**FY15 GIT Funding Project Form**

**Goal Implementation Team: Habitat GIT**

**GIT Priority Ranking:**

**Proposal Tracking Number: (assigned prior to RFP release)**

**Table 1: Project Description**

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| **Project Title** | Prioritization and consensus-building of stream restoration issues across the Bay watershed to streamline project review and approval |
| **Project Category** | Other |
| **Goal/Outcome** | Stream Health |
| **Estimated Cost** | $65,000 |
| **Justification: Description of why this work is needed in support of a management strategy?** | Despite the approval of many stream restoration projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay watersheds, there are projects that encounter delays during the permit review process hindering, significantly in some cases, their implementation. Uncovering factors that are common to both the practitioner and regulator need to be overcome to address this barrier to implementation. Current documentation of permit issues focuses largely on Maryland and there is need to include other jurisdictions based on input received from practitioners and the regulatory community in other jurisdictions.. The current assessment of jurisdictions to meet their 2017 and 2025 WIP targets heightens the need to address these factors to implement projects that meet the sediment and nutrient loads reductions necessary to improve stream health. There is a critical need to reach agreement need on actions to address priority issues. Unresolved issues and lack of agreement of actions to take may delay permit approval process for WIP implementation to meet TMDL |
| **Cross-Goal Benefits: What other goals may be advanced through this work?** | Connections relate to improving stream health and function through restoration projects (in stream, or in the watershed) and therefore relates to Healthy Watersheds (common marginal streams element of strategies), Fish Habitat, Forest Buffer outcomes |

**Table 2: Project Details**

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| **Technical Lead** | TBD |
| **Detailed Statement of Work (1),(2)** | A four-step approach is envisioned:   1. 1). Consolidate existing documentation of issues and status and effectiveness of actions presented in stream permit documentation summary and success of actions implemented (not much work needed here) 2. 2) Expand stream restoration permit issues and actions identification to **other Bay jurisdictions**. Initial survey of other Bay jurisdictions (limited sample size) in February 2015 yielded issues, as well. A more robust survey needed to further articulate issues. Results from Steps 1 and 2 would identify **common, priority** issues within and amongst Bay jurisdictions. This is needed to develop a common and agreed upon framework to advance and streamline the permit process **Baywide** 3. 3) Review and analysis of stream restoration permits and process (i.e., over limited time period, for example 3 years) to identify information and needs and/or steps within the review process where action would be most effective to resolve issues presenting barriers to permit approval (e.g. pre-app meeting, time period for review & response by regulatory & applicant, information needs site alternative analysis, design approach) 4. 4) Results of analysis presented to the Stream Health Work Group to make recommendations on how to move forward with streamlining process and modify Biennial Work plan in 2017 (Year 2) as needed (*Note: proposed Stream Health Work Group “Stream Restoration Permit” Committee currently being discussed as action in biennial workplan*)   The work would be conducted in close coordination with the Stream Health Work Group, or designated “Stream Restoration Permit” committee as proposed in preliminary draft biennial workplan.  A QAPP would likely be needed for this work. |
| **Estimated Project Duration** | 1 year |
| **Outputs and Due Dates** | Survey results (April 2016)  Summary of permit review and recommendations of priority issues (July 2016)  Attend two monthly Stream Health Work Group meetings and (tentative) six Stream Permit Committee meetings (as scheduled) |
| **Description of Skills and Experience Required of awardee** | Technical knowledge of stream restoration and programmatic knowledge of permit review process. Experience to develop, implement and analyse both quantitative and qualitative surveys and data |

1. Provide a description of background information, stakeholder participants, the sequence and purpose of work activities, and how the outputs are to be used in implementing CBP management strategies
2. Indicate whether environmental data will be generated and whether a quality assurance plan will be required