

## **Meeting Highlights**

### **US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District Virginia Eastern Shore Navigation Partnership Meeting 22 January 2015 Eastern Shore Community College**

- 4 Handouts: Agenda, Controlling Depth summary table for Eastern Shore Federal Navigation Projects, Map showing schedule status of project surveys, project summary spreadsheet for projects being actively worked.
- During review of each project status the Chincoteague Coast Guard Station dredging is needed soon as the USCG has trouble now at low tide. USACE will work to execute this dredging project as quickly as possible; the contract is almost ready to advertise.
- Quinby Creek received limited funds in the USACE FY 14 budget for design and dredging. No funds are in the FY 15 Presidents Budget. Since the channel is in worse shape than previous dredging cycles, due to the longer time since the last dredging, there may be funding or placement limitations to dredge the whole Federal project to the authorized depth. Discussion followed whether the authorized Federal channel 8 foot depth (MLLW) absolutely needed or if dredging to a reduced 6 foot depth could be acceptable due to the proximity VIP channel depths, probable funding limitations and apparent placement site capacity limitations shown by early design calculations. The environmental permit limits the dredging to 100,000 cu yards per event, but there is a public hearing for this soon. A work group may need to be organized to discuss this issue at a later time.
- US Coast Guard continues plans to maintain only limited east-west aids to navigation in some areas (into Machipongo, Wachapreague) on the eastern shore as long as they can. North to South routing navigation aids along the inside passage will be discontinued. The water depths significantly hinder the Coast Guard's ability to service and maintain the existing federal aids to navigation. In these areas, the aids no longer serve their intended purpose and may mislead mariners. As such, the Coast Guard intends to remove more than 200 aids in the Virginia Inside Passage, and not repair those that fail before removal. .
- USCG Wachapreague and others say a shallow spot has formed immediately past the first dredging area into Wachapreague after turning towards the inlet. This area is around buoys 6 to 8. Norfolk District: This is outside the Federal channel limits. Since it is outside the Federal channel, there may be an opportunity for the USCG to provide dredging funds. This will have to be examined.
- Current reality: 967 Shallow draft navigation projects in the national Corps inventory. Shallow-draft, low-use projects compete at the National level for funding. Nationwide only 40 to 60 of those are funded each year. Some additional projects (less than 15) can be funded out of a small funding source of O&M remaining items at the end of the year. In order to access these funds, we must prioritize what projects the partnership would like funding for and have motivated, organized, strong local support for the project.
- The work plan is typically reviewed after release of Presidents Budget. The FY 15 Work Plan is currently at the USACE HQ level and will be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Assistance Secretary of the Army (ASA) before being released to USACE District level and the public.
- Need to continue developing priorities for Eastern Shore Navigation projects in the event additional funding becomes available.
- Group Consensus: Priority Areas remains those shoals the US Coast Guard needs access through to perform their Search and Rescue mission. USCG staff identified East and West access to Wachapreague and Chincoteague Inlet as their top priorities on the Eastern Shore.
- FY17 budget capabilities will be developed soon, probably final submission in May.
- FY16 Work plan strategies reviewed August/September.
- Congressman Rigell now on Appropriations Committee.

- USACE staff reviewed new color mapping being developed for channel condition surveys. This type of mapping should allow the user to more easily identify the high and low areas in the channel than what the current black and white mapping shows.
- USACE uses single beam sonar for small channels and multi-beam for deep-draft (>16 ft) channels. Some survey contractors may use different or more advanced methods for shallow channels.
- US Coast Guard would like condition surveys at Chesconessex and Occohannock Creeks. Also would like map of the survey Norfolk District performed to determine dredge access into Wachapreague.
- Gargathy Marsh area between #52, 53, 55-57, and 59 is in poor condition with many restrictions on USCG access. The area shoals in quickly, but Kegotank Bay can also be accessed from the North.
- Presentation to Boards for comprehensive strategy – no further action yet. Eastern Shore Public Access Authority.
- Cedar Island Planning Study (Continuing Authorities Section (CAP) 204 Study): Cedar Island is continuing to erode/migrate. Discussion of this item should include The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ), and other stakeholders not present at this meeting. In 2014, there are cabins falling off of Cedar Island and the northern part of the island is now a sand beach instead of a forested area. Boats are often grounded at Cedar Island.
- Some present would like to see a holistic look at bigger picture issues – Cedar Island Migration, Inlet issues, dredging tied together. At this meeting we need to identify dredging priorities for this year's budgeting. There are other efforts currently on-going to look at resiliency of the Eastern Shore. Additionally, the USACE Regional Sediment Management (RSM) program may be able to provide study funds to look at sediment migration on the Eastern Shore.
- USACE needs help to develop a dredging plan for the next few years for the Eastern Shore based on stakeholder priorities. This should include the cycle of dredging needed for channels.
  - E/W Wachapreague and Machipongo
  - N. end of Metompkin Bay
  - Magothy Bay or Oyster Channel
  - USCG – E/W Channel Wachapreague and Chincoteague Inlet
  - Outside the end of the Federal Channel at Wachapreague
  - Channel near Gargathy Inlet (local users say it has now turned into a "lake")

## Meeting Handouts



# US Army Corps of Engineers

## Norfolk District

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### AGENDA

VA EASTERN SHORE NAVIGATION PARTNERSHIP  
JANUARY 22, 2015

10:00 Sign In, introductions

10:15 Initiative Status (Reference Handouts)

Completed and Upcoming VA Eastern Shore Dredging

Other Meetings: Breakout Sessions Since last big meeting, Delmarva WTC

Website Updates

FY15-16 Outlook for Corps Program on Eastern Shore

Q&A

10:50 Mapping and Channel Surveying Status (reference handouts)

Public Information

Survey Scope of Work, extents/limitations, boundary conditions, accuracy tolerances

Survey results, release of data

Survey schedule, data and mapping format needs by users, GIS condition survey

mapping and controlling depth initiative

Q&A

11:10 Other Federal Initiatives

Continuing Authorities

Q&A

11:05 Partnership Ideas on Next Priorities and Next Steps

11:50 Final comments, Recognition, Adjourn

### OTHER INFORMATION

Access to Norfolk District Maps:

<http://gis.nao.usace.army.mil/ESDS/Disclaimer.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FESDS%2F>

Corps' VA Eastern Shore Partnership Website:

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/EasternShoreNavigationPartnership.aspx>

### ***Eastern Shore Partnership High Priority Items for WCV Identified in August 2013 Breakout Meeting***

***1. Dredging Bradford Bay Access to Wachapreague***

***2. Comprehensive Hydrographic Survey of the VIP/WCV for the following purposes:***

***A. Document the current conditions along the waterway,***

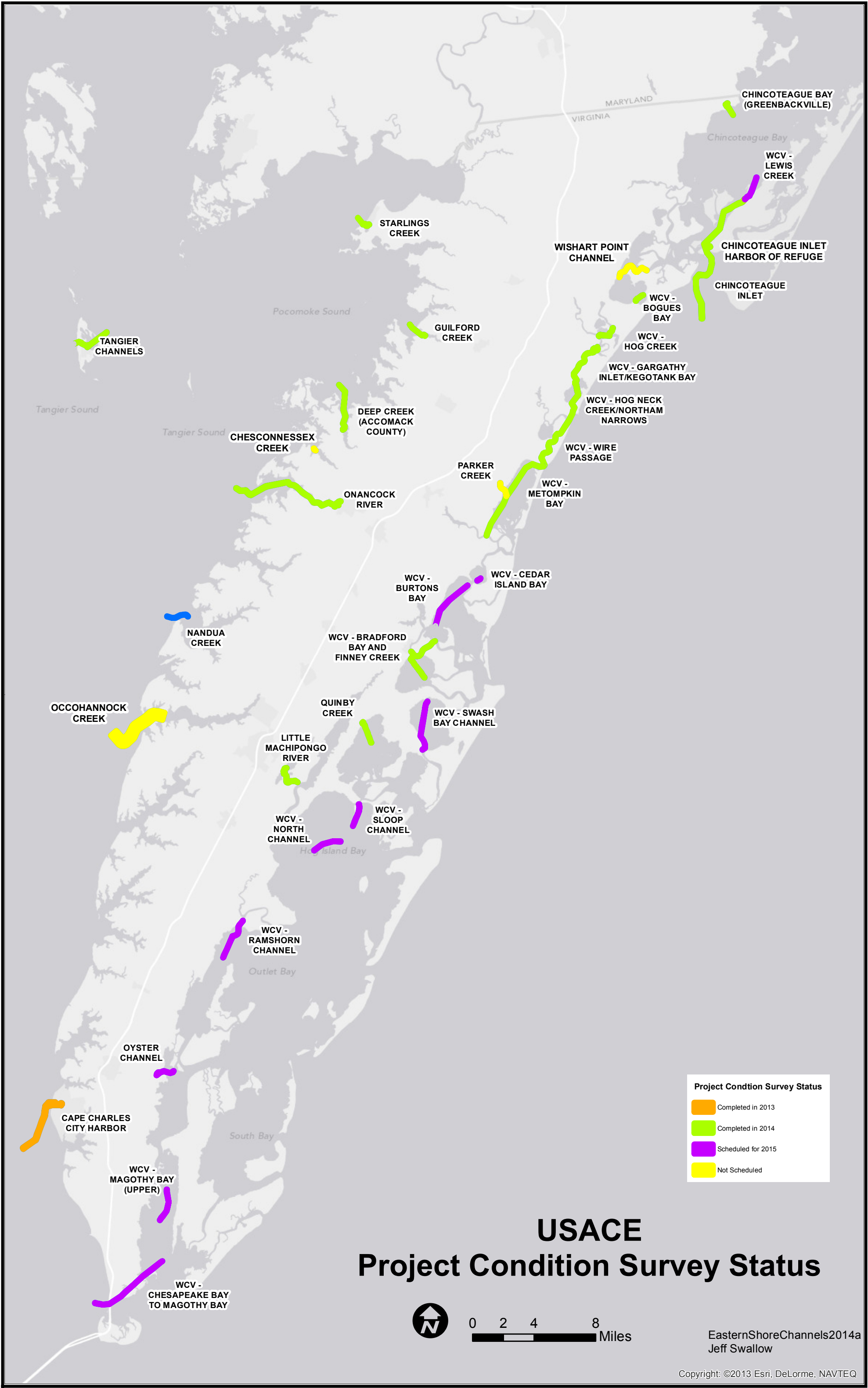
***B. Establish a baseline to start future work efforts on the project should additional project funding be provided in future Federal appropriations,***

***C. Preserve and/or restore survey control along the waterway that may have been lost during Hurricane Sandy,***

***D. Explore potential leverage of other agencies funds during this work effort.***

*Corps of Engineers Norfolk District  
Controlling Depths for Federal Channels with Available Data  
VA Eastern Shore Navigation Partnership Meeting  
January 22, 2015*

Project	Reach	Completed	Width (Feet)	Length (Mile)	Depth (Feet)	LEFT OUTSIDE QUARTER (feet)	Middle Half OR 80% of Project Width	RIGHT OUTSIDE QUARTER (feet)	Notes
CHINCOTEAGUE BAY (GREENBACKVILLE)	Chincoteague Bay (Greenbackville)	2014	60	0.8	5	5		2.5	
CAPE CHARLES CITY HARBOR	Cherrystone Inlet	2013	1000	0.6	18	18	10.0	11.5	12.3
	Cape Charles City Harbor	2013	1000	0.6	18	18	5.7	14.4	13.8
	Mud Creek	2013	180	0.1	10	10		2.3	
	Entrance to Harbor of Refuge	2013	60	0.1	7	7	5.4	6.0	5.3
	Harbor of Refuge	2013	250	0.1	7	7		6.0	
CHINCOTEAGUE INLET	Entrance Channel	2014	200	1.2	12	12	12.5	13.5	13.7
	Inner Channel	2014	100	6.4	9	9	7.2	7.1	5.9
CHINCOTEAGUE HARBOR OF REFUGE	Harbor of Refuge	2014	235	0.1	8	8		6.2	
CHESCONNESSEX CREEK	Chesconnessex Creek	Not Funded							
DEEP CREEK (ACCOMACK COUNTY)	Creek Channel	2014	75	2.5	7	7		2.2	
	Turning Basin	2014	200	0.1	7	7		1.1	
GUILFORD CREEK	Guilford Creek Channel	2014	60	1	6	6		2.4	
	Turning Basin	2014	100	0.03	6	6		3.7	
LITTLE MACHIPONGO RIVER	Little Machipongo River Channel	2014	80	1.5	8	8			
	Little Machipongo River Turning Basin	2014	225	0.1	8	8			
NANDUA CREEK	Nandua Creek	2014	60	1.3	6	9		6.2	
OCCOHANNOCK CREEK	Occhohannock Creek	Not Funded							
ONANCOCK RIVER	Channel from Mouth to Onancock	2014	200	5.9	12	12	3.5	9.6	8.7
	Anchorage Basin at Mouth of Titlow Creek	2014	0	0	6	6		4.2	No dimensions - 4.0 Acres in size, trapezoidal shape
	Turning Basin at Onancock	2014	0	0	12	12		10.3	No dimensions - 0.7 Acres in size, triangular shape
	Channel in North Branch	2014	130	0.2	12	12	6.9	7.4	7.5
	Basin in North Branch	2014	180	0	12	12		8.4	
	Channel in Joynes Branch	2014	100	0.1	6	6	3.6	4.5	3.3
OYSTER CHANNEL	Oyster Creek Channel	2015	80	0.8	6	6			
	Oyster Creek Turning Basin	2015	400	0.2	6	6			
PARKER CREEK	Parker Creek	Not Funded	40	0.8	5	5			
QUINBY CREEK	Quinby Creek Entrance Channel	2014	80	1	8	8		0.6	
	Quinby Creek Channel	2014	60	0.1	8	8		0.6	
	Quinby Creek Turning Basin	2014	200	0.1	8	8		2.2	
STARLINGS CREEK	Entrance Channel	2014	60	0.4	7	7		1.5	
	Turning Basin	2014	100	0.2	7	7		2.0	
	Channel to Harbor of Refuge	2014	60	0.05	7	7		1.5	
	Harbor of Refuge	2014	200	0.09	7	7		1.9	
TANGIER CHANNELS	Entrance Channel	2014	100	0.3	8	8		7.4	
	Channel	2014	60	0.9	8	8		3.9	
	Basin	2014	400	0	7	7		5.9	
	Channel	2014	60	0.7	7	7		5.8	
WCV - LEWIS CREEK	Lewis Creek Channel	2015	60	1.3	6	6			
WCV - BOGUES BAY	Bogues Bay Channel	2014	60	0.5	6	6		1.7	
WCV - BOGUES BAY TO HOG CREEK CONNECTING WATERS	Bogues Bay to Hog Creek Connecting Waters	2014							
WCV - HOG CREEK	Hog Creek Channel	2014	60	1	6	66		+0.4	
WCV - HOG NECK CREEK TO HOG CREEK CONNECTING WATERS	Hog Neck Creek to Hog Creek Connecting Waters	2014							
WCV - HOG NECK CREEK/NORTHAM NARROWS	Hog Neck Creek/Northam Narrows Channels	2014	60	2.5	6	6		+1.1	
WCV - GARGATHY INLET/KEGOTANK BAY	Kegotank Bay Channel	2014	60	1.5	6	6		+2.9	
	Gargathy Inlet Channel	2014	60	1.3	6	6		+6.2	
WCV - WIRE PASSAGE	Wire Passage Channel	2014	60	2.8	6	6		+6.8	
WCV - METOMPKIN BAY	Metompkin Bay Channel	2014	60	5	6	6		+5.7	
WCV - CEDAR ISLAND BAY	Cedar Island Bay Channel	2015	60	0.2	6	6			
WCV - BURTONS BAY	Burttons Bay Channel	2015	60	2.8	6	6			
WCV - BRADFORD BAY AND FINNEY CREEK	Bradford Bay Channel	2014	60	5.5	6	6		5.1	
	Finney Creek Channel	2014	60	0.2	6	6		5.5	
WCV - SWASH BAY CHANNEL	Swash Bay Channel	2015	60	27	6	6			
WCV - SLOOP CHANNEL	Sloop Channel	2015	60	1.2	6	6			
WCV - NORTH CHANNEL	North Channel	2015	60	1.5	6	6			
WCV - RAMSHORN CHANNEL	Ramshorn Channel	2015	60	2.3	6	6			
WCV - MAGOTHY BAY (UPPER)	Magothy Bay Channel	2015	60	1.7	6	6			
WCV - CHESAPEAKE BAY TO MAGOTHY BAY	Chesapeake Bay to Magothy Bay Channel	2015	100	4.3	6	6			
WISHART POINT CHANNEL	Wishart Point Channel	Not Funded							



Virginia Eastern Shore Navigation Partnership  
Status of Corps Work Efforts  
For 22 January 2015 Meeting

Project Name	Authorization Summary	Location	Nature of Work	Funding Source	Cost Share Partner	Status	Next Milestone
Cape Charles City Harbor	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Cape Charles	Dredging	Corps Appropriation, Hurricane Sandy	NA	First contract XXXXx	
Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Material, Cedar Island	Continuing Authorities Program, Sec 204	Cedar Island	Planning Study	Continuing Authorities Program	TBD	Field work not started, but Federal Interest Determination Report underway	Complete Federal Interest Determination Report
Chincoteague Coast Guard Station	Corps working for USCG as work for others project	Chincoteague	Maintenance Dredging	USCG/DHS	NA	preparing technical P&S package	RTA February 2015
Chincoteague Harbor of Refuge	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Chincoteague	None				
Chincoteague Inlet	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Chincoteague	Maintenance Dredging				
Project Condition surveys	Federal (Corps) Navigation	Various	See handout				
Quinby Creek	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Quinby	Maintenance Dredging				
Starlings Creek	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Saxis	Maintenance Dredging	Corps Appropriation, Hurricane Sandy	NA	First contract XXXXx	
Tangier Channels	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Tangier	Dredging				
Wallops Island Shoreline		Wallops Island	Beach construction				
Waterway on the Coast of Virginia	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Wachapreague	Dredging Route 1 into Wachapreague	Corps Appropriation, Hurricane Sandy	NA	Complete	
Waterway on the Coast of Virginia	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Wachapreague	Dredging Route 2 into Wachapreague	Corps Appropriation, Hurricane Sandy	NA		
Waterway on the Coast of Virginia	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Northern Segment	Comprehensive survey	Corps Appropriation, Hurricane Sandy	NA	Field work complete, mapping underway	Final Maps to be posted on ESDS soon
Waterway on the Coast of Virginia	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Center Segment	Comprehensive survey	Corps Appropriation, Hurricane Sandy	NA	Field work complete, mapping underway	Final Maps to be posted on ESDS soon
Waterway on the Coast of Virginia	Federal (Corps) Navigation Channel, O&M Phase	Southern Segment	Comprehensive survey	Corps Appropriation, Hurricane Sandy	NA	Field work not started, but task order awarded	Start field data collection



# NAVIGATION PARTNERSHIP FOR VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

*"A UNIFIED VOICE FOR NAVIGATION, PROJECT PRIORITIZATION, AND THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF WATERBORNE COMMERCE ON VA'S EASTERN SHORE."*

**EASTERN SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER - ROOM 130  
29300 LANKFORD HIGHWAY  
MELFA, VA 23410**

**JANUARY 22, 2015  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

## **ANTICIPATED TOPICS FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **THE LATEST NEWS ON FUNDING FOR DREDGING**

#### **CORPS OF ENGINEERS UPDATES ON FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL PROJECTS:**

**CHINCOTEAGUE INLET  
ONANCOCK RIVER  
SAXIS' STARLINGS CREEK PROJECT  
TANGIER CHANNELS  
CHANNELS NEAR AND INTO WACHAPREAGUE  
QUINBY CREEK  
WILLIS WHARF HARBOR  
CAPE CHARLES  
VIRGINIA INSIDE PASSAGE – WCV  
CONDITION SURVEYS ON VA'S EASTERN SHORE**

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE INPUT:**

**SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS FOR NAVIGATION  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOLUTIONS  
PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE DREDGING NEEDS  
ACCURATE DATA ON HOW PROJECTS ARE CURRENTLY BEING USED**

#### **TRENDS IN POLICIES AND PREPARING FOR FUTURE SUCCESS**

**DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS  
INNOVATIVE FUNDING TECHNIQUES**

#### **\*UPDATED PRIORITY LIST FOR EASTERN SHORE NAVIGATION PROJECTS\***

**HOSTED BY ACCOMACK AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES  
WITH THE  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NORFOLK DISTRICT**



**Post-Meeting Follow Up Action**

**Information Sample**

**Norfolk District Submittal for FY2015 Regional Sediment Management Proposal**

**NOT FUNDED**

**District:** Norfolk

**Initiative Title:** Lower Chesapeake Bay RSM

**Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF):** The Norfolk District seeks FY15 funding to examine combinations of Corps and local cost share sponsor navigation and shoreline projects to determine if the cost of an overall managed program is less than the total of individual stand alone projects.

**1) Background:** The Norfolk District has a number of active dredging efforts on-going during the current fiscal year: Dredging for Norfolk and Baltimore Harbor Channels, Super Storm Sandy recovery projects, and several shallow draft dredging efforts. Some of these projects have not been dredged in many years and require the Norfolk District to re-evaluate prior dredged material placement strategies and in some cases obtain new dredged material placement sites. In addition to regular maintenance dredging the District staff is aware of many cases of severe shoreline erosion and some cases where sand has drifted and accreted significantly enough to cause problems.

**2) Regional Framework:** The Norfolk District would like to investigate sediment movements within a regional framework to investigate project combinations to better manage sediments within the lower bay and possibly solve problems associated with erosion and accretion.

**3) Leveraging Opportunities:**

Partnering Program/Initiative	Leveraging Potential
O&M General	Beneficial uses of dredged material
O&M, CAP, GI	Island Restoration, Craney Island Eastward Expansion Conversion of Habitat
Corps, Community, and local sponsor concerns	Willoughby Shoreline Anoxic Trough Habitat Shoreline changes Lynnhaven River Basin
Prior work efforts	Western Shore Section 22 Studies 933 Studies Shallow Draft Navigation Pilot Projects Beneficial Use Strategies Analyze historic mapping to identify whether lower bay islands have vanished over time
Superstorm Sandy Recovery	Opportunities at several existing O&M navigation projects
Corps Regulatory Program	Data availability of current and prior shoreline projects

**4) Stakeholder Participation:** Some stakeholder groups are formal and legally organized large groups. Others are ad hoc formed by interested parties in small communities. Stakeholder participation will be solicited through PDT contacts and involvement on individual projects to take advantage of existing relationships.

**5) Accomplishments to Date:** This is a new RSM effort. But presentation of prior RSM efforts in Mathews County has increased community awareness of regional efforts.

Completion of FY14 work efforts were slowed due to delays in awarding an engineering services contract. Some of the work intended to be awarded under a task order to this contract will now be performed by ERDC.

**6) Sediment Moved:** Typical quantities removed by the Norfolk District on the component projects varies greatly from year to year. But with recent Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts the amount of material has increased sharply to several million cubic yards over the last year. Unfortunately, the trend in the shallow draft program is for less funding. This results in lower volume of material removed.

**7) Proposed FY15 Tasks:** The purpose of the FY2015 activities would be to develop and communicate an understanding of the sediment transport processes and the sediment management problems in the region:

<b>Task 1: DEVELOP A SEDIMENT TREND EVALUATION</b> <b>Description:</b> Obtain historic maps and overlay with present day mapping to observe trends in shoreline changes, quantify rough orders of magnitude for volumes of accretion and erosion. <b>Benefits:</b> To help identify target areas to concentrate the RSM efforts, identify system boundary. <b>Products:</b> GIS mapping for use in presentations and reports, quantity estimates.
<b>Task 2: IDENTIFY POSSIBLE PROJECT COMBINATIONS AND RISK ANALYSIS</b> <b>Description:</b> Team effort to match potential projects based on sediment characteristics (type and quantity), assign risk values on how difficult it would be to accomplish the desired plan <b>Benefits:</b> risk analysis may produce obvious project combinations that should be pursued or eliminated <b>Products:</b> Matrix of alternatives and combinations
<b>Task 3: DEVELOP COST ESTIMATES FOR STANDALONE PROJECTS AND PROJECT COMBINATIONS</b> <b>Description:</b> Prepare comparative cost estimates to determine if cost of an overall managed program is less than the sum of individual projects <b>Benefits:</b> Necessary to communicate results, present a plan to and obtain commitment from stakeholders and project users. <b>Products:</b> Addition of costs into matrix produced as part of Task 2
<b>Task 4: REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION</b> <b>Description:</b> Documentation of progress, lessons learned participation in RSM Workshop and IPR. Technical Note. <b>Benefits:</b> This effort will serve as the documentation for future efforts, accessible by others for lessons learned and preparing future RSM proposals <b>Products:</b> Quarterly reports, yearend letter report, travel costs, Technical Note