



## Joint Hampton Roads and Western Shore VA Oyster Team Meeting Agenda

March 9, 2022 1:00 - 3:00pm

*Google Meet joining info:*

*Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/msh-coxy-xnq>*

*Or dial: (US) +1 478-324-0063 PIN: 729 387 070#*

*More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/msh-coxy-xnq?pin=6604261073652>*

### Agenda and Notes

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-Welcome, and note this meeting is open to the public

Reef Construction progress updates - Lynnhaven (LRNOW & CBF)

-50% done w/ construction at Pleasure House Creek site; SOS veneer planned for this summer  
-11 acre reef, shallow water, crushed concrete (fist sized), built in 3 stripes

Reef Construction planning/permitting updates

-Piankatank (USACE)

-update: waiting for agreement amendment, now approved internally by USACE, pending VMRC approval for cost share agreement; then will move to construction; instead of Phase 2 & 3 (to complete 50 acres), that work has now been combined into Phase 2. Details: 50 acres near mouth of P. (Burton Point), expansion of 25 acres built in 2017, class 1 rip rap stone, 35" stripes. Estimated cost: TBD

-Lower York (VMRC)

-planning continues to construct 150+ acres in spring/summer (May thru August/Sept.); Commission has approved and all permits in place to facilitate construction; combo on lower relief- 75% w/ #1 or #2 stone; also higher relief - 25% amount of reefs. Higher ground adjacent to these sites may also be built (using R4 rock?) to even larger scale to deter poaching. R4 is lower cost and more available than A1 stone.

-VIMS/Navy at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station project- archaeological survey work preceding the permit approval; intertidal & shallow subtidal substrate at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station permitting more urgent to catch the expected spring spat set; Penniman Spit site work can come after that (perhaps late Fall). Experimental oyster structure site at VIMS tested various designs, good settlement found there. Differences observed among the structures to guide future shoreline and shallow subtidal work.. This summer, will be sampling living shoreline reefs to sample for blue crabs and small fish (behind the living shorelines).

-Lynnhaven (USACE)

-part of USACE Lynnhaven River Ecosystem Restoration Plan 31 acres planned, phase 1 completed last year (8 acres), phase 2 will be 23-30 acres; to be built in Broad Bay; project at 75% design phase, crushed concrete w/ shell veneer at 14" height. April public meeting planned to discuss. 50' stripes w/ 80' spacing in between. Looking to build as water flows, both parallel and perpendicular. Oyster habitat + fish habitat. Have started permitting process w/anticipated build in 2023

-Monitoring updates - Lafayette, etc.

-Rom - Lafayette recent monitoring observations - the 2018 & 2019 (check dates) reef construction sites near NIT and Hermitage, from intertidal to 8-9' depths; used hydro surveyor that allows for entry in shallow water areas (less than 6' depth). Followed up surveys with ROV work. Shallow water reefs are doing well, metrics wise. Some reefs at 6' depth in high tide are doing moderately well; depending on relief. The deepest reefs (8' or deeper) do not appear to be doing as well – covered w/ sediment; oyster growth is scattered and patch.. May not have been built high enough? Consistent height and relief was difficult to construct? May need some adaptive management.

-Interim report on monitoring expected when Rom is done processing the information. Rom: A more comprehensive survey should follow and also physical sampling - late spring/summer. Plan to use rapid assessment protocol methods to examine.

VMRC newly constructed projects are all monitored; available in May to this group. All of this year's new construction looks good in P. and G.W.; above average recruitment, meeting or exceeding GIT metrics both at higher and lower relief. Good news on densities throughout the Bay.

- CBF/ERP media event (on 3/3 in Lafayette)

-highlighted reef monitoring/ how well the reefs are doing

<https://www.wavy.com/video/oyster-restoration-reefs-in-the-lafayette-river-are-thriving/>

<https://www.wtkr.com/news/recent-lafayette-river-surveys-show-population-not-just-surviving-but-thriving-in-healthy-ecosystem>

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/732821106/w-h-r-o-reports>

-2021 Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration Update document-status of clearance (expected soon) and alternative sources of information (have been provided by Stephanie).

-Habitat restoration funding opportunities

- NFWF funding opportunity is open
- Federal infrastructure funding opportunities-: ex: NOAA will be offering a NOFO for coastal resilience work; \$almost 500 million over five years; NOFO release date TBD- but likely in the next month or so
- Coastal Zone Management- also federal funding, but this will go to states, for competitive proposals.

-Other oyster updates generally:

- VMRC: will pursue permitting for large-scale restoration in Mobjack and James (Wreck Shoals)- non-harvest areas; in addition to their usual harvest area work
- Process: VMRC is more able to give letters of support prior to permit applications, rather than after the permit is in VMRC's hands.

-TNC: next meeting- will lead discussion on Piankatank/ VA post-restoration completion analysis.