



Coastal States Organization
2025 Fall Member Meeting
October 27-30, 2025
[Register here.](#)

[The Grand Hotel](#)
[1045 Beach Avenue](#)
[Cape May, NJ 08204](#)

(To book your reservation, call 1-800-257-8550 or click [here](#) and use reference code 721254.)

CSO Business Meeting (Members Only)	Monday, October 27	9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. ET
CSO Meeting (Members AM; Members & Guests: PM)	Tuesday, October 28	8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. ET
Field Visit (Members & Guests)	Wednesday, October 29	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. ET
CSO Meeting (Members & Guests)	Thursday, October 30	8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

“COASTAL MANAGEMENT: FLEXIBILITY IN MANAGEMENT”

THEMES:

- 1) Building and developing new partnerships*
- 2) Defining CZM Program “identity” with less Federal support*

Monday Oct 27 (Members Only)

8:00-9:00 **Breakfast**

9:00-9:10 **Welcome and logistics**

9:10-10:30 **Extended Intros**

- Each member share a 1-2 minute highlight from the state.

10:30-10:45 **Break**

10:45-12:00 **CSO work updates**

- CSO Staff work (work groups and projects)
- Chair’s initiative: communication efforts (*CSO Staff Lead: Rebecca*)

- CSSF updates
- Fellow updates

12:00-12:45 **CSO Business**

- Fall Meeting Minutes **VOTE**
- Regional Rep election results
- Treasurer's report
 - 2025 Budget v. Actuals
 - 2026 Budget **VOTE**

12:45-1:45 **Lunch** (provided)

1:45-4:00 **Federal Update & Discussions**

Available for all CSO members, online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83410737429>

- Federal Funding update and issues
 - FY27 Appropriations request **VOTE**
- Executive Orders/Regulations
- Federal bureaucracy changes (FEMA, NOAA, etc.)
- *Review and discussion of key developing federal issues*

4:00-4:15 **Break**

4:15-5:30 **Regional and Member Updates**

- What are the regional concerns/challenges each region is facing?
- What are the challenges we expect to face in the next 6 months?
 - Are there regional differences?
 - What are the messages to address these?
 - How do we shift priorities and capacity to address this?

5:30 **Adjourn**

5:30-6:30 **Happy Hour – On Site**

Dinner on your own

Tuesday A.M., Oct 28 (Members Only; *Invited Guests join in the afternoon*)

7:30-8:30 **Breakfast**

8:30-10:30 **Finding other funding sources: A 2-part session**

- **Part 1: State funding options for Coastal Zone Management** - How state CZMPs can diversify funding and/or influence other coastal funding. (aka. "How to scrap for funding.")
Presentations from State CZM programs:
 - Royalties
 - License Plate
 - Mitigation Funds

- State Transportation funds

Discussion: Other ways states are funded? How can you build out state funding efforts?

- **Part 2: Building a multi-year campaign for dedicated federal funding.**

Presentation on previous dedicated funding campaign.

Discussion: Vision setting:

- What's the policy?
- What power do we need to build?

Next steps

10:30-11:30 **Break**

11:00-12:00 **Supporting Communities**

Discussion: How we might leverage grant infrastructure and outreach tactics to better support communities, with a focus on terminologies.

12:00-1:00: **Lunch** (provided for CSO members)

Tuesday PM, Oct 28 (Members & Invited Guests)

1:15-1:25 **Guest Intros**

1:25-1:45 **Land/Coastline ancestral acknowledgement**

National Coastal Issues with a Jersey Shore/Mid-Atlantic perspective:

1:45-4:15 **How NJ Does Coastal Resilience**

A multi-part session that looks at advancing resilience through project implementation, planning, relocation, and regulatory.

- **Keynote on NJ integrated Coastal Resilience – Nick Angarone**

How the Chief Resilience Officer role came to be, how it links to the CMP; and then an overview of the state's multifaceted approach to resilience - projects, planning, BA, regulatory reform.

- **Coastal Resilience Projects:**

Presentations:

- Delaware Bay Restoration Project – BIL Funded project. Bought out projects, using FEMA, and NOAA. Buy-outs via restoration.
- BIL Mullica River Oyster Restoration – NJ F&W using BIL, shell-recycling; creating partnerships that have been challenging elsewhere – Oysterman, Rutgers; maybe expand into Barnegat Bay. How to foster partnerships.

3:00-3:15 **Break**

- **Coastal Resilience Planning & Climate Driven Coastal Relocation**

Presentations:

- Resilient NJ Program – planning assistance program, combining HUD, NOAA, CZ funding
- NJ Blue Acres Program

4:15- 5:15 **Sediment Management**

A continuation of on-going CSO member discussion on the best ways to plan, permit and implement BUDM projects, looking at case studies from NJ and elsewhere.

- Sediment Management; Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM) – (2-3 NJ examples, 1-2 other state/usace district examples; CSO Member Lead: Quinn; CSO Staff lead: John)
 - Working with USACE
 - Post-Sandy beach/dune work
 - NJCRC/BURT – future of sediment management planning in NJ
 - Regional Sediment Management Framework for NJ Back Bays
 - Seven Mile Innovation Lab- Wetlands/USACE/NJDEP

5:15-5:30 **Closing remarks on NJ Resilience and Field Trip prep**

TBD **Group Dinner** *[likely Tuesday, possibly Wednesday]*

Wednesday Oct 29: Field Trip (Members & Invited Guests)

8:30-9:30 **Breakfast**

9:45 Bus departs from **Grand Hotel of Cape May** ([1045 Beach Ave, Cape May](#))

10:00-11:30 **Pond Creek Restoration - Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area** ([Sunset Blvd entrance](#))

The Pond Creek Marsh Restoration Project is a 290-acre site fully encompassed by the [Higbee Beach WMA](#) in Lower Township and the Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County. The project site consists of the former Harbison-Walker magnesite facility and associated landfill, Davey's Lake, and the majority of Pond Creek marsh.

The principal project goal is to reestablish tidal inundation to a large portion of Pond Creek Marsh without increasing the flood risk to the upper watershed or inundating the eastern freshwater marsh area, and allowing for habitat management of the northern marsh area. Achieving these goals will require modification of the inlet channel to allow sufficient tidal flushing, developing a network of secondary and tertiary channels to assist tidal flow into the interior of the marsh, excavating deep flood pools for fish habitat, and creating upland islands for shorebirds. An earthen berm will be constructed around much of the perimeter of the marsh, which will provide access to wildlife observation blinds and contribute to a trail system encircling the marsh.

11:30-11:45 Travel to Cape May Point Arts & Science Center

- 11:45-1:15 **Lunch** (provided) at **Cape May Point Arts & Science Center** ([101 Lehigh Ave, Cape May Point](#))
- 11:45-12:15 Arrive, grab lunch
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch presentation, potential topics:
- History of Cape May Point Arts & Science Center (building & grounds)
 - Highlight research project (monarch tagging, horseshoe crab radio tags, shorebird telemetry)
 - [Cape May & pathway to freedom for enslaved people](#)
- The Cape May Point Arts and Science Center (The Center) stands nestled among the dune grasses at New Jersey's southernmost point, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Delaware Bay, creating one of the country's most vital and biodiverse ecosystems.*
- In the middle of the Atlantic flyway, Cape May Point is a renowned ecological intersection of marine, insect, and avian species. Within a few square miles, you can experience the beauty and wonder of the world's biggest butterfly migration, the largest concentration of one of the world's oldest creatures, horseshoe crabs, and critical habitat of migratory birds, including raptors like hawks, owls, and eagles. Devoted to environmental protection, restoration, and conservation throughout the region, The Center advances its mission by providing unique opportunities and funding for advocacy, education, and research.*
- The Center has found its home in the 38,000 square-foot Victorian structure that debuted as the Shoreham Hotel in 1889. In 1909, It became Saint Mary by-the-Sea, the summer retreat house for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia. Lovingly maintained by the Sisters for more than 100 years, The Center would not be possible without their preservation of the building and dedicated stewardship of nature. With widespread community support, and under the leadership of top researchers and scientists, The Center builds on Cape May Point's century-and-a-half-long legacy of providing a restorative backdrop for recreational, spiritual, and educational retreats.*
- 1:15-2:00 **Cape May Point State Park** ([Light House Ave, Cape May](#))
3 minute walk from Cape May Point Arts & Science Center.
- [MyCoast](#) photo station ([beach access ramp by South Shelter](#))
 - [Lighthouse](#) (\$15 entry to climb)
 - Nature Center & Museum
 - [Cape May Bird Observation Deck](#)
 - Walking trails ([description & trail map](#))
- 2:00-2:15 Travel to South Cape May Meadows
- 2:15 – 4:00 **South Cape May Meadows** ([692 Sunset Blvd, Cape May](#))

- Meet in the Preserve parking lot at Sunset Blvd entrance; picnic tables and benches under pergola to gather
- Intro talk by Damon Noe, TNC Southern NJ Preserve Steward
- Walk 1-1.5-mile trail, including accessible board walk trail

*From the mid-late 1800s to the 1940s, South Cape May was a populous vacation town complete with hotels, tourist attractions and a railroad. Over time, storms eroded the land, and a deep-water canal built offshore intensified the advance inland of the Atlantic Ocean's salt water. By 1944 the town was fully abandoned and for the next 50 years, South Cape May's natural systems wore down and failed, worsening community flooding. Without grazing, the area was vulnerable to the common and highly invasive marsh reed, *Phragmites australis*, which quickly overtook the wetland and meadow habitats. South Cape May Meadows was restored to natural harmony in 2007, and today boasts healthy dunes, reconnected freshwater wetlands with an innovative management system and one mile of protected sandy beach.*

4:15 Bus to return to **Grand Hotel of Cape May** ([1045 Beach Ave, Cape May](#))

5:15 Carpool to **Sunset Beach** ([502 Sunset Blvd, Cape May](#)), optional but encouraged

Join us for one of the most iconic places in New Jersey to enjoy sunset on the horizon at Sunset Beach. Sunset is at 6:11 p.m.

Dinner on your own.

Thursday AM, Oct 30 (Members & Invited Guests)

7:30-8:30 **Breakfast**

8:30-9:00 **Reflecting on the field trip exercise**

9:00-9:45 **Coastal Relocation:** How might states and territories step up to prepare communities for coastal population shifts. *CSO and NWF led discussion on supporting community relocation efforts*

9:45-10:45 **Highlighting CZMP work with business sector and economic development:**
Review of CZM partners letter & survey – who are the influential voices for CZM and how did those relationships get developed.

- Aquaculture and seafood
- Tourism
- Ports
- Working Waterfronts

10:45-11:00 **Break**

11:00-12:30 **Training and career development in Coastal Management**
Workshop / skill-share session

How might CZMPs continue to train and grow the coastal workforce? How have they used and supported fellowship programs and training programs? What's needed to make sure young coastal professionals develop and stay in coastal management?

12:30-1:00 **Wrap up: Defining CZM Program “identity” with less NOAA**

- Funding
- Training and Career Development
- Messaging/communication guidance

1pm **Lunch and Adjourn**

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