



Chesapeake Bay Program
Joint MD & VA Oyster Restoration Interagency Team Meeting
May 2026
May 26, 2026
3:00pm - 4:00pm

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting via Webex](#)

Meeting number: 2866 385 9584

Password: fsYJPmc344

Call: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 286 638 59584

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

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Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Webex. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Webex will be utilized to field participant questions.

Compromised Meeting Plan: If the meeting's privacy is compromised, the meeting staffer and coordinator will send an email to all Members, alternates, staffers, coordinators, and interested parties. Within the email, you will find a new meeting link, instructions on sharing this information with external partners, and any necessary adjustments to the meeting schedule. Please do NOT share this information publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

Purpose: This meeting will convene the MD & VA Oyster Restoration Interagency Teams to discuss the transition of the workgroups under the revised 2025 Watershed Agreement's Thriving Habitat, Fisheries, & Wildlife Goal Team. Discussion will include changes to governance & structure, workgroup membership, and management strategy development.

Minutes

- I. Introduction** **3:00pm – 3:05pm**
Lead: Kevin Schabow (NOAA)

- II. 2025 Watershed Agreement Structure & Membership Update** **3:05pm – 3:20pm**
Lead: Kevin Schabow (NOAA)
Discussion on changes to workgroup structure and membership under the updated 2025 Watershed Agreement, including discussion regarding the oyster fishery action team.

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

- Christina will send out an email with detailed call for nominations
- Workgroup members to submit nominations for chairs/vice-chairs by June 11, 2026

Discussion:

- The idea of one workgroup per outcome is a CBP wide directive - due to streamline initiative
 - More flexibility below the workgroup level
- Intentionality around workgroup members
 - Workgroup will still have interested parties - people that want to keep track/stay in the loop but do not contribute specifically
 - When talking about opening up the membership list - we want doers on the workgroup - organizations that are contributing to the cause
 - Meetings will be open to the public

- III. Workgroup Chair Call for Nominations** **3:20pm – 3:30pm**
Lead: Kevin Schabow (NOAA)
Description of workgroup chair roles and responsibilities and call for nominations

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

- Christina to include flow chart into the nomination email

Discussion:

- How many co-chairs and vice chairs will be needed?
 - 1 Vice chair for MD restoration
 - 1 Vice chair for VA restoration
 - 2 Vice chairs for oyster fishery
 - 1 or 2 overarching workgroup chair/co-chair
- Total of 5-6 nominations
- Helpful to have a flow chart to show the open positions
 - Action Item: Christina to include flow chart into the nomination email
- Can we nominate people not currently in the workgroup?
 - Yes
- For the vice chair - does that need to be a voting member?
 - Workgroups will need to identify up to 15 voting members
 - This is a default - first and foremost goal will be to reach consensus

- If consensus is not reached, then we go to a vote (super majority vote with 15 voting members)
- The MD workgroup does not have 15 workgroup members
 - There may be a call for additional members - it may end up having 15 members - but does not need to have 15 members (up to 15 members)

IV. Management Strategy Development

3:30pm – 3:40pm

Lead: Kevin Schabow (NOAA)

Overview of management strategy template and development timeline

Decisions: N/A

Actions:

Discussion:

- MS and workplans already exist from last Agreement - a lot of previous work will carry over to the updated MS and workplans
 - Most current MS was 12 pages and the current MS outline cuts out additional detail - looking at 12 pages or less
 - Existing information can feed into this
 - No intention of using many workgroup meetings towards MS and wordsmithing - want to be respectful of everyone's time
 - Link to past Oyster MS: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/2004-chesapeake-bay-oyster-management-plan>

V. Open Q&A

3:40pm - 3:55pm

Lead: Kevin Schabow (NOAA), Bruce Vogt (NOAA)

Opportunity to hear questions, comments, and discussion from the workgroup

Decisions: N/A

Actions: N/A

Discussion:

- When will new workgroup membership start meeting?
 - Current membership continue to meet until there is a clear transition
 - First steps are to get nominations and get leadership in place
 - Then have a full workgroup meeting (most likely in late summer)
 - Plans to keep current MD and VA meetings on the book - have one meeting where we will initiate the transition

VI. Wrap-Up & Adjourn

3:55pm - 4:00pm