



Public Access Workgroup
Summer 2023 Meeting

Wednesday July 19, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meeting Location: Virtual

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/bim-xw...>

Or dial: (US) +1 562-232-9175 PIN: 130 705 657#

Participants

Aurelia Gracia	Drew T Carter	Erik Zlokovitz	Lisa Gutierrez
Mark Ho	Mike Krumrine	Scott Bollinger	Vallie Edenbo
Britt Slattery	Angie Wei	John Kirk	Christine Bruins
Max Goldman	Joanne Goodwin	Wuillam Urvina	

Summary

The meeting covered several important topics including the new 2022 public access sites, an overview of the SRS process, and the final findings from the Benefits and Barriers Research project. Further details are below:

- A review of new public access sites and the progress towards achieving the goal of 300 access sites. This discussion included details on what qualifies as a new site and how the cumulative number of sites that are active should be accounted for.
- A discussion of the Strategy Review System (SRS) process and the upcoming review of the Logic and Action Plan. Attendees learned about the three steps included in the process, including the color-coding step, Narrative Analysis, and Presentation. The group also discussed the Biennial Meeting and goals for public access beyond 2025.
- Attendees received an update on the Benefits and Barriers Research project and its final findings. This project aimed to understand how residents in the watershed use public access sites and their relationship with use and stewardship, as well as barriers that prevent underserved communities from using public access sites. The group shared the final findings, which included prioritizing investments in infrastructure, experimenting with education and engagement programs, extending a sense of welcome and belonging, and gaining an understanding of who is visiting and who is not.

- The meeting also included a sharing of big initiatives happening at respective jurisdictions during the Next Steps portion of the meeting. Attendees learned about several new landing sites, partnerships with other organizations, and proposals to convert historic properties into parks or water access areas.
- Finally, attendees confirmed the date, time, and location of the next follow-up meeting.

11:00 AM Introduction (Lisa)

- Have everyone go around and introduce themselves. (Name, Organization, and Position)
- Recap the purpose of today's meeting.

11:10 AM Data Call (Lisa)

- Review the new public access sites collected in the 2021 and 2022 data call and share results with the workgroup.
 - What qualifies: Fishing spots but is recognized by an authority of some kind (pier, area, bank fishing, streamside fishing, etc.); motorized access; soft access (where you can launch or retrieve a vessel); waterfront viewing (gazebo, etc.)
 - Some years we have no new sites and others we have an inundation of sites
 - So far, we are on track to achieve our 300 access site goal
 - If you have a change (something forgotten, or missed municipality site), we can always add it back in
- Address any questions or concerns regarding the data.

11:40 AM Strategy Review System (SRS) Process (Aurelia & Wuill)

- Discuss the upcoming review of the Logic and Action Plan for the Strategy Review System (SRS) process.
 - SRS process is used for reflection and reporting. It is a type of testing phase. There are 3 steps included in the process (Logic & Action Plan, Narrative Analysis, Presentation)
 - One step is a color-coding step (where we classify if the actions in our plan are completed, in progress, or not started)
 - Narrative Analysis is mainly done by the staffer, coordinator, and chair. There will be opportunities for feedback and suggestions from the larger workgroup.
 - The presentation is a synopsis of the SRS process in general and it is presented to the Management Board
- Recap on Biennial Meeting
- Goals for Public Access beyond 2025
- Address any questions or concerns related to the SRS process or other upcoming tasks.
 - How do we keep accurate the cumulative number of sites that are active considering there is no process for accounting for sites that are no longer active?
 - We are aiming to resolve this issue before 2025.
 - Because our outcome is focused on opening new sites, Britt would like to make sure that

we are accurately showing our progress.

12:10 PM Benefits and Barriers Research (Aurelia)

- Provide an update and final draft on the Benefits and Barriers Research project presented by Steve Raabe.
 - Two objectives: how residents in the watershed use public access sites and their relationship with use and stewardship; barriers that prevent underserved communities from use of public access sites.
 - Research: Bay wide survey with a total of 2263 randomly selected adults covering topics of: community, site contacts, impression of water, attitudes, connection, wanted features, motivations, barriers, and perceptions.
 - Final Findings:
 - prioritizing investments in infrastructure
 - What can this look like: not comfortable with water, not used to interacting with water closely. More benches, more tables, a water near trail, and more restrooms.
 - experiment with education and engagement programs
 - Suggestions: increasing transportation access (bus program or tram program), involve the community in the planning of new sites,
 - extend a sense of welcome and belonging
 - Suggestions: having volunteers and workers who represent the community, telling stories of the community
 - gain an understanding of who is visiting and who is not
 - Suggestions: doing data collection at individual sites, have a personas model (think about the types of people that will come to your site and build your site around that persona)
 - Lisa: If you aren't familiar with the project, please review the final draft and provide any input you may have.
- Discuss any further input or feedback required for the final report.

12:30 PM Next Steps (Wuill)

- Share any big initiatives happening at your respective jurisdictions - Round Robin
 - John Kirk: A new landing site in one of their wildlife management areas. There are also new project partnerships with other organizations.
 - Mark Ho: They are currently working on their SCORP and collecting a lot of data. Hopefully, they will be able to find a lot of new sites.
 - Erik Zlokovitz: A proposal to convert a historic property into a park or water access area. This would be good for southern Anne Arundel county. Two piers in Maryland will be demolished soon so they are looking for funds to construct a replacement. Beachwood Park is looking at improving parking and landscaping.
 - Christine Bruins: There are a couple of upcoming and ongoing plans. Great Falls in Maryland is looking at public scoping and gathering from folks information regarding different issue areas. They will also be developing management concepts to address

some of the concerns that come up. They may also reutilize historic buildings to store recreational materials. Next project is Anacostia Park looking at the waterfront access piece and a second public meeting out of three. They are looking at the uses the community would really like. The last project is the Potomac in Virginia where they bought a power plant and are looking at different access points along the river.

- Lisa Gutierrez: Maryland is looking at its LPPRP. Three new openings for soft access/boat ramps. An idea could be to share the press release from new access sites so that we don't have to wait until the data call for the year.
- Vallie Edenbo: Two new state parks have been established in Virginia. There could be a lot of opportunities for water access in the future.
- Confirm the date, time, and location of the next follow-up meeting.