

## Advancing Resiliency in Virginia’s Coastal Zone by Supporting Climate-Adaptive Nearshore Natural & Nature-Based Restoration Projects – Phase 1: York River, Piankatank River & Mobjack Bay

### Product #1 – Restoration Site Selection

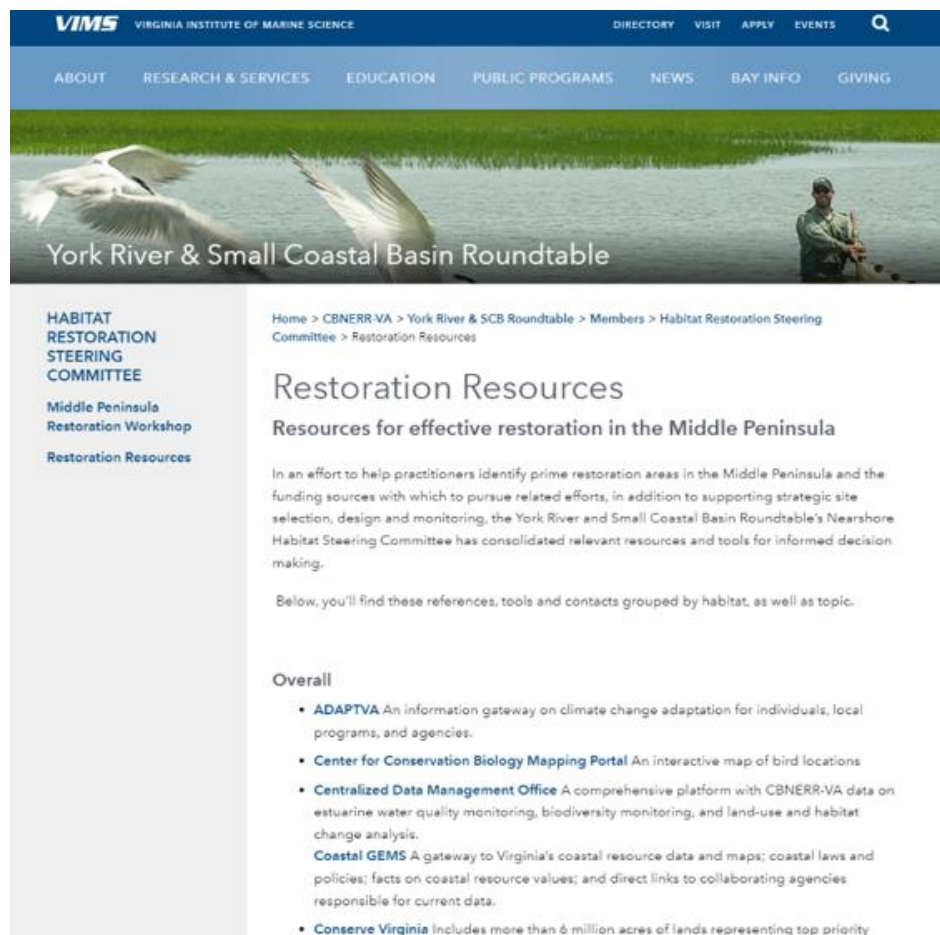
Following six meetings in 2020 and 2021, some of which were held in concert with NOAA’s Chesapeake Bay Office (leads of the York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable’s [Nearshore Habitat Steering Committee](#), the project’s target audience), the project team (Gonzalez, Reay, Lerberg, Hardaway) determined that identifying discrete sites suitable for restoration was neither the most effective, nor enduring, approach toward site selection in the project geography for the target audience. An alternative, centralized approach consisting of a resource inventory, was thought to achieve similar objectives as the approach initially proposed. Specifically, a resource inventory would allow for greater flexibility and increased potential to embed sustainability within any future site selection process. The resulting [inventory of resources](#) was developed with input from the [York River and Small Coastal Basin](#)

[Roundtable](#)  
[Nearshore Habitat](#)  
[Restoration Steering](#)  
[Committee](#) and

vetting from the participants of the Middle Peninsula Restoration Workshop (Product #2). By developing a one-stop-shop for regional restoration resources that local practitioners could access, the project team recognized it could leverage existing tools, and help drive visibility toward them, helping practitioners identify their own sites given their respective capacities and allowances.

As a part of this inventory, the project team developed site selection guidance,

Figure 1. Resource inventory screen capture; click to access inventory.

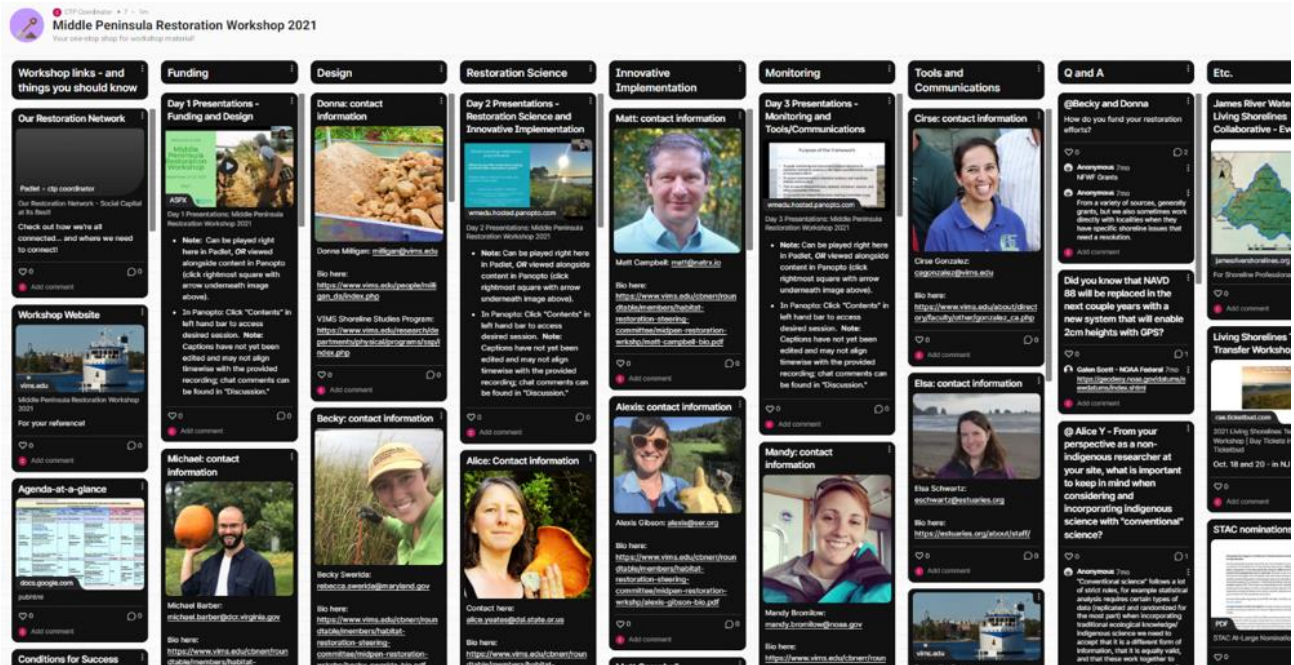


entitled “[Restoration Project Review and Selection Criteria](#).” This document is intended to offer criteria and considerations in site selection and was utilized in the selection of the site for the restoration design component of this project, outlined below (Product #3). The resource inventory is available at: <https://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/roundtable/members/habitat-restoration-steering-committee/restoration-resources/index.php>

### Product #2 – Workshop for a York-Piankatank-Mobjack Bay Community of Practice

In concert with NOAA’s Chesapeake Bay Office (leads of the York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable’s [Nearshore Habitat Restoration Steering Committee](#), the project’s target audience), and with the support of Green Fin Studio (contracted by NOAA to support the YRSCB Roundtable), the project manager (Gonzalez) developed and led a [Middle Peninsula Restoration Workshop](#), held virtually on the mornings of September 21-23, 2021. The objectives of this workshop were to provide a forum for knowledge exchange and networking, supporting the local restoration community of practice in their respective efforts through peer-to-peer exchange, idea generation, and discussion of opportunities and challenges. Approximately 50 coastal practitioners participated in the workshop over the course of three days. Workshop content, including select presentation slides and example activities, can be found here: <https://padlet.com/ctpcordinatorcbnerr/midpenrestoworkshop>. Key results, conclusions and next steps from the workshop, [detailed here](#), were reported to, and discussed by, the Nearshore Habitat Restoration Steering Committee. Subsequent discussions have since fostered forward movement on activities with collective support, e.g. pursuit of funding for a community-based restoration monitoring feasibility study, and a regional wetlands plan.

Figure 2. Restoration workshop Padlet, screen capture; click to access Padlet.





**Virginia Coastal Zone**  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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