



## VA Oyster Restoration Workgroup Meeting Notes

November 13, 2024 1:00pm - 3:00 pm

Meeting link: <https://meet.google.com/tun-hkvk-xyk>

Join us by phone: (US) +1 336-914-1205 PIN: 300 038 042#

### Agenda

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- Welcome, and note that this is a public meeting.
- Reef construction, planning and monitoring updates on '10 tribes' projects
  - Lynnhaven: Construction on phase 2 in broad bay (23 acres) started on Friday, Oct 11 with stone being actively placed for the next few months. Ongoing and on schedule; anticipated completion still tracking for March 2025 but likely done sooner.
  - From Corps: -piankatank monitoring will begin this month on ph 1 (25 acres) and ph 2 (53 acres)
  - From Corps: Great wicomico solicitation anticipated for December with contract award beginning of year
  - VMRC: Piankatank stone reefs- look good! Around Palace's Bar.
  - CBF: Lafayette reef monitoring coming in January 2025; also Hampton River in 2025 (reef construction in the Feb to April timeframe)
- Start compiling info for the 2024 Annual Update on 10 tribes progress. Last year's version is here, for reference: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/2023-chesapeake-bay-oyster-restoration-update>

- York River Penniman Spit work- we should put this in the annual update York section. Ribbon cutting event yesterday.
- York River completion event- earth day 2024- should be a highlight
- Solid spat set year in VA
- Lynnhaven geodatabase review: looks correct as written.
- Lynnhaven: noted that we are just about 3 acres below the goal; could make it to the goal with addition of the acres below; we might be able to count these as pre-met. Need to make sure this was not previously counted when we estimated 30 acres of intertidal habitat for the existing pre-met.
- Lynnhaven projects discussion- Adam Kenyon- interested in doing more restoration in Lynnhaven; one site that looks good is about 4.5 acres leased by LRN, in Main stem, far end of Humes Marsh, intertidal to some degree (but legally considered subtidal). Note we would want to make sure this is not already included in the current pre-met subtidal area.
- Fish GIT ex comm updates: they are currently considering:
  - (1) How to handle the opening of pre-met reefs in Piankatank and Great Wicomico to harvest
  - (2) Wording for an updated oyster outcome
- As always, remember that all Workgroup documents, meeting announcements, etc, are on the MD & VA oyster workgroup webpage, <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/maryland-and-virginia-oyster-restoration-interagency-teams#:~:text=The%20Maryland%20and%20Virginia%20Oyster,consultation%20with%20partners%20and%20scientists.>
- Other business
  - From Corps: Tangier planning effort ongoing, first construction contract planned for 2028
  - Mobjack restoration sites: looks like good spat set and growth on reefs built in Spring 2024. With NOAA funding, VMRC may construct a living shoreline that will incorporate oysters.
  - CBF will construct reefs in 2025 in Hampton River; phase 1 of 10-acre plan; 5 acres between feb and April 2025; then produce spat with CBF barge.
  - VDOT is constructing a bridge across the River- to be done in 2027; CBF is waiting for that to be done to start phase 2; also a lot of tree planting and shoreline work in Hampton River;
  - CBF also working with VIMS to place reef balls, approx 200, maybe in 2025 or 2026, around the SAV beds in the James River (t News); VIMS and CBF collecting water quality data. (Newport News)