



Building Chickahominy Tribal Community Capacity to Create a Coastal Resilience Plan

MAWWG-NEBAWWG Joint Conference

11/13/24

Agenda

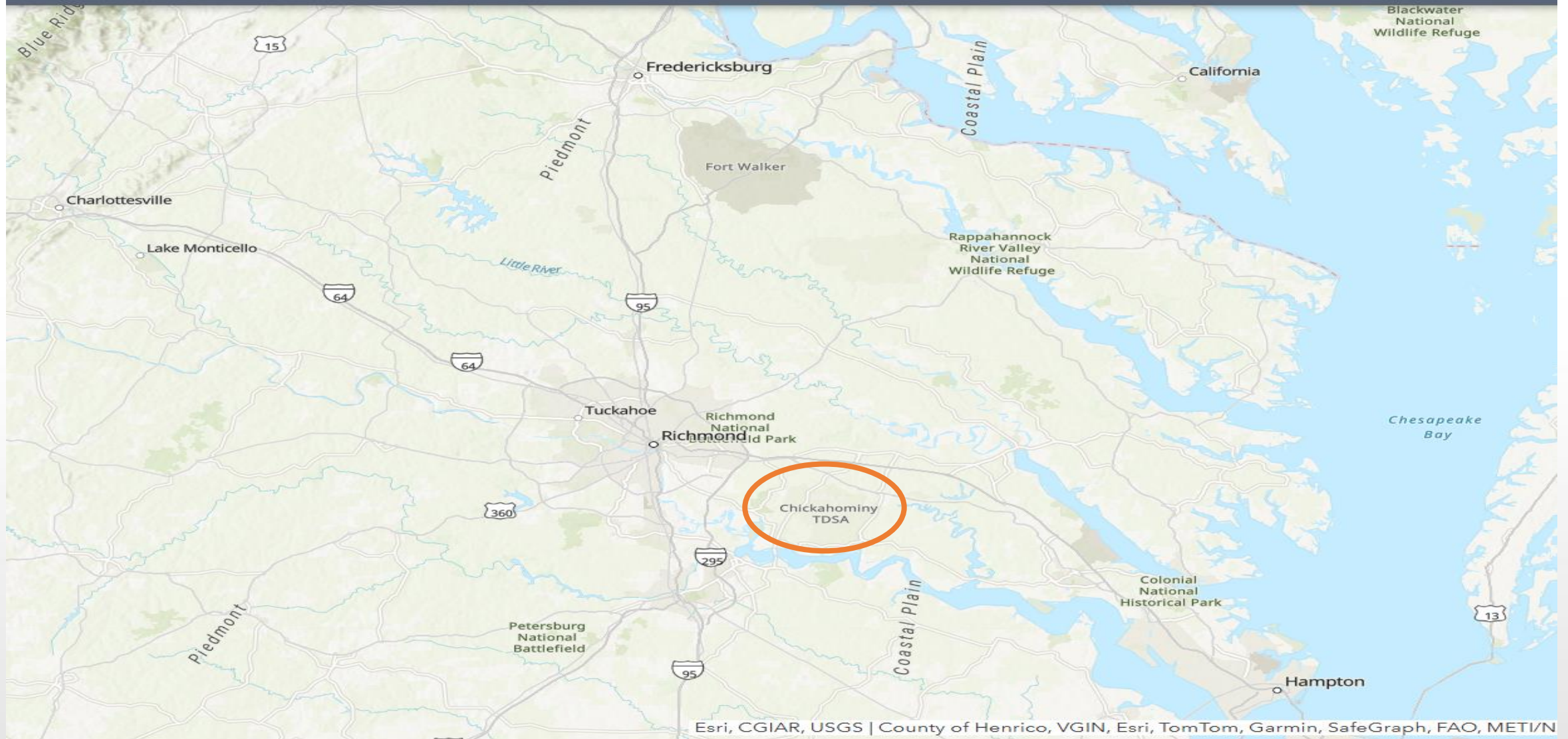
- Brief History of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Overview of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – National Coastal Resilience Fund
- Description of Chickahominy properties of concern and work accomplished to date
- List of work to be completed and conclusion



This project is made possible through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with support from Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences.

Where We Are

National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center



Modern History

- **The Chickahominy Indian Tribe reorganized around 1901, with Samaria Indian Baptist Church serving as an important focal point for the community**
- **State recognition in 1983; Federal recognition in 2018**
- **Today the majority of Chickahominy citizens are clustered in Charles City and New Kent Counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia between the James, Chickahominy, and Pamunkey Rivers**
- **The community has ~ 1000 enrolled citizens**
- **Riverine ecosystems constituted Chickahominy people's livelihood in the past and remain cultural and spiritual touchstones in the present**



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – National Coastal Resilience Fund

Goal: to enhance protection for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural coastal hazards and to improve habitats for fish and wildlife.

- Focused on Nature-Based Solutions with a Community Resilience and Fish & Wildlife benefits
- 4 Independent Pipelines:
 - Community Capacity Building and Planning
 - Site Assessment and Preliminary Design
 - Final Design and Permitting
 - Restoration Implementation

Properties Being Assessed

Mamanahunt



- The parcel on the Chickahominy River is 830 acres with approximately 5 miles of shoreline and approximately 380 acres of wetland
- Includes cropland (approx. 130 acres), woodland (approx. 427 acres), food plots, waterfowl impoundments, and approximately 383 acres of tidal creek and riparian river habitats, including tidal and non-tidal cypress swamps, that, together with other wetlands, comprise the marsh complex and connect the wetlands to open water reaches

Chickahominy on the Powhatan



- The James River parcel is 105 acres with approximately 0.5 miles of shoreline
- East and west boundaries comprised of freshwater tidal forested and emergent wetlands
- 20 – 30' bluffs on some parts of the shoreline; with evidence of treefall risk throughout

Capacity Built So Far

- Tribal Environmental Office was 1 person from 2018 – August 2023: Environmental Director Dana Adkins
 - Now: Environmental Project Manager, Air Quality Specialist, and Land & Facilities Technician
- Project Manager has received FAA part 107 license to operate drone
- TEO staff licensed to operate boat
- GIS training provided to Chickahominy staff and community by Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) and Virginia Commonwealth University's Rice Rivers Center (VCU-RRC)



Shoreline/Property Assessments

- Aaron Wendt of the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation – Shoreline Assessment Advisory Service (DCR-SEAS) has visited the shorelines of Mamanahunt and Chickahominy on the Powhatan with the Project Manager and Land & Facilities Technician
 - Initial observations show relatively stable erosion rates at both properties; with some exceptions at certain areas
- Technicians Mike Mansolino and Todd Lutte of EPA Region 3's Field Services Branch of the Division of Lab Services and Applied Science performed a land assessment on both properties in April
 - They assisted in the identification of aquatic resources, such as streams and wetlands that exist on the Tribe's property and provided an inventory of plants occurring on their lands, with a focus on invasive species, and made suggestions for control



Work to be Done

- Continue to map species using Field Maps application and map bathymetry with boat
- Organize field trips to both properties for the Chickahominy citizens
- Work with Pamunkey Indian Enterprises to develop a video for the citizens describing their relationship and history with their natural resources
- Continue to work with Tribal Council, Administration, and the citizen led Natural Resources Management Working Group to develop the final Chickahominy Coastal Resilience Plan
- Pursue funding to develop an EPA approved Wetland Program Plan

Kenah!

(Thank You)

Thank you to all the partners on this project:

- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation*
- Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences*
- VCU's Rice Rivers Center*
- VA Department of Conservation and Recreation – Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service*
- Kenah Consulting*
- EPA Region 3*