

Joint Hampton Roads and Western Shore VA Oyster Team Meeting Notes

September 8, 2021 1:00 - 3:00pm

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/msh-coxy-xnq

Call in #: (US) +1 617-675-4444

PIN: 660 426 107 3652#

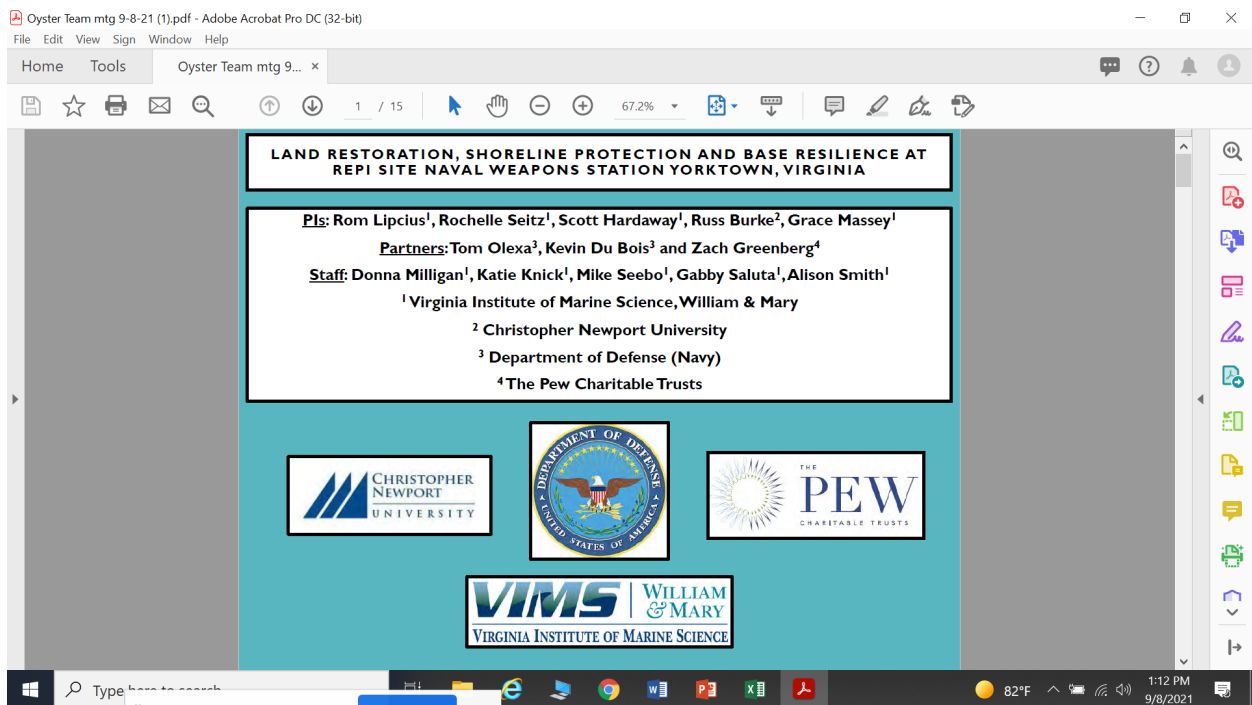
Agenda and Notes:

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

Attendees: Stephanie & Andrew (NOAA, co-chairs), Dave O'Brien (NOAA), Rom L. (VIMS), Russ Burke (CNU), Jackie S (CBF), David Maginnes, Brent James (LRNOW), Alicia L/Kim Koelsch/Heather Lockwood (USACE), Julie Luecke, Peyton Mowery, Todd Janeski (VCU), Tom Olexa (Navy), Dave S. (?), Chris Moore (CBF), Samantha Davidson (City of VA Beach)

Presentation by Rom Lipcius (VIMS) on the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station shoreline project (implementation funded by DOD REPI)

(presentation cover slide)



-CRC funded the VIMS design of the nearshore habitat project at Yorktown NWS (with funding from NOAA)

-discussion of recent research on stable, eroding, and cyclical shorelines, depending on sediment dynamics and applications to this project (project site appears to be cyclical)

-discussion of Penniman spit portion of the project, adjacent to area from the pier

-construction to begin at the site during spring 2022; experimental oyster structures (rip rap, concrete domes, diamond reefs, x-reefs and oyster castles) were deployed near VIMS in June 2021 for observation and sampling purposes -- the most successful will be used at the Yorktown NWS.

-scale of the project - while 17 acres of subtidal areas are available, less are anticipated to be constructed with available funding. Most available funding is going to Penniman Spit living shoreline design, which incorporates oyster elements into the hybrid living shoreline.

General updates on reef construction, project status, etc.

-Piankatank - completed restoration goal in July! VMRC built more than 60+ acres this year. Half built at 6" height, remainder at 3" height

-USACE plans are in place to build about 50 of acres in the Piankatank, construction early next year; in spring- before natural spat set.

-Great Wicomico - completed restoration goal in August! VMRC built about 22.5 (high/ lower relief split) acres this year

-Lower York: VMRC- permitting complete for 331 (approx) acres , up to 12" high, various materials. On 14 acres (approx) in 2021, VMRC added a layer of fine shell fragments; will go back next year and add bigger material. Also added some shell to existing reefs.

-Lynnhaven:

- GIS data/ coordinates for USACE reefs- please send to NOAA so they can go into the geodatabase; thanks to LRNOW for coordinates of 1-acre shell reef;
- LRN: CBF- planning to cover LRN reefs w spat-on-shell (5-6 acres)- still need permits but have done a lot of work w/ community, so in a good place; might be able to build in calendar 2021; city has donated some substrate for the project. LRN- submitted lease application for 100+ acres of lease- not adjacent homeowners- would be a good place for restoration work
- Corps: Brown's Cove site- approx 8 acres- working on design plans; may look at acreage in Broad Bay instead- this would accommodate the entire approx 20 acre

needed to complete Lynnhaven work; they are planning to decide within a week; LRN has strong preference for Brown's Cove.

- 242 acre lease area in Broad Bay is now available, VMRC set aside an area within that as not-to-be-lease, not as public ground, but not leasable. This area could be suitable for restoration projects -- it would connect 2 existing reefs in the area. And hopefully avoid public conflict.

-Lafayette - VIMS monitoring ongoing on shallow subtidal reefs: will update at next meeting

Partner updates:

- There has been a lot of reef construction this summer- check in to see if everyone has the info (reef name, material, location, etc) to NOAA so it can go into the GIS geodatabases.
- Great Wicomico and Lower York (Piankatank?) completion event/s- Gov's office wants to do something in November- details TBD.
- CBF Rod and Reef tournament; Maryland is now virtual, VA has been postponed re: Covid; planning for Sept 2022; :{
- Bay Program executive committee meeting at Brock Center: still planning for in person; there will be an oyster component-- boat trip- will visit reef on Lynnhaven, and trawl, also aquaculture. Date: Oct 1; 1.5 hour boat trip; main messages? Climate and oysters will be part of it;
- Piankatank River oyster restoration signs: Todd J: signs are just about done; 2 signs going up at Deltaville Maritime Museum- Oct 16 sign unveiling; Funding for the signs was provided by NOAA C-Bay Office, through the VA CZM program
- Andrew Button provided this link - https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/maps/chesapeakebay_map.php shows areas of public bottom that are open, etc., also leased areas.
- VMRC Pocomoke Sound oyster project -- 20 acre reef site, long & skinny, near MD & VA line, larger substrate, dredging-resistant sanctuary area.
- Todd J -- examined fossil shell compared to recycled shell and house shell, looking at strike comparisons for different types of substrate, results to follow. House shell is larger than fossil shell, generally -- is there a difference in strike success? Horn Point is doing a similar study.
- Kim K - VA Interagency Team meeting, held Aug 14, mostly virtually. Topic for next (December) meeting: Craney island shell reserves, also ocean acidification vs. oysters
- Topics for future discussion.

Other news, points for discussion, or future meeting agenda items.