

Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)
Identifying Members and Launching the Budget and Finance Workgroup

The CBP Management Board supports the formation of a Budget and Finance Workgroup (BFW) under GIT 6. This discussion details the planned steps for recruiting members and launching the workgroup.

Desired Member Skills and Interests

- Finance and innovative environmental finance
- Knowledge of funding sources
- Economics and measures of merit (e.g., NPV, ROI)
- Financial reporting
- Knowledge of Federal, State and Local government budgeting and procurement processes

Organizations to be Represented

- Jurisdiction agencies and federal agencies
- Other signatories (EPA and Chesapeake Bay Commission)
- Chesapeake Bay Program Advisory Committees
- Bay funders (e.g., Chesapeake Bay Funders Network members)
- Groups with environmental finance expertise (e.g. UMD & SU Environmental Finance Centers)
- Communications functions

Leadership and Staffing to be Identified

- Chair
- Coordinator
- Staff support

Steps to complete in forming and launching the BFW

- Identify skills needed and organizations to be solicited for members and chair (by 3/1)
- Send email to identified organizations, with information about scope and desired skills, request nominations for members and chair (by 3/4)
- Depending on response, call target organizations to elicit nominations if needed (nominations complete by 3/14)
- Determine members and identify the chair (by 3/17)
- Notify members and chair (by 3/20)
- Plan kick-off meeting including agenda and background materials (announce meeting date by 3/22)
- Conduct launch meeting (by 3/30)

Background Information

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.

Scope

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

First priorities:

- Provide support and assistance to CBP partners related to sources of information useful in identifying existing resources, gaps in those resources, and opportunities to align resources for CBP Outcomes including from key sources including but not limited to federal and jurisdiction agencies.
- 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.

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

Category 1: Chesapeake Watershed Agreement Support

- A. Participating in finance-related commitments in the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement (e.g., Local Leadership Outcome – “implementation of economic and policy incentives”).
- B. Coordinating and facilitating a process for distribution of discretionary GIT Funding.

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 on individual funding and opportunities for collaboration among funding organizations where needs and opportunities are identified.

Category 3: Reporting and Communication

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