

**Environmental Management Commission
 Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
 East Falmouth, Massachusetts
 September 21, 2005
 5:00 p.m.**

Draft Meeting Minutes

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	<u>E-Mail:</u>
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Commissioner Stephen Burrington	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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Agenda Item #1. Review of June 1, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Environmental Management Commission (EMC) Chair David M. Peters, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DF&G), convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with general comments. Approval of the minutes from the June 1, 2005 EMC meeting were postponed until there is a quorum at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #2. Chairman's Comments

Commissioner Peters stated Stephen Pritchard, formerly the acting commissioner for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and an EMC commissioner, is the new secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). Commissioner Peters noted that the new EMC commissioner from DCR is Stephen Burrington.

Agenda Item #3. Members' Comments

Commissioner Peters stated that the new EMC Commissioner, Stephen Burrington, from the Department of Conservation and Recreation will arrive later in the meeting.

Agenda Item #4. EMC Environmental Officer's Report

Mr. Mark Begley, EMC environmental officer, stated that over the past few weeks Camp Edwards has been supporting the infrastructure of the Hurricane Katrina guests. He said that he has been able to provide assistance to the Senior Environmental Corps and Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the guests.

COL Bill FitzPatrick, deputy director of the Massachusetts National Guard Environmental & Readiness Center (E&RC), displayed pictures of the "Camp Edwards Village" guests, who are residents of Louisiana displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and "Operation Helping Hand," which is providing support to those guests. The E&RC has given support with community involvement and the media.

Commissioner Peters stated that the EMC has been discussing resources that are available to assist the Camp Edwards Village guests.

Commissioner Peters introduced Commissioner Stephen Burrington and described his background. He recently was appointed by Governor Mitt Romney to be the new commissioner of the DCR, he said.

Commissioner Burrington stated that he is pleased to be the new DCR commissioner and a member of the EMC. The attendees at the meeting introduced themselves to Commissioner Burrington.

Mr. Begley displayed a picture of an area in the northern part of the Reserve and noted that the Algonquin Gas Company is planning to install a pipeline through the Reserve. He said that the proposed route of the pipeline is being coordinated and will be approximately 3 ½ miles long. He also said that with recent storms there has been some deep erosion in the northern part of the Reserve, some areas with up to a five-foot depth.

Mr. Begley stated that the Community Advisory Council (CAC) is interested in having a presentation by the Algonquin Gas Company at a future meeting. A Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) meeting is scheduled for late October.

Mr. Begley displayed a picture of the western part of the base near the electric utilities where a deep area has caused a buildup of sand; he noted that restoration needs to be done to the area.

Mr. Begley noted that the Sierra Range complex is part of the range upgrades. The process would involve connecting both ranges and clearing vegetation of the area. There is no backstop berm to capture the bullets and recycle; the best management practices are being reviewed, he said.

Commissioner Peters asked about the permitting process through Natural Heritage. Mr. Begley replied that the wetland and habitat issues and upgrades are being addressed.

Commissioner Peters asked if work has stopped in the areas of concern. Mr. Begley replied that any work near the wetlands has stopped. Dr. Mike Ciaranca, natural resources manager, noted that most clearing has been completed.

Mr. Gary Moran, southeast regional director for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), asked how much area was cleared. Mr. Begley replied approximately 6.5 acres was cleared.

Agenda Item #5. Community Advisory Council (CAC) Report

Mr. Larry Cole, CAC chair, gave a brief description of the CAC members' backgrounds. He said that recently a water quality forum was held at the Bourne Community Center that a few CAC members attended. He also said that there were concerns about setting the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for perchlorate and the regulatory process for approval of the drinking water supply sources.

Mr. Cole stated that a few of the CAC appointments are still being pursued at the state level.

Mr. Cole stated that at the last CAC meeting on June 29, 2005, COL Bill FitzPatrick, E&RC deputy director, provided an update on the tungsten assessment and range upgrades. He said also that Mr. John Kelly, E&RC natural resources planner provided a presentation on the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

Mr. Cole stated that he attended the August 17, 2005, Community Information Meeting pertaining to the August 4, 2005 noise incident. During the meeting, the Camp Edward's commander discussed the events leading up to the incident and then summarized the new notification protocol. He said that previously he understood that there was a notification process in place, but it pertained to the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP). The new notification protocol now is more comprehensive and involves the E&RC and Camp Edwards.

Mr. Cole noted that some positive outcomes resulted from the August 4 incident. He said officials in the Town of Bourne realized that their switchboard could not handle the large volume of calls it received relating to the incident and officials at the MMR realized that the notification process needed to be reviewed.

Mr. Cole stated that on the morning of August 4 the IAGWSP and its civilian contractors destroyed munitions using fewer explosives than the Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team did that evening. He said that the noise during the evening was the result of the type of explosives used by the Army. The incident raises the issue of why such a wide disparity of technology is being used by different entities, he also said.

Mr. Cole stated that the CAC recently met on September 14, 2005 and received an update on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. He said that Col. Paul Worcester, commander of the 102nd Fighter Wing, stated at the meeting that the recently published BRAC recommendation is confusing.

Mr. Cole stated that the public comment period for the International Epidemiology Institute (IEI) report: "A Public Health Evaluation of Radiofrequency Energy from the PAVE PAWS Radar, Cape Cod Air Station, MA" will end on November 8, 2005.

Commissioner Peters asked if the CAC has received any public comment on any issues. Mr. Cole replied that the CAC has not received any comments and attendance at CAC meetings by the public has been minimal. Commissioner Peters thanked the CAC members for all their hard work.

Mr. Begley stated that a Falmouth Enterprise reporter attended the last CAC meeting, but no report was published in the newspaper.

Ms. Jean Crocker, CAC member, stated that she is concerned about the public's frustration over setting a perchlorate standard. She asked when the draft report will be finalized. Mr. Moran replied that documentation and the draft report: *The Occurrence and Sources of Perchlorate in Massachusetts* is available on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's web site: www.mass.gov/dep; comments may be submitted on the draft report.

Agenda Item #6. Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) Report

Mr. Russell Cookingham, SAC chair, stated that the SAC has not met since June 16, 2005; the next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2005. He noted that there are already committees set up to review the water management activities relating to the MMR; he is a member of the Plume Cleanup Team. Tremendous progress has been made on the cleanup of contaminants on base, he also said.

Commissioner Burrington inquired about the goals for the SAC. Mr. Cookingham replied that the SAC reviews technical issues for the EMC.

Agenda Item #7. Massachusetts National Guard Comments

COL FitzPatrick stated that a field crew from PAL, Inc. was recently on base to complete a cultural resource survey; a report will be submitted in December 2005.

COL FitzPatrick stated that the draft *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP)* is out for public comment. COL FitzPatrick noted that Dr. Sue Goodfellow, the E&RC's cultural resource manager, has resigned to work for a contractor in Virginia, although she will still be available to assist the E&RC on major projects.

COL FitzPatrick stated that the natural resources department has completed the contract for fire break maintenance and the contract for Donnelly Pond erosion mitigation has been awarded. He said that the natural resource program's field crew has completed 59 environmental management bird and vegetation monitoring plots and 10 whip-poor-wills were fitted with radio transmitters.

COL FitzPatrick stated that Bill Sullivan has been collecting data from the other agencies for the annual report.

COL FitzPatrick stated that Dr. Mike Ciaranca, John Kelly, and he recently attended the Integrated Training Area Management conference, which focused on topics such as erosion, habitat monitoring, and balancing the military mission with the habitat.

COL FitzPatrick stated that the vernal pool certification was submitted in July.

COL FitzPatrick reported that he and Mr. Begley recently attended a range sustainment conference in San Antonio on training land management. Mr. Begley noted that small arms range and management practices will be seen in future conferences.

Agenda Item #8. August 4th Incident & New Notification Protocol

COL FitzPatrick stated that after the August 4, 2005 open detonation incident, the type of explosives that the Department of Defense (DoD) uses to detonate unexploded ordnance (UXO) will be assessed. It was discovered that there was no notification protocol in place for Camp Edwards and the MMR. He said that three protocols were put in place: Protocol A: notification initiated up to 12 hours (or more) prior to a known event, in which case Camp Edwards contacts the E&RC to conduct the notification; Protocol B, short notice notification, initiated 12 hours to 1 hour prior to event and is conducted by Camp Edwards directly; Protocol C, post event notification, for which an unplanned event occurred and notification is conducted immediately after occurrence. He also said that the community will be notified of any unusual noise occurrence at Camp Edwards that would have the potential to cause alarm in the community.

Mr. Moran asked if the noise from the August 4 incident was the result of the detonation or the explosives that were being used. COL FitzPatrick replied that the combination of the C-4 explosive and UXO resulted in a powerful explosion. Mr. Begley said that the perforators that were used by the IAGWSP's civilian contractors the morning of August 4 added up to less than one pound of C-4. There was a large quantity of explosives used to detonate the UXO the evening of August 4.

Commissioner Peters asked if the CAC, SAC, and environmental officer are satisfied with the new protocol that has been put into place. COL FitzPatrick replied that everyone seems satisfied with the new protocol.

Mr. Begley noted that there may be changes to the open detonation procedures and the military agreed to fund a new Interstate Technology Regulatory Council team, which will review best management practices on the large arms ranges.

Commissioner Burrington asked which protocol would be used if the incident took place again today. COL FitzPatrick replied that if there was greater than 12 hours to get the notification out, Protocol A would be used, but if less than 12 hours than it would be Protocol B, and if the event just occurred, Protocol C.

Mr. Cole stated that at the August 17 Community Information Meeting a community member suggested, in addition to notification through the media, placing community information kiosks or placards around the Upper Cape towns to inform the public about the event.

Ms. Crocker noted that the August 4 incident was a safety issue and that the public should be informed of the reason for the explosion. COL FitzPatrick replied that the commander of Camp Edwards made a decision based on safety issues and the incident was explained during the Community Information Meeting on August 17.

Agenda Item #9. Range Upgrades and Tungsten Assessment

COL FitzPatrick stated that the range sustainment plan was developed based on the current ranges and modifications needed with review by the Army National Guard and Army Environmental Center (AEC).

COL FitzPatrick stated that Army Environmental Center (AEC) has taken soil samples from the target area, range floor, firing points and background for its tungsten-nylon bullet study. Seventy-five percent of the samples have been processed and one third have been analyzed. Samples to date have shown more tungsten in the background than anticipated, 1-2 parts per billion, he noted.

COL FitzPatrick stated that some lysimeters still need to be installed and the first round of sampling is scheduled for October, November, or December pending precipitation.

Commissioner Burrington asked when there would be results from the lysimeter sampling. COL FitzPatrick replied that the lysimeters will be tested during the periods of precipitation and the soil sampling will be analyzed over the next year. He said that a draft report is anticipated in September 2006.

COL FitzPatrick stated that during Training Year 2006, 10 lanes of the STAPP trap containment system – Bravo range will be installed. He said that current containment systems will continue to be researched for their adaptability for tungsten nylon ammunition.

COL FitzPatrick stated that the recent upgrade to the Sierra Range is being assessed. He noted that initially there were plans to upgrade the targets and install new hardware and software to run the range; however, the scope of the project changed and one range with 10 lanes has recently been completed. He said that a berm may be added to capture the bullets.

Commissioner Peter asked if there could be an update on the Sierra range upgrades and mitigation steps at the next EMC meeting in December.

Commissioner Peters thanked COL FitzPatrick and Mr. Begley for all their participation on the range upgrades and tungsten assessment.

Agenda Item #10: Initial changes & updates to the Camp Edwards Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

Mr. John Kelly, E&RC natural resources planner, discussed the revision of the *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan* (INRMP). He stated that the goals of the revision are to reduce redundancies, update information, and improve the document's usability. He noted that some changes include an expanded installation history; incorporation of *Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002* into the document; the addition of the EMC into the section titled "Responsible and Interested Parties; and the expansion and subdivision of natural resource and climate classifications.

Mr. Kelly noted that Integrated Training Area Management Program Land Condition Trend Analysis (LCTA) is now called Range and Training Land Analysis (RTLA) and LCTA plots are now renamed environmental monitoring plots.

Mr. Kelly reported on further revisions to the INRMP including updates to the section on research and monitoring, further reduction of redundancies in the section on Cantonment area management; removing some sections and making them supplements to the document; and updating appendices. He said that one section added to Chapter 8 will address the problem of all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) activities.

Mr. Kelly noted that the *Camp Edwards Trainers Guide* is a stand alone document and will not be included in the revised INRMP.

Mr. Moran asked when the INRMP will be completed. Mr. Kelly replied that the INRMP will be completed by September 2006.

Mr. Begley stated that an increase of ATVs and dirt bikes has been noted over the past few months, which has caused erosion to the wetlands. He suggested a meeting with the environmental police.

Commissioner Peters stated that a comprehensive review by the Massachusetts environmental law enforcement has recently been completed and ATV enforcement was highly recommended. He recommended Mr. Begley meet with the environmental law enforcement department and discuss the ATV trespassing issues.

Agenda Item #11. Other Business/Public Comment

There was no other business reported. There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #11. Schedule Next Meeting

The next EMC meeting has been tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2005, at 5:00 p.m., at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Agenda Item #12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.