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**Environmental Management Commission  
Building 1206  
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts  
May 11, 2011  
2:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

<b><u>Members:</u></b>	<b><u>Organization:</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone:</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail:</u></b>
Commissioner Mary Griffin	EMC/DF&G	617-626-1550	
Commissioner Ed Lambert	EMC/DCR	617-626-1250	

  

<b><u>Environmental Officer:</u></b>	<b><u>Organization:</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone:</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail:</u></b>
Mark Begley, Executive Director	EMC	508-968-5127	Mark.begley@state.ma.us

  

<b><u>Attendees:</u></b>	<b><u>Organization:</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone:</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail:</u></b>
Mimi McConnell	CAC	508-428-9573	
COL Richard Crivello	MA ARNG	508-233-6891	Richard.crivello@us.army.mil
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MAJ John Bagaglio	MA ARNG	508-968-5839	John.bagaglio@us.army.mil
Stephen Mellin	6SWS	508-968-3213	Stephen.mellin@capecod.af.mil
Dr. Mike Ciaranca	E&RC	508-968-5154	Michael.ciaranca@us.army.mil
John Kelly	E&RC	508-968-5848	John.kelly19@us.army.mil
Matthew McKay	E&RC	508-968-5908	Matthew.mckay1@us.army.mil
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H. Carter Hunt	MassDevelopment	508-563-2785	chunt@massdevelopment.com
Sue Rohrbach	Sen. Dan Wolf	508-775-0162	srohrbach@senatorandwolf.com
Mark Forest	Delahunt Group	617-770-7979	
Aaron Gouveia	Cape Cod Times	508-548-9300	Gouveia@capecodonline.com

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**Handouts Distributed at Meeting:**

1. Presentation: Cape Cod Air Force Station Wind Turbines
2. Presentation: The Environmental and Readiness Center Update
3. Presentation: Simulated Munitions Ultimate Training Munition (UTM) and FX Simunitions
4. Presentation: Soldier Validation Lane Camp Edwards
5. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2010

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

Environmental Management Commission (EMC) Chair Mary Griffin convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. with general comments. She introduced the new member of the EMC, Commissioner Ed Lambert, Department of Conservation and Recreation. Commissioner Ken Kimmel, Department of Environmental Protection, was unable to attend the meeting.

**Agenda Item #2. Member Comments**

Commissioner Lambert introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He appreciates the opportunity to work with everyone here and on the EMC.

**Agenda Item #3. Review of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2010, EMC meeting, and Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously, as written.

**Agenda Item #4. Advisory Council Report**

There was no comment from the Advisory Councils.

**Agenda Item #5. Proposed Air Force Wind Turbines**

Mr. Steve Mellin, Support Officer, Cape Cod Air Force Station, said that Air Force Space Command plans to construct two wind turbines to support Cape Cod Air Force Station (AFS). He explained that Cape Cod AFS uses about 13,000,000 KWH of electricity annually/ spending about \$5,000 per day at current prices. Executive Orders 13423 and 13514 established goals and requirements on Federal energy consumption including generating renewable energy on Federal property and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Analysis showed that installing two turbines could offset Cape Cod AFS energy consumption by 50%. Most of the initial investigation and analysis was already completed for the wind turbines under construction by the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE). After reviewing siting constraints for the turbines, only one turbine could be installed on Cape Cod AFS proper; the second turbine would have to be installed on adjacent Camp Edwards land. Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) worked with Camp Edwards' staff and Mr. Begley to locate a turbine close to Cape Cod AFS that would not interfere with training plans and minimize disruption to the post while minimizing habitat disturbance.

Mr. Mellin displayed photos of siting constraints and proposed site locations: Site 1, which is within the PAVE PAWS property area and Site 2, located at Battle Position (BP) -18, which is in the B-12 training

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area. Mr. Mellin said that that the current status is finalizing siting actions with Camp Edwards' staff including determining proper real estate documentation. He noted that Cape Cod AFS was originally working towards FY 12 funding for this project; however there is a chance that FY 11 funds will become available.

Mr. Mellin stated that AFCEE completed an Environmental Assessment for the installation of their turbines resulting in a Finding of No Significant Impact. The AFSPC turbines qualify for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) since similar work has already been reviewed. All restrictions placed on AFCEE's turbines will also apply to AFSPC (for example, bird/bat monitoring).

Mr. Mellin noted that there are no plans to use herbicides in the area of the Cape Cod AFS.

Commissioner Lambert asked if the decisions have been made about the grid, and what other steps are needed beyond the EMC. Mr. Mellin replied that NStar is working on AFCEE's interconnections, the substations are being built and the connections into the substation are being established.

Commissioner Griffin asked for the Guard's perspective on operations related to the wind turbine proposal. COL Crivello replied that the Guard was initially concerned with where the turbines were going to be sited. The turbines are within the no-fly zone, which makes it easier for operations. Where the turbines will be sited also allows for continuous training use and doesn't require any more clearing for construction.

Commissioner Griffin asked what is the total number of turbines planned for the Northern 15,000 Reserve. COL Crivello there are no plans for any more turbines beyond those PAVE PAWS is proposing.

Commissioner Griffin stated that there is an environmental benefit to the turbines that needs to be compatible with Natural Resources and military training purposes. She asked if there was a vote and recommendation by the SAC and CAC. Mr. Begley replied that there was a unanimous vote by the CAC in support of the wind turbines and they were also discussed at the SAC meeting. There was an SAC request for some information, but there was support by both advisory groups. The SAC's request was about minimizing the habitat disturbance and the less vegetation clearing the better.

Commissioner Griffin asked if Natural Heritage has input on the bat and bird monitoring requirements. Dr. Ciaranca replied that Natural Heritage did have input on their proposal.

#### ***Motion on the Proposed Air Force (PAVE PAWS) Wind Turbines***

Commissioner Lambert made the following motion: based on the staff recommendation and input from the advisory councils, the Commission finds the siting of these two turbines in their proposed locations, given the proper maintenance and operation, is consistent with water supply and wildlife habitat conservation.

Commissioner Griffin, Department of Fish and Game, seconded the motion and all were in favor of the motion.

#### **Agenda Item #6. Massachusetts Army National Guard Updates**

Dr. Ciaranca, deputy director of the E&RC, discussed the transition of the Environmental & Readiness Center (E&RC) staff to state employment. Dr. Ciaranca noted that the 2010 State of the Reservation Report is complete and is available at [www.EandRC.org](http://www.EandRC.org).

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the commanders of the Massachusetts Military Reservation gave briefings to the Boards of Selectmen of the four Upper Cape towns. They also provided a brief to the Cape Cod

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Commission. He said that the Military Civilian Community Council (MC3) for the Cantonment area has not met in over a year and is being reformed with new members to include Community Advisory Council member Mimi McConnell. The next meeting has been scheduled for the evening of May 11, 2011.

Dr. Ciaranca reported that there are ongoing trespass issues, which include illegal access, tree cutting and firewood removal. He noted that ATVs continue to be a problem on MMR and require a group effort to control. Range Control does patrol the base.

Mr. Kelly, natural resources manager, reported on the fall 2010 deer hunt activity and said that the turkey hunt was conducted May 2-6, 2011; seven turkeys were taken. A youth turkey hunt was conducted on April 23; four turkeys were taken. Mr. Kelly explained that the Guard is working in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to burn 200 acres in the Northern Training Area as part of the New England Cottontail Grant and Partnership. Conducting prescribed fire is critical to producing habitat that benefits the New England Cottontail population.

Commissioner Griffin stated that the DFW has been working with the E&RC; there are other restoration efforts in the state and the partnership is appreciated.

Dr. Ciaranca provided an update on the Small Arms Ranges. Site drainage work has been completed at Juliet and Kilo ranges and lysimeters were installed; in addition, the lysimeters on Tango Range have been reconfigured.

Dr. Ciaranca then discussed Sierra range, which is required to qualify soldiers prior to deployment. The Sierra Range Draft Alternative Analysis was submitted to the Small Arms Range Working Group (SARWG), comprising the Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Guard, and the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program. A Line of Site Analysis (LOS) was provided to the group. The LOS was developed to learn where the bullets land, whether they impact the range floor and if they can be recovered. A live fire demonstration was held which appeared to prove out the LOS. Out of 90 targets, the Guard believes that 17 will need auxiliary berms to preclude bullets from hitting the range floor.

Dr. Ciaranca said that the second draft of the LOS analysis is being reviewed by the SARWG. Once the LOS is complete it will go into the alternative analysis, and then the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report will be completed with MEPA.

Commissioner Griffin asked what was the rate of collection. Dr. Ciaranca replied that it was 13% to 23%; the material the bullets were shot into was very gravelly; the bullets hit and splattered and it was hard to recover the small pieces.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that alternative ammunition (copper) is being reviewed. Copper's benefits are significant performance improvement: greater consistency, longer distances, and more effective against hard and soft targets. The ammunition was fielded in summer 2010 and is a lead-free projectile.

Dr. Ciaranca said that using copper allows the use of training ranges with lead restrictions, removes the lead hazard from the manufacturing environment, and eliminates (nationally) 2,000 metric tons of lead from the environment yearly.

#### **Agenda Item #7. Addition of Two Simulated Training Munitions to the Approved List of Munitions Updates**

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Dr. Ciaranca reminded the EMC that the Ultimate Training Munitions (UTM) and Simunitions FX Man Marking Round consist of UTM man marker round/5.56mm: contains marking wax, 5 standard colors, less emissions-UTM ammunition is powered by the primer only. Building facades used for shoot no shoot training with mobile pop ups. There is an opportunity for improvement and further BMPs.

Mr. Begley stated that there are a lot of opportunities to improve the BMPs with an adaptive approach and work with the BMPs further.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the approval process to date and said that the MA ARNG has requested in a letter dated November 16, 2010, that the EMC support the permanent inclusion of UTM and FX marking round on the approved munitions list for Camp Edwards.

Mr. Begley stated that there has been good cooperation in developing BMPs and if the cooperative approach continues in implementing BMPs, he recommends that the two simulated training munitions be on the approved list.

***Motion on the Addition of Two Simulated Training Munitions to the Approved List of Munitions***

Commissioner Lambert moved that the simulated munitions, as presented today in concert with continued best management practices, be put on the approved list.

Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion and all were in favor of the motion.

**Agenda Item #8. Proposed Massachusetts Military Reservation Soldier Validation Lane**

Dr. Ciaranca said that the Soldier Validation Lane (SVL) is an XCTC-like training that will allow up to 150 soldiers to train at one time. The SVL will improve and sustain training capability at Camp Edwards by providing collective training capability with Cordon and Search Training and improvised explosive device (IED) training.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the SVL is made up of Connex containers, which are reconfigurable and portable structures with an extremely high and fresh training value. Criteria have been developed for placement of the Connex containers in the Reserve. The Guard developed an SVL container placement check list, and placement of containers will be coordinated with the EMC in regards to Chapter 47 and with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 in regards to the Administrative Orders (AOs). There will be no new site clearing, no new roads, and no permanent concrete foundations.

Dr. Ciaranca said that a maximum of 150 containers would be placed in the Camp Edwards training area, using previously disturbed areas.

Commissioner Griffin asked about the containment placement criteria. Dr. Ciaranca replied it was included in the Notice of Project Change and is part of the SOP.

Dr. Ciaranca explained that targetry at the SVL locations will be radio controlled, battery powered, solar charged and MILES-compatible.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the SVL process including the environmental review and MEPA process.

Commissioner Lambert asked what comments were received in regards to the SVL. Dr. Ciaranca replied Cape Cod Commission stated the need for best management practices. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection pointed out that the proposed SVL training should not impede any ongoing site

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investigation or monitoring activities at the MMR. Mr. Begley commented on lessons learned from other training and the need to incorporate those lessons into the SVL. Mr. Begley and Natural Heritage also commented on the need to fix how trails and roads were redefined in the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP).

Commissioner Griffin stated that there looks like there is a solid checklist criteria for container placement and Natural Heritage issues be added to the list. She asked when the containers are moved who approves the placement. Dr. Ciaranca stated that there would be a cooperative approval with Natural Resources and the Commander where best to place the containers in coordination with EMC. If the site is under Administrative Order, also EPA reviews.

***Motion on the Proposed Massachusetts Military Reservation Soldier Validation Lane***

Commissioner Lambert moved that the Soldier Validation Lane as proposed, and properly managed and coordinated with Mr. Begley, meets and is consistent with the purposes of the Reserve.

Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion and voted in favor, and said that because it is under ongoing review with Natural Heritage that the vote is under the condition that it is in compliance with any issues raised by the Natural Heritage Program.

Commissioner Lambert asked for that request to be part of the motion and was so approved. All were in favor.

**Agenda Item #9. Other Business/Public Comment**

Mr. Begley stated that the 10-year anniversary of signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is in October and the anniversary of the signing of the Chapter 47 legislation is in March 2012. He asked if it would make sense to acknowledge these events. There was discussion of planning a ceremony in March and a possible public education event to commemorate the signing.

**Agenda Item #10. Adjourn**

The next meeting was not scheduled. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.