**Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)**

**Proposal to Establish a Budget and Finance Workgroup**

Chesapeake Bay Program

January 4, 2016

**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
* The workgroup will begin with the first priorities listed below and decide on additional work activities following the April 2016 Finance Symposium to ensure appropriate coordination with symposium outcomes

**Scope**

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

First priorities:

* helping to identify agencies

Other possible work activities (to be considered after the April 2016 Finance Symposium):

**Category 1:** Chesapeake Watershed Agreement Support

1. Tracking finance-related commitments in the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.
2. Coordinating and facilitating a process for distribution of discretionary GIT Funding.

**Category 2:** Innovation in Finance and Organizational Improvement

1. 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.
2. Providing input on scope and implementation of CBP grant-funded projects focused on funding and financing issues.
3. Promoting discussion among CBP partners about individual funding and opportunities for collaboration where needs are identified.

**Category 3:** Reporting and Communication

**Workgroup Development**

* The workgroup would structurally located under 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 (completed).
* Discussion with Management Board (ongoing).
* If consensus is reached on creation of a workgroup, the MB and GIT 6 would move forward with membership criteria and workgroup formation.
* Development of a workplan with clear objectives and linkages to CBP management strategies and the priorities listed above.