



## Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
10:00AM – 12:00PM

[Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

**Meeting ID:** 213 754 305 350 25 | **Passcode:** fK783S44

**Call:** +1 469-208-1525 | **Conference ID:** 184 608 47#

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

This meeting may 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 Gabriel Duran at [gduran@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:gduran@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:** Presentations will focus on different groups who have pulled data from various sources to build metrics and synthesize information to either help with decision-making or reporting on progress. Presentations will span from watershed-wide to local examples, along with nontidal and tidal examples.

## Agenda

- I. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements (10:00 – 10:05)**  
*Lead: Ken Hyer (U.S. Geological Survey, USGS) STAR Chair, Breck Sullivan (USGS) STAR Coordinator, and Peter Tango (USGS) CBP Monitoring Coordinator.*

### Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops and Webinars

- [Choose Clean Water Conference](#) – May 18-20, 2026. Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- [Chesapeake Community Research Symposium](#) – June 1-3, 2026. Annapolis, Maryland.
- [Restore America's Estuaries' 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit](#) – September 22-25, 2026. San Francisco, California.

- II. 2025 Revised Brook Trout Outcome: (10:05 – 10:30)**  
**How our work has evolved since 2014**

*Description:* In the 2025 revision of the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement, the Brook Trout Outcome has been reenvisioned to not only expand occupied habitat but also include abundance monitoring and a focus on population resiliency to changing environmental conditions. This presentation will explain what we learned from 2014-2025, how we adapted our outcome, how we calculated our baselines, and our monitoring and attainment plan for the next 15 years of brook trout conservation and restoration.

Request Action: Informational, for discussion.

Lead: **Daniel Goetz** (Maryland Department of Natural Resources, MD DNR) and **Katie Ombalski** (Woods and Waters Consulting)

Materials: Access to materials can be found on the meeting webpage [here](#).

- III. Salt Marsh Geomorphic Metrics (10:30 – 11:00)**

*Description:* The USGS has developed several salt marsh geomorphic metrics that are in wide use nationally, but most of them were developed through research in Chesapeake Bay. We will describe the development of these metrics and demonstrate how they are being used to make landscape-scale decisions on marsh restoration and management in Chesapeake Bay and beyond. Coastal Wetland Geospatial Collection can be accessed [here](#). Coastal Wetland Synthesis Geonarrative can be accessed [here](#).

Request Action: Informational, for discussion.

Lead: **Neil Ganju, Kate Ackerman, Zafer Defne** (USGS Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center).

Materials: Access to materials can be found on the meeting webpage [here](#).

- IV. 2025 State of the James Report Card (11:00 – 11:30)**

*Description:* The State of the James is a report card issued every two years to examine the status and trends of 18 indicators that fall within two categories – River Health and River Restoration. The recently published 2025 State of the James Report will be presented. You can access the full Report [here](#).

Request Action: Informational, for discussion.

Lead: **Bill Street** (James River Association)

Materials: Access to materials can be found on the meeting webpage [here](#).

- V. State of the York Watershed System (11:30 – 12:00)**

*Description:* Stemming directly from needs expressed by regional residents and practitioners, the State of the York Watershed System is a synthesis of the status, trends and opportunities in the York River, Mobjack Bay and Piankatank River basins. Content, developed to showcase place-based data and perspective for informed decision-making and inspired action, is delivered in three overarching sections focused on landscape, water quality, and natural and cultural resources. Key System facts, resources and tools are highlighted throughout the report alongside case studies, calls to action, and opportunities for continued study and/or investment. Led by Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERR-VA), this effort represents the first of its kind since 2000 and incorporates the work and/or input of more than 160 people regionwide. CBNERR-VA's Training and Engagement Coordinator details the development process and resulting product in this session.

Request Action: Informational, for discussion.

Lead: **Cirse Gonzalez** (Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, VIMS CBNERR)

Materials: Access to materials can be found on the meeting webpage [here](#).

**VI. Adjourn**

**(12:00)**

**Next Meeting:** *April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, from 10 AM – 12 PM.*