



WORKING MEETING: ASSESSING ADAPTATION OPTIONS FOR MARSHES IN CHOPTANK RIVER, MD

October 21st, 2025
10:00 am - 1:30 pm

This meeting will be in person at the Wharves of Choptank Visitor & Heritage Center, 3 Crouse Park Lane, Denton, MD 21629. The meeting will be held in the location's only meeting room. To request virtual accommodations, please contact the meeting organizers.

Bring your own lunch! Water bottle/refill stations are available on site.

[Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 2863 215 5766 **Passcode:** 6E9mVRzFqP3

Call: 1-408-418-9388 Toll

Access code: 28632155766

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on “Turn on live captions” (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Julia Fucci at julia.fucci@noaa.gov.

Purpose: Master students with the University of Michigan SEAS program are assisting Envision the Choptank and the Chesapeake Bay Program to synthesize data and information on marshes in the Choptank River to inform resilience planning. To date, information on invasives (phragmites, emerald ash borer), sea level rise, marsh migration, adjacent land use, marsh condition and change has been collected to inform marsh vulnerability. The Master students will provide a project update including their progress on GIS analyses with available Choptank River data, literature review, and informational interviews with experts. We will use breakout groups with the students, practitioners, and researchers to discuss questions on adaptation options and monitoring, research, and practical implementation considerations related to improving resilience of Choptank's marshes.

Agenda

- I. Meeting Agenda and Review (10:00 – 10:10)**
Participants will be welcomed by the students and meeting organizers. A brief background of the project and the purpose of today's meeting will be shared.

II. Student Presentations (10:10 – 11:10)

Paul, Ilana, William, and Mia (UMich SEAS students) will each give a 15 minute update presentation on what they have done so far in the project and questions they have for the breakout group sessions. The questions presented by the students will guide the breakout sessions.

1. Ilana (10:10-10:25)
 - a. Ilana will discuss historical changes of the marshes. She will discuss historical shorelines, marsh loss over time, vegetation and elevation changes, and a vulnerability index.
2. Mia (10:25-10:40)
 - a. Mia will discuss mitigation measures. She will start with the status of invasive Phragmites across the marshes, then discuss the status of the Ash tree populations. Future outlook and management options will be discussed.
3. Paul (10:40-10:55)
 - a. Paul will discuss adaptation measures. He will discuss the effect of sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and the role of farmers in marsh migration and management.
4. William (10:55-11:10)
 - a. William will discuss the future scope of the marshes. He will discuss marsh migration corridors and land use around the marshes.

III. Breakout Groups (11:10 – 12:00)

Participants will break into working groups to address questions the students have prepared and help think through next steps. Participants will choose breakout groups based on student questions/work.

IV. Lunch Break (12:00 – 12:45)

Participants will bring their own lunch. Tables are available outside and inside the venue.

V. Next Steps Discussion and Break Out Group Re-cap (12:45 – 1:30)

Break-out groups will share what they discussed. The group will also go over ideas and next steps to support further analyses that can help inform the feasibility of adaptation options and identify different/unique ways we can use available datasets.