

Joint Virginia Oyster Restoration Workgroup Notes 12/8/2021

Google Meet Link:

meet.google.com/msh-coxy-xnq

Call in info:

Join by phone

(US) +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 660 426 107 3652#

Agenda/ Notes:

- Welcome, and note that this meeting is open to the public; notes will be posted [here](#) after the meeting.
- Thank you to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Norfolk's Alicia Logalbo for her service on the Team, and recognition of her new position with USFWS. Megan Wood- temporary backfill for Alicia until April. Dave Schulte will be USACE oyster rep.

Congratulations on the the completion of the oyster restoration goals for the Piankatank and Great Wicomico!

- Press clip:
<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/va-oyster-restoration-milestone-150-acres-of-habit-at-complete/>
- Per VMRC: great event- on vessel- small due to Covid; Governor was there; added some ceremonial substrate to the reef

Human interest story on 95-year-old CBF oyster volunteer:

<https://chesapeakebaymagazine.com/cbf-honors-oldest-oyster-volunteer-95/>

- Updates on reef construction and general updates:
 - From Lynnhaven River Now (LRNOW) still building reefs in Lynnhaven-- 11 acres-- planning to start building soon- could possibly finish the 11 acres by end of December 2021; CBF will add spat-on-shell in 2022; eventually looking to do another 15 acres (26 acres total)- all National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded. What happens in Lynnhaven after this 26 acres? This, plus 25 acres from USACE, will bring us to the goal required to finish trib. LRNAW will continue their work on smaller reefs in the river. It may be a challenge to continue to get funding after the 26 + 25 acres is complete.
 - From USACE Norfolk via email for the Team:

- Piankatank- We are still awaiting the approval of our cost share agreement from the Assistant Secretary of the Army. Once this is approved we will begin advertisement for our 50 acres around Burton Point.
- Great Wicomico- Working on submitting internal documents to our North Atlantic Division to gain approval to return to the Great Wicomico for rehabilitation on poached reefs.
- Lynnhaven- Survey in Broad Bay (~25 acres) will be underway the week of 13 December for our Phase 2 reef as part of our Lynnhaven River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project.
- Good discussion on shoreline protection w oysters, subtidal or intertidal; idea of pairing shoreline oyster projects with larger, subtidal reefs; note that the private property and visibility of shoreline projects can make that a tricky space, but lots of opportunity
- Also discussion on 'what's next; Andy Lacatell (The Nature Conservancy) notes in chat: Pew, TNC and CBF are working on framing those "What's next?" questions, with input from many others. May have a white paper for partners to review, incorporating both the 2025 time horizon and interim goals. We should have more to report on that in January. Maybe have a focus on this for our January meeting.
- CBF living shoreline project in the Nansemond River (experimenting w/ different oyster structures)
<https://www.pilotonline.com/news/environment/vp-nw-nansemond-river-shoreline-202112-07-7i5hwubq6ncydm7ppqtg6vmjqu-story.html>
- Report out from VMRC: most reefs that they are looking at are likely meeting the GIT metrics criteria

· Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System season is upon us. Report out on the presentation to Management Board- [power point is here](#); next steps; STAR research agenda; for reference, see the [Oyster Management Plan](#) and the [2020-2021 oyster logic & action plan](#). What we need to do is update the logic & action plan for 2022-2023.

--Discussion of Strategy Review System - no questions or comments

· -Review draft numbers for 2021 Virginia Oyster Restoration Annual Update document (see last year's VA version [here](#) for reference). Reminder that the annual oyster update presentation to the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team is Jan 6 update- this is when we will first present these numbers, and hopefully the following week we can release the Annual Updates for MD, VA, and (new this year!) Bay-wide.

--Discussion of #s for 2021 Virginia Oyster Restoration update reef construction costs and acreage -

Any updates on 2021 reef monitoring status?

- 2021 VMRC monitoring complete - expect data availability (VOSARA) in spring 2022