

Call for Stewardship Workgroup Chair

The [Stewardship Workgroup](#) of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) seeks a chair to lead and coordinate the workgroup, with support from the workgroup's co-chair (Suzanne Etgen, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy) and from staff. The Stewardship Workgroup is part of the [Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team](#), working to achieve commitments under the [2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#).

Stewardship Goal: Increase the number and diversity of local stewards (community members, residents) and local governments that actively support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams, rivers and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.

- **Stewardship Outcome:** Increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.

Primary Roles and Time Commitment

The Stewardship Workgroup is led by two co-chairs, and assisted/supported by a coordinator and staffer both housed in the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office. The coordinator and staffer work directly with all workgroups of the Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT), other GITs, and the Chesapeake Bay Program Office. Details of the GIT and workgroup operations at the Bay Program are outlined in the [Governance document](#).

The workgroup chair is expected to share responsibility for the following activities, in order to guide and facilitate the workgroup's actions, which are outlined in the [2-year action plan](#). The new co-chair will take a lead role, with support from the co-chair, the coordinator and staffer, and committee leads that may be assigned from the workgroup membership. The workgroup chair is guided by the GIT chair and the CBP leadership structure. The time commitment contributed in a year may be on average approximately 160 hours, though it may be more. This estimate is flexible and will vary depending on projects undertaken and how the work evolves. Rough estimates are given for each task below. The chair position will:

- Organize, attend and lead workgroup meetings (frequency to be determined, currently on an as-needed basis; time commitment estimate ~40+ hours per year);
- Help guide development and implementation of, as well as tracking/ reporting progress toward the workgroup's 2-year action plan (~15-20 hrs/yr);
- Communicate progress, challenges and needs regularly to GIT Chair(s), coordinator, and staffer (~10 hrs/yr); participate in preparing/presenting progress to the CBP leadership through the annual Strategy Review System (SRS) process and adaptive management activities (~20 hrs/yr);
- Assist in maintaining workgroup membership lists and communication with members (~5 hrs/yr);
- Help workgroup to develop project ideas and submit proposals via the annual GIT funding program opportunity, and assist with guiding and managing workgroup project(s) that are conducted by outside contractor(s) (~40+ hrs/yr);
- Contribute to developing messaging to public audiences about stewardship activities, opportunities, and progress, in coordination with CBP communications staff (~25 hrs/yr);
- Participate in GIT meetings as a means to communicate and coordinate with the other workgroups (1-2 meetings per year for all GIT members, tbd; and other occasional, optional events as they arise).

Importance of the Role

This is an opportunity to work with a broad team of partners within the Chesapeake Bay watershed representing a vast network of government and nongovernment entities, to have significant impact on shaping and achieving commitments to public stewardship, and to diversifying the people who participate in and benefit from these efforts. Workgroups within the Stewardship GIT will have increasing opportunities to interact and collaborate with each other and with other workgroups within the Bay Program, for collective impact that crosses among stewardship, education, land conservation and public access. It is an excellent means to gain experience working among a highly motivated network organization at a regional scale. There are benefits both to the individual serving in the position (e.g., career development) as well as to the agency or organization that they represent (contributing to achieving the organization's goals through partnerships).

The GITs and their respective workgroups strive to maintain a membership that is representative of the signatories to the Agreement and those that take leadership roles in the CBP structure (namely state and Federal agencies),

while empowering Advisory Committees and non-signatories such as nongovernment organizations and other partners. [The Chesapeake Bay Program partners](#) believe the full diversity of people who live, work and recreate in the Bay watershed have a right to benefit from, and help guide, the future of an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water and air, abundant fish and wildlife, conserved lands, access to the water and a vibrant cultural heritage. The Program partners share a renewed and strengthened commitment to embrace diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in all areas of the Chesapeake Bay Program to achieve its mission.

Who Should Apply

The Stewardship Workgroup chair is a **voluntary position** that serves without additional compensation. Due to the nature of the work and the time commitment, it is best if the chair is able to conduct the duties through their paid, professional position, as a part of their assigned duties. All applicants will be considered, however. Before applying, we recommend that applicants discuss the commitment within their workplace to determine availability to serve in this role. A one year minimum commitment is preferred; a limited term can be considered (such as a maximum of two years).

The person serving as chair should have skills/abilities/qualities such as:

- Knowledge of best practices in stewardship and related activities; experience leading on-the-ground stewardship programs preferred;
- Strong ability to organize, juggle multiple tasks, set and manage timelines to keep group efforts on task;
- Experience or demonstrated ability in leading and coordinating a group of people from varied professional settings and diverse backgrounds and interests;
- Understanding of collective impact and how to guide partners toward cooperative outcomes;
- Responsiveness to communications in a timely and effective manner (emails, progress reports, input on draft documents, etc.);
- Interest in and passion for engaging people in the Bay clean up and stewardship effort;
- Ability to connect actions and initiatives across various disciplines, with creative ideas.
- Selection of the chair position will reflect the Chesapeake Bay Program's guidelines for membership of the GITs and workgroups:
 - Broad and inclusive representation (e.g., signatories, advisory committees, key organizations; as well as reflective of the diversity of the watershed's residents);
 - Level of commitment (e.g., ability to attend meetings, willingness to participate in activities related to implementation of Management Strategies); and
 - Skills and perspectives (e.g., geographic diversity, expertise).

How to Express Interest

Candidates are encouraged to contact the following for more information:

- **Britt Slattery**, Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT 5) Coordinator, National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office (britt_slattery@nps.gov)
- **Olivia Wisner**, Chesapeake Bay Program Chesapeake Research Consortium, GIT 5 Staffer (wisnero@chesapeake.org)
- Suzanne Etgen, Current Co-Chair, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy (setgen@aacps.org)
- Kacey Wetzels, Recent Co-Chair, Chesapeake Bay Trust (kwetzels@cbtrust.org)
- Wendy O'Sullivan, Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team Co-Chair, National Park Service Chesapeake, Superintendent (wendy_osullivan@nps.gov)

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. After a selection process, including interviews (conducted virtually), the position is anticipated to begin late fall, 2021. **Please submit a self-nomination letter summarizing your interest and qualifications, along with a resume to Britt Slattery (britt_slattery@nps.gov).**