

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)
Proposal to Establish a Budget and Finance Workgroup
Chesapeake Bay Program
December 8, 2015

Workgroup Purpose: Support the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) in achieving the goals established in the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement by serving as a focal point for coordination, innovation, and accurate reporting related to budgeting and program finance.

Guiding Principles:

- The workgroup will have a defined set of responsibilities and work activities that will be reviewed and approved through the CBP management structure
- The workgroup will not infringe on the fiscal discretion of partners with regard to their organization's budgets and spending decisions

Scope

The following work categories are proposed for consideration as the workgroup's charge is developed:

Category 1: Chesapeake Watershed Agreement Support

- A. Tracking finance-related commitments in the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.
- B. Coordinating and facilitating a process for distribution of discretionary GIT Funding.
- C. Provide support and assistance to CBP partners related to sources of information useful in identifying funding for Work Plan activities and advocating for additional resources from key sources including but not limited to federal and jurisdiction sources.

Category 2: Innovation in Finance and Organizational Improvement

- A. Serving as a resource for stakeholders and the interested public on matters of funding and innovative environmental finance for Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and protection.
- B. Providing input on scope and implementation of CBP grant-funded projects focused on funding and financing issues.
- C. Promoting discussion among CBP partners about individual funding and opportunities for collaboration where needs are identified.

Category 3: Reporting and Communication

- A. Coordinating the appropriate partnership response to requests for accurate, consistently-reported budget and funding information to support partnership needs such as the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act (CBARA), work plans, and providing data needed to support the ChesapeakeStat suite of accountability products.
- B. Identifying opportunities for including and improving funding information in other CBP products.

Workgroup Development

- The workgroup should be part of GIT 6.

- The workgroup should be open to representatives of all CBP signatory partners and the advisory committees. It should also include experts in finance and budget management. The members should have a personal or professional interest in funding issues.

Next Steps

- Comments from GIT Chairs and heads-up to the Environmental Finance Center.
- Discussion with Management Board.
- Upon approval for the creation of a workgroup, the workgroup's first order of business would be deciding on which of the proposed activities would be most beneficial to the CBP followed by development of a workplan with clear objectives and linkages to CBP management strategies.