, or horizontal engineering work, tree scarring must be avoided, and to contact the Natural Resource Office for preventative mitigation measures.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that Science Advisory Council Ad Hoc Committee meeting for small arms range monitoring was on held August 15, 2018. In spring 2019. As a result of the meeting, there will be sampling of all the Small Arms Ranges surface and subsurface soils and groundwater sampling of metals to determine what can make metals mobile in the system.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that Echo Range is near completion. CPT McDonough said that there was an issue with the lifters on the targets. The target manufacturer, Meggitt Training Systems, did an assessment of the targets and found a simple solution using silica packets to absorb moisture in the pins, he noted. In addition, the antenna on Sierra Range is too high and interferes with the targets on Echo Range. There may be an issue with the communications boards continuously transmitting data, which will be fixed. He would like to announce an opening of Echo Range before winter.

Dr. Ciaranca said that netting was installed at Lima Range and the firing line fencing was fixed.

Dr. Ciaranca reported that the Request for Proposal for the design for the Multi-purpose Machine Gun Range has been issued. NEPA/MEPA will begin following the design award.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the Reserve/Training Area Refueling EPS 15.3.3, which states: *“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 said the MAARNG has completed two Proofs of Concept and been granted seven exceptions to policy. All exceptions and the Proofs of Concept were successfully implemented. The next steps are to finish developing the map and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), develop the new EPS language, and propose the EPS change to the SAC, CAC and EMC in Spring 2019.

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**Agenda Item #6: Natural Resources Update** – *Jake McCumber, Natural Resource Manager, MAARNG*

Mr. McCumber gave an update on the Natural Resources Program activities. He said that the program is continuing bat monitoring. The program is in final negotiation for the Conservation Management Plan for the Agassiz's Clam Shrimp. The species is much more widespread than originally thought; they have doubled the known locations in four new towns and seven new properties, he noted. Mr. McCumber stated that the Whip-poor-will projects are ongoing with data monitoring to continue in the spring.

CAPT Hudson asked if there is any correlation with box turtles declining with trees down, stumps, and debris since last winter. Mr. McCumber replied the dry summer and less puddles could have impacted the box turtle habitat.

Mr. McCumber stated that there is a proposed listing of Walsh's Digger bee (*Anthophora walshii*) and Eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*). He noted that they are working with MassWildlife on the proposed state listing. Mr. McCumber stated that there is snake monitoring and disease study. Mr. McCumber noted that recently there was one bee's nest documented in the grasslands that is classified as endangered species.

Mr. McCumber reported three prescribed burn days with 148 acres burned (April, June), one wildfire of 5 acres in April; the cause was electrical. The program has a goal of four training burns and three management burns in the fall.

Mr. McCumber stated that for mechanical restoration there was a RAW4 thinning Tiber harvest, 14 acres southwest corner of the Impact Area where there is continuous pitch pine and BP20 ITAM restoration. Mr. McCumber stated that for chemical restoration there were Calamagrostis treatment in coordination with MassWildlife. There is a frost bottom state-listed plan protection in training area actively seeking chemical treatment.

Mr. McCumber said there was a Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Board tour in August, Cape Cod Bird Club in September, Introduction to Wildland Firefighting Course in September, a meeting was held with the Barnstable County League of Sportsman Clubs on 26 April and one is scheduled for 25 October.

Mr. Harding asked if bird tours are allowed on JBCC by invitation. Mr. McCumber replied that there are grassland bird tours during the summer. CAPT Hudson asked if a birds of Camp Edwards presentation is available. Mr. McCumber said that bird photos are available. CAPT Hudson noted the bird photos could be helpful with Coast Guard tours regarding state or federally-listed species.

Mr. McCumber stated that the Deer Hunt scheduled dates are: Youth: 29 September, Paraplegic: 1-3 November, Archery scouting: 5-6 November, Archery: 8-10 November, Military: 30 November - 01 December, Shotgun: 3-8 December, and Muzzleloader: 14-15 December.

**Agenda Item #7: Public Comment Period** – *Mark Harding, CAC Chair*

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item #8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.