

Proposal to Establish a Budget and Finance Workgroup

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management GIT

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

- Defined set of responsibilities and work activities to be reviewed/approved through the CBP management structure
- Will not infringe on the fiscal discretion of partners with regard to their organization's budgets and spending decisions

Workgroup Scope

1. Chesapeake Watershed Agreement Support
2. Innovation in Finance and Organizational Improvement
3. Reporting and Communications

Workgroup Scope: 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.

Workgroup Scope: 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.

Workgroup Scope: Reporting and Communications

- **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.
- **Identifying opportunities** for including and improving funding information in other CBP products.

Development and Membership

- GIT 6 Workgroup
- Open to representatives of all CBP signatory partners and the advisory committees. Include experts in finance and budget management
- Members should have a personal or professional interest in funding issues

Next Steps

- MB Discussion/Approval
- Decide 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
- Recruit members with needed skills and interests