**GIT 6 Funding Workgroup Proposal**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 3 / Chesapeake Bay Program Office

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**Background**

* A wide range of stakeholders and interested parties consistently require detailed information about the availability and use of funds for improving the environmental quality of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
* The many approaches to funding protection and restoration efforts creates a complex system that, at present, lacks a central point of understanding and explanation.
* The incorporation of costs and, eventually, benefits into Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) planning tools increases the need for discussion among program partners to understand funding approaches and mechanisms.
* GIT 6 has considered the potential value of establishing a workgroup dedicated to funding issues and, in spring 2014, approved the creation of such a workgroup.

**Scope**

* The workgroup would have a defined set of responsibilities, possibly including…
  + Ensuring accuracy and quality of funding information in CBP products
  + Identifying opportunities for including and improving funding information in CBP products
  + Developing reports on Bay-related funding for internal uses and external release as appropriate
  + Reviewing and developing funding information for inclusion in the ChesapeakeStat suite of tools
  + Tracking finance-related commitments in the Bay Agreement
  + Establishing metrics for evaluating financial performance in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay watershed
  + Serving as a resource for stakeholders and the interested public on matters of funding for Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and protection
  + Reviewing proposals for GIT Focused Funding
  + Providing input on scope and implementation of CBP grant-funded projects focused on funding and financing issues

**Workgroup Development**

* The workgroup would be part of GIT 6.
* The workgroup should include representatives of all Bay watershed jurisdictions. The representatives should have a personal or professional interest in funding issues.
* The workgroup should be chaired by a GIT 6 member. Kevin DeBell will serve as coordinator of the workgroup.
* For its first year, the workgroup will not require funding. The workgroup should use the first half of fiscal year 2015 to determine what projects it wishes to undertake and if they will require funding.

**Next Steps**

* Upon approval for the creation of a workgroup, the workgroup’s first order of business should be developing a workplan with clear objectives and linkages to management strategies.