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**Science Advisory Council to the Environmental Management Commission Meeting  
Building 1805  
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts  
October 2, 2013  
5:30 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>
Dr. Paul Cavanagh	SAC	860-416-3978	conservationscientist@yahoo.com
Phil Gshwend	SAC	617-253-1638	pmgschwe@mit.edu
Tara Nye	SAC	508-428-0469	tnye@apcc.org
Bob Miles	SAC	508 362 7426	Boblmiles@comcast.net
Dr. John Duggan	SAC	617-989-4181	dugganj@wit.edu
Denis LeBlanc	SAC	508-490-5030	dleblanc@usgs.gov

<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>
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Dr. Mike Ciaranca	E&RC	508-968-5121	michael.a.ciaranca.nfg@mail.mil
Paul Nixon	E&RC/IAGWSP	508-968-5620	Paul.s.nixon4.nfg@mail.mil
Jake McCumber	E&RC	508-968-5848	Jacob.c.mccumber.nfg@mail.mil

**Handouts Distributed at Meeting:**

1. Draft SAC Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2013
2. Joint Land Use Study Update & Community – Military Partnership Study
3. Cape Cod Commission Executive Director letter
4. Joint Base Cape Cod Oversight Group (JOG) Renewable Energy Communication Protocol
5. JBCC JLUS Draft Recommendations 9/19/13
6. Environmental and Readiness Update
7. Natural Resources and ITAM Update
8. Camp Edwards Army National Guard Wind Turbine Project Proposal

**Agenda Item #1. Welcome and Chairperson's Comments – Dr. Paul Cavanagh, SAC Chairperson**

Science Advisory Council (SAC) Chair Dr. Cavanagh welcomed everyone and thanked the Air Force for hosting the meeting at its facility.

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

The minutes from the February 27, 2013 SAC meeting were reviewed. Mr. Miles inquired on page 2, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph what mitigation meant. Dr. Ciaranca replied that the 102<sup>nd</sup> Intelligence Wing would like to build a solar array on the base's capped landfill and will go out to bid in consultation with Natural Heritage, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and with mitigation.

Mr. Begley replied that Natural Heritage will set up appropriate mitigation with the loss of habitat with the solar array in the grasslands with rare species. Dr. Cavanagh noted that the sentence will be split up.

Ms. Nye made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections as indicated, Mr. Miles seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **Agenda Item #3: Joint Land Use Study – Sharon Rooney, Cape Cod Commission**

Ms. Rooney gave an update on the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) Joint Land Use Study and Community Military Partnership Study.

Ms. Rooney said that Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) was nominated by Army for an update of the 2005 JLUS. The factors included: changes in mission and land use from 2005 BRAC process. There were potential encroachment/land use conflicts concerns. There was a need for improved communication tools, develop alternative energy policies and investigate potential community-military partnerships. OEA contracted with Cape Cod Commission to complete the update. The JBCC MC3 is serving as the Policy Committee.

Ms. Rooney discussed the JLUS process including updated mapping and an analysis of land use and infrastructure capacity. Ms. Rooney explained that the Community-Military Partnerships are an added focus in this update. The study explores potential for partnerships among military installations on JBCC with the surrounding towns. There were two successful workshops with the military and many representatives from the five local towns.

Ms. Rooney stated that a concurrent effort for a future Joint Base Cape Cod concept consists of consolidating the military in the cantonment area and potential privatization opportunities. MassDevelopment funded a study looking at consolidation and coordination among the tenants on the Joint Base Cape Cod and a potential privatization opportunity in the cantonment area.

Ms. Rooney stated that the initial feasibility studies consisted of regional wastewater treatment and disposal, shared public works, relocation of fire training academy and alternatives for Upper Cape Regional Transfer Station (UCRTS).

Ms. Rooney stated that JBCC Oversight Group Renewable Energy Communication Protocol consists of enhancing communication and transparency on renewable energy projects on JBCC and surrounding communities which was adopted by JOG September 2013.

Ms. Rooney stated that draft recommendations include some land use restrictions and acquisitions, reserving the future use of the Cantonment area for infrastructure needs and community economic development; reserving the existing capacity of the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) for military and community needs and developing a scope of work to pursue funding for a shared wastewater treatment facility. Further, the draft recommendations include pursuing funding for short-term safety improvements to the Otis Rotary, investigating long-term replacement alternatives, and pursuing road safety audits for other key intersections. The draft recommendations also include adopting and implementing the JOG's renewable energy communication protocol, which has been accepted and will be implemented with the towns.

Ms. Rooney said the a draft recommendation is to develop scope of work and pursue funding for future re-use of Upper Cape Regional Transfer Station (UCRTS) and a feasibility study of what the future will be for regional food waste, regional recycling and how that facility will be reused. Another draft

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recommendation is to review the 2012 Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan to evaluate the shelter capacity on JBCC. Also, establish and maintain a JLUS link on town/base websites, and finally to pursue a public works shared services agreement and establish a working group to identify priorities.

Ms. Rooney said the final draft report will be available October 4; a comment period will be open through October 30. Implementation funding will be sought through OEA.

Dr. Cavanagh inquired about the level of public interest. Ms. Rooney replied that there was a lot of interest and good participation at the workshops to review options and obstacles.

Mr. Begley referred the draft recommendations said that the reserve is set aside for military training that is compatible with habitat and water supply protection. A recommendation for the future of the cantonment area is not only that of economic development and community needs but also military needs. He said that there may be future training venues that we may not want to have in the northern 15,000 but would be appropriate for the cantonment area. He suggested adding wording that capacity was reserved for military use in the cantonment area.

MAJ Gallagher agreed and said that a lot of training is done in the Cantonment area.

Ms. Rooney replied that she was referring the area identified by MassDevelopment for possible privatization. She said that she liked the idea of including that statement.

Mr. Miles asked if there is a program on base for land acquisition. Mr. Begley replied that there have been challenges with the funding, and in the past there was a mechanism to acquire land, but there's no funding.

**Agenda Item 4: Massachusetts Army National Guard Updates – Dr. Mike Ciaranca, Deputy Director, E&RC**

Dr. Ciaranca, Deputy Director of the Environmental & Readiness Center (E&RC), reported Programmatic changes: The name of the MMR was changed to Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC); and the JBCC Executive Director is Brigadier General Gary Keefe. Dr. Ciaranca discussed encroachment issues with the Monument Beach Sportsman's Club Range next to JBCC; this is a safety concern; therefore, the club won't allow range firing Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is potential hunting area, training area, utility easement, and cleanup program activity closures due to the safety issue.

Dr. Cavanagh said that the Monument Beach Sportsman Club is one of two off base clubs or ranges on the western side. He asked if the other one has been contacted. MAJ Gallagher replied that the analysis is ongoing of the other ranges bordering the base.

Mr. Miles asked if there are any groundwater concerns. MAJ Gallagher replied that the only groundwater concerns were that the danger zone inhibited the Corp of Engineers from executing the remediation programs that are already in place. With their agreement to stop shooting Monday through Thursday this is no longer a concern and the Corp of Engineers is back to work.

Mr. LeBlanc inquired about the number of shooting clubs around the base. Dr. Ciaranca stated that there are the Monument Beach Club, Sandwich Club to the east and Army Corp of Engineers' Range on the northwest side of the base. There is no more shooting at the Otis Fish and Game Club.

Dr. Cavanagh asked if there has been an agreement for the Otis Fish and Game Club. MAJ Gallagher explained that Army regulations prohibit the club from serving alcohol and a request for a waiver has been submitted for the Otis Fish and Game Club on their behalf through National Guard Bureau to the Department of Army. They are waiting on the finding but they were licensed to serve liquor by the town of Bourne.

Dr. Cavanagh asked if there was an issue between negotiations with Otis Fish and Game Club and the Department of Fish and Game. Dr. Ciaranca replied that the Department of Fish and Game issued them a

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license. Dr. Cavanagh said that historically they had a presence and a there was a question whether there was an existing legal right for them to continue their presence there. Mr. Begley replied that they needed an authorization from both the Department of Fish and Game and the Army. MAJ Gallagher stated that the Otis Fish and Game permit from the Army Guard expired in 1980.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that there hasn't been an update for the Cape Cod Area 208 Water Quality Planning since 1978 and he is involved with the Upper Cape West and South Working Group. The group met recently and set goals and objectives.

Dr. Ciaranca reported that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the solar field at the base landfill was approved; the RFP will be awarded by November and construction is planned to start in spring 2014. There are plans for energy storage using a liquid metal battery. Ambri, a company in Cambridge, is testing this technology. Mr. Gshwend said he assumes there will be secondary containment on the battery. Dr. Ciaranca confirmed that there is secondary containment built in. Mr. Begley stated that the environmental aspects will be reviewed before the technology arrives on base.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that annual sampling was completed for the India, Juliet, Kilo and Sierra ranges. Antimony found in some pore water samples on Juliet and Kilo ranges exceeded the action level, which is equal to 6 ppb drinking water standard. The exceedances ranged from 6.9 to 43 ppb. The results were consistent among sampling events. Pore water lead and antimony action levels were exceeded at J Range. Pore Water Action levels are 15 ppb for lead and 6.0 ppb for antimony. Exceedances Range: lead 20.7-36.3 and antimony 9.1-32.6.

Mr. Nixon stated that there was one background lysimeter and lime was added over the top and after it rained a sample was taken and the antimony didn't increase, but there was a background concentration of 1 to 2 ppb that didn't change with the addition of the lime.

Mr. Gshwend stated that he can understand why lime is used for lead but not for antimony. Mr. Nixon replied that the lime was used for the lead. Mr. Gshwend asked if someone calculated what the antimony would do when it reacted to the lime. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the berms were constructed with legacy material from the old berms. When it rains at India Range, the bottom sits in water and the lysimeter sampled at that range was non detect. At the end of the berm there were elevated levels of lead and copper but not antimony.

Dr. Duggan said that the XRF has methods to measure that in the soil. Dr. Ciaranca replied that yes, it can be calibrated for that. Mr. Gshwend said that it's not very sensitive for some of those metals. Mr. Nixon stated that the XRF is the best tool for screening the soil in ppm and for antimony there is approximately a 50-60 ppm minimum detection level.

Mr. LeBlanc said that he was under the assumption that lime treatment wouldn't be needed for lead mobility control, and there could be a compounding effect on the other contaminants. Mr. Begley replied that's why the practice is currently stopped.

Mr. Duggan asked if there were concentrations of antimony in the soil. Mr. Nixon replied that antimony in soil is .32 ppm at K Range and 1.3 ppm at T Range. He said that the concentrations are higher in the middle of the two ranges but not near the lysimeters.

Mr. Begley stated that one thing to remember is lessons learned from test firing on off base STAPP systems that occurred before STAPP systems were brought to the base. There were so many bullets fired through the cover that some of the inside dust was released. There was black powder that can wash down when it rains. Also the primer of the bullets is a lead antimony mixture. Even with the copper bullets there is still lead and antimony released as part of the primer.

Mr. Gshwend asked if with the soil there is a ratio of lead to antimony or the normal bullet ratio. Mr. Nixon recalls lead and antimony together but the ratio will need to be verified.

Ms. Nye asked what is the toxicity and issue with antimony. Mr. Begley replied that it is similar to arsenic.

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Mr. LeBlanc asked if it is the same with toxicity. Mr. Begley replied the drinking water standards are set fairly low and the health impact is that antimony is a heavy metal. He said that the OMMP has an early warning system that is working.

Mr. Nixon confirmed that antimony has not been detected in groundwater.

Dr. Ciaranca updated the SAC on Lima Range, which is a 40mm Grenade Range (practice rounds only). The SOP is completed and submitted to EMC. The first training event was held August 14, 2013. The beachcombers may be tested for picking up debris.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). Fourteen acres of bituminous surface was removed from the grasslands. The project was completed on September 12, 2013:

Dr. Ciaranca said that the Guard is requesting that the pilot periods be closed for India, Juliet, Kilo, Sierra, and Tango ranges. For the copper ranges, Sierra and India, the Pilot Period expires on December 11, 2013. The pilot period expires on December 31, 2013 for J, K, and T ranges. The MANG requests that the EMC authorize their Executive Director (Mark Begley) to close out the Pilot Period for India, Juliet, Kilo, Sierra and Tango Ranges and allow the MANG to continue to operate the ranges in accordance with EPSs and the Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plans for these ranges.

Mr. Gshwend asked if there was a report that shows the successful operation of the ranges. Dr. Ciaranca replied that usage data and violations will be presented in the Annual Report that will present usage data.

Mr. Gshwend said he is hesitant to say “yes” or “no” until he reviews a report. Mr. Begley said that the Annual Report won’t get into the detail Mr. Gshwend is likely looking for. Mr. Gshwend asked if there is any trend. Mr. Nixon stated that there’s not much of a trend, only three sets of data not a trend. Mr. Gshwend replied that there’s two years of data. Mr. Nixon said that the Annual Report compiles the sampling report, which started in 2010. A trend chart can be included, he said.

Ms. Nye asked to clarify what closing the Pilot Period means. Dr. Ciaranca said that nothing in the operation will change; the ranges will continue to be managed under the OMMPs.

Dr. Cavanagh stated that the Pilot Period allowed the system to work effectively and causes the group to discuss the ranges. Dr. Ciaranca replied that the Guard is required to discuss it with the SAC annually.

Dr. Duggan asked if the Annual Report includes the percent of recovery. Dr. Ciaranca replied that the OMMP states that bullets will be recovered after 500,000 have been shot into the STAPP system. Bullets have not been recovered from all the ranges to date.

Ms. Nye stated that she has requested that trends be plotted and the ranges that are currently under the pilot period are the ranges that have the elevated levels of antimony and lead.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if a report is required at the end of the Pilot Period. Dr. Ciaranca replied a report isn’t required; EPA only required a report for Tango Range.

Mr. LeBlanc suggested a brief report on the lessons learned during the Pilot Period.

Dr. Cavanagh stated that additional information is needed and the request to end the Pilot Period should be tabled for now.

**Agenda Item 5: Natural Resource Management, Long Term Planning Overview – Jake McCumber, Natural Resources Program Manager, MANG**

Mr. McCumber stated that the Wildland Fire Program has consisted of burns which included a burn on the 18 April with imagery that was taken on 92 acres next to Sierra Range. There were two New England Cottontail habitat burns in April using funding from Mass Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy and a grant from the US Forest Services. These are outstanding partnerships for Camp Edwards, he said. The total acres burned for FY 13 was 369 acres.

Mr. McCumber stated that Camp Edwards and MANG hosted wildfire training and 67 acres of cantonment area grasslands were burned and there was participation from 21 organizations.

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Mr. McCumber s explained that the New England Cottontail study consisted of trapping and tracking the animals; 10 rabbits were trapped and tracked during FY13. Habitat assessments were conducted and vegetation monitoring continued. In FY14, pellet searches will be conducted to refine habitat associations. The MANG is partnering with the University of Rhode Island, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to conduct monitoring and research, and is partnering with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for habitat management.

Mr. Gshwend asked if 10 rabbits was a significant number. Mr. McCumber said it is relatively small but there was no tracking within the Impact Area, which is the best capture area. Mr. Gshwend asked what kind of range the given rabbit experiences. Dr. Ciaranca replied that they can range an area not bigger than a house. Mr. McCumber said that there is a general understanding of rabbit habitat and the focus is on that area with trapping effort the past four years. Camp Edwards is the largest remaining New England Cottontail habitat. Mr. Gshwend asked if there is a sense of the change of population over time. Dr. Ciaranca said in time there will be data.

Mr. Begley stated that there is a dramatic drop in the overall population of the New England Cottontail rabbit. Mr. McCumber stated that the tracking will include pellet searches to determine habitat areas.

Mr. McCumber discussed ecological monitoring including the monitoring plots, fire response monitoring, rare plant surveys, bird monitoring, and vernal pool monitoring. The rare plant surveys found three new populations of *Ophioglossum pusillum*, two new *Triosteum perfoliatum*, and one *Rhynchospora torreyana*.

Mr. McCumber described the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) assessments. The Range and Training Land Assessment covers land navigation areas and assess restoration and rehabilitation needs. Maneuver trails are assessed for vegetation and erosion management. Battle positions are assessed and an annual report is completed for the Soldier Validation Lane.

Mr. McCumber discussed recreational opportunities at Camp Edwards including upcoming hunting days in October, November and December and the grassland bird tours that were held in July.

Mr. McCumber stated that in response to an incident last year, the safety buffers were improved and the boundaries of the hunt more clearly defined. The boundaries will be marked. There will be a military hunt and more opportunities for individuals that would not like to participate in the deer drives.

Mr. McCumber discussed long-term planning including a prescribed fire strategy, invasive species management strategy, a management focused long-term monitoring plan, and an overarching plan with long-term budget and objectives. There will be an ITAM long-term work plan with annual maintenance targets and larger project plans.

**Agenda Item 6: Concept of an Additional Wind Turbine in the Reserve – Paul Nixon, E&RC/IAGWSP**

Mr. Nixon said that the purpose of this presentation is to inform the advisory councils of the Massachusetts Army National Guard's proposed new wind turbine project at Camp Edwards. He said the Guard would like the advisory councils' support for the EMC's concurrence with the plan to install a wind turbine at Camp Edwards.

Mr. Nixon explained the history of wind turbines at JBCC: support for alternative energy at JBCC was expressed in the Community Working Group's Master Plan in 1998; the Air Force Center for Civil Engineering (AFCEC) built its first turbine in the southern part of the base in 2009; a 17-turbine concept was developed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in coordination with JBCC, which was eventually reduced to five turbines. AFCEC completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and other permitting for four potential turbine locations in the north during 2010. Only two turbine locations were further pursued for construction by AFCEC. The EMC approved these locations and AFCEC built two GE 1.5 MW wind turbines and the Air Force groundwater cleanup became essentially net-zero-energy in

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late 2011. The US Air Force 6<sup>th</sup> Space Warning Squadron proposed two additional turbines in the same region at locations not included in the EA. These locations were approved by EMC in 2012; construction began in summer 2013-PAVE PAWS began construction of two GE 1.6 MW turbines.

Mr. Nixon said the State initiated a Clean Energy Task Force in 2013 to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources on Massachusetts military bases and ensure their sustainability. Camp Edwards is proposing a wind turbine in conjunction with the Clean Energy Task Force. The proposed project would utilize either of the remaining locations that were in the AFCEC EA.

Mr. Nixon displayed a map of the AFCEC Wind Turbine Project Locations. Clearing will be less than two acres for the access road and circle. Access roads will be cut 35 feet wide or less, and center 16 feet will be gravel not paved; the edges will be allowed to grow back in after construction. Only enough area for construction equipment and lay down of materials will be cleared for each turbine, most of this can grow back in. Utilities will follow the access roads and Flat Rock Hill Road.

Mr. Gshwend asked if there is plant habitat outside the clear and ungrubbed area. Mr. Nixon replied there is habitat in the area.

Mr. Nixon said that the project must be compatible with the existing purposes of the Reserve; be a good neighbor to both on-base and off-base entities; be economically beneficial to taxpayers; reduce energy costs, reduce carbon emissions, meet goals of Executive Orders, and help Camp Edwards become more sustainable in case of any future "realignments." This project supports the MAARNG and Camp Edwards strategy for alternative energy and sustainability.

Mr. Nixon stated that JBCC energy use will be more than 50% renewable in 2014. The proposed Camp Edwards wind turbine will bring the total renewable energy at JBCC to 60% by 2015.

Mr. Nixon said that project bids will likely be solicited through the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). DLA will solicit bids from private wind energy developers who will design, build, own and maintain the wind turbine. The owner will be responsible for tying into the commercial electric grid. The owner will sell the power to the MAARNG via a long-term power purchase agreement. Through net metering, the energy will be credited to the JBCC base grid. One turbine will make approximately 75% of the energy consumed by Camp Edwards facilities. Long term cost savings will be dictated by the power purchase agreement, but are anticipated to be as much as 50% less than current costs. He noted the owner will be responsible for removing the wind turbine at the end of its useful life, and that will likely be part of the power purchase agreement.

Mr. Nixon said that the location is compatible with the goal of protecting the groundwater supply and the wildlife habitat. It's in no fly zone so aviation concerns are minimal. The location is also behind the PAVE PAWS radar (out of the beam). There's adequate wind resource and it's close to existing power lines for interconnection. The location is nearly 3,000 feet away from nearest residences and it has already thoroughly assessed by AFCEC, and no significant impacts were found.

Mr. Miles asked if bird monitoring was done at the existing turbines. Mr. Nixon replied that there was bird monitoring between April and September 2012; there were 0 birds and 5 bats.

Mr. Gshwend asked if herbicides need to be used to maintain the areas. Mr. Nixon replied no and it doesn't need to be mowed. Mr. Gshwend asked what type of dielectric fluids are in the turbines. Mr. Nixon stated there are about 400 gallons in the transformer. There's secondary containment, the dielectric fluid has no pcbs. There's about 50 gallons of gear oil in the nacelle.

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Mr. Gshwend asked why the discussion is only about one turbine and not more. Mr. Begley replied that the state was discussing 17 turbines and as a working group reviewed the value of the habitat and land for military training and eventually determined there would be potential interference with radar so the footprint is small and there would be air interference with a lot of turbines. Five wind turbines were submitted to the FAA for consideration knowing that there are training, habitat and radar issues. There couldn't be twenty without air interference issues and questions under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act with 15,000 acres set aside for groundwater and habitat protection. A wind farm would also cause loss of training capability.

Mr. Gshwend asked where the water supply wells are on the map. Mr. Nixon replied there are none near the wind turbines.

Ms. Nye asked if more could be built and sold for energy. Mr. Nixon replied no the government doesn't want to get into the business of selling. Ms. Nye asked if there would be a MEPA review. Mr. Nixon replied yes there would have to be a MEPA ENF with a comment period.

Dr. Duggan asked if there is a difference between pre- and post construction any storm water management device or system for one of these footprints and how it is working and would there be a difference with the new sites you are proposing. Mr. Nixon replied that he would consult with AFCEC but there would just be swales on the road...

Mr. Begley replied that he checks them regularly and during the construction on the access road there was heavy rain, hay bales and sand and silt but no surface water impacted nearby and AFCEC noted it would be fixed immediately. There was no erosion in those areas as in the training area.

Dr. Duggan stated in the MEPA review there would be any issues identified.

Dr. Cavanagh stated the SAC has gone through the process before and have there been any other issues with the construction.

Mr. Begley replied that the transformers have secondary containment and monitoring and are consistent. There's no major negative impact.

Mr. Begley stated that the steps are to look at a categorical exclusion under NEPA. The EMC cannot vote until the MEPA process is completed.

*Request: The SAC advises the EMC of the SAC's support for pursuing the concept of installing a wind turbine off Flatrock Hill Rd.*

Mr. Miles made a motion that the SAC advises the EMC support pursuing the concept of installing a wind turbine off Flatrock Hill Road.

Ms. Nye seconded the motion and all the SAC members voted in favor.

#### **Agenda Item #7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Agenda Item #8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.