The Vital Habitats Goal Implementation Team (GIT) of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership seeks a chair or co-chairs to lead its Wetland Workgroup. Specifically, Management Board nomination of a State, Federal or NGO partner with both a passion for and technical knowledge of Chesapeake wetlands, is requested to:

1. Reinvigorate and expand membership of this group of wetland experts, and
2. Coordinate a restructuring of the workgroup to best reflect member priorities (technical transfer on restoration science and collaborative and creative solutions for funding of wetland work), and
3. Focus collective efforts on items that are on the current Wetland Workgroup workplan which include: prioritization of restoration projects, expanding involvement of landowners and stakeholders and coordinating efforts with other CBP workgroups.

The first stage of this restructuring will involve discussions between the chair, HGIT leadership, EPA and NEIEN (National Environmental Information Exchange Network) data managers with a goal of centralizing the function of wetland acreage reporting and verification. The second stage will involve a shift to a task-oriented or committee type of operation. This will allow members to engage on initiatives they are interested in for a specific amount of time. The chair would be involved in the solicitation of participants for these sub-groups.

The time commitment for leading this group is estimated to be around 8 hours per month initially, with the likelihood that commitment would decrease to 5 hours/month as things get up and running. Staff from the Chesapeake Research Consortium will provide the new chair/s with administrative support, including meeting and conference call arrangements, note-taking, and group communications. Financial support for projects that support the workplan is also available on a competitive basis.

This is an opportunity to lead, expand professional networks and influence the future of wetland restoration science and implementation for the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.