Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) Workgroup Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2025
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 238 085 348 221 4 | **Passcode:** Go6bE2Yx
Call: +1 469-208-1525 | **Conference ID:** 966 753 523#

Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.

This meeting will 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 Allison Welch at awelch@chesapeakebay.net.

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 Teams. 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 Teams 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 is the monthly meeting for the Criteria Assessment Protocol Workgroup. This meeting will include a presentation from Leah Ettema (EPA) about Dissolved Oxygen Assessment Methodologies. This will be a two-part presentation with the second part taking place at the February CAP WG Meeting. Then, Tish Robertson (VA DEQ) will be sharing her presentation on *Communicating Bay Dissolved Oxygen,* which she presented at the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference. Lastly, David Parrish (VIMS) will be sharing his findings on water clarity.

Agenda

I. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements **(1:30 PM – 1:40 PM)**
Lead: ***Peter Tango*** *(U.S. Geological Survey, USGS)*

II. Background and Approaches to Dissolved Oxygen Assessment **(1:40PM – 2:40PM)**

Methodologies, Part 1: Instantaneous Criteria Review
Lead: ***Leah Ettema*** *(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA)*

This presentation will provide the foundational background for determining frequency of exceedances and ideas for scientifically derived allowable exceedances of the Chesapeake Bay instantaneous dissolved oxygen criteria. These ideas rely on the 2003 criteria document and its explanation for why the Chesapeake Bay minimum criteria were established, and the studies used to establish the minimum criteria for each designated use.

Requested Action: Non-decisional

III. A new tool for communication dissolved oxygen concentrations in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay **(2:40 PM – 3:00 PM)**
Lead: ***Tish Robertson*** *(Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, VA DEQ)*

Tish Robertson gave this presentation at the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference. Given how closely related this presentation topic is to CAP WG, slides were shared with the group before the conference. Tish will be bringing the presentation to the workgroup to share with those who may not have been able to attend.

Presentation Description: Chesapeake Bay dissolved oxygen (DO) provides an opportunity for more in-depth storytelling. DEQ is developing an ESRI Experience webpage that showcases the myriad of DO datasets that the department and its partners routinely collect in the Bay and its tidal tributaries. These datasets include not just the traditional monthly and semi-monthly vertical profiles that are collected at approximately 80 stations managed by DEQ and the EPA-Chesapeake Bay Program Office, but also state-of-the-art continuous, underway, and probabilistic datasets collected by DEQ's partnering institutions—the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Old Dominion University. In addition to providing an overview of available datasets, the webpage also presents a synthesis of this information to show a more refined picture of DO in Virginia's Bay waters than what is typically provided in biennial criteria assessment reporting.

Requested Action: Non-decisional.

IV. Water Clarity in the Lower York & James Estuaries: Data Flow Insights and Satellite Integration **(3:00 PM – 3:30 PM)**
Lead: ***David Parrish*** *(Virginia Institute of Marine Science, VIMS)*

The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (CBNEER-VA) and Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) have been collecting dataflow observations of water quality conditions for decades. David will share recent assessments of water clarity conditions in the Lower York and James estuaries and provide an update on integrating these datasets with satellite imagery to fill gaps and extend monitoring coverage.

Requested Action: Non-decisional

V. Adjourn **(3:30PM)**

Next Meeting: January 12, 2026