

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>GIT Funding: Purpose and Process</i>	1
<i>GIT Funding in the Community</i>	1
<i>Stewardship Index</i>	2
<i>Black Ducks</i>	2
<i>Climate Change</i>	2

At a Glance:

- 44 projects funded (FY2014-FY2016)
- Total amount = \$2.6M
- 18 projects completed

“The GIT Funding process has been critical to closing data and research gaps. We all recognized that many of the Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes were inter-related, but lacked clarity on which water quality actions would have the greatest impact on the other goals. A project initiated through this process allowed us to shed some light on that question. The results will empower Bay partners as they develop their Phase 3 WIPs, and has also spurred a follow-on STAC workshop.”

- James Davis-Martin,
Chair, Water Quality GIT

GIT Funding: Purpose and Process.

From 2014-2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made funding available to the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Goal Implementation Teams (GIT) to help accelerate accomplishment of the Management Strategies and associated work plans developed under the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The unique purpose of this funding is to remove key barriers that

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Total Funding	\$862,000	\$830,000	\$894,000
Project Range (\$)	\$20K-\$82K	\$35K-\$150K	\$30K-\$112K
Total Projects (#)	17	12	15
Projects Completed	17	1	N/A

hinder accomplishment of these strategies and work plans. Examples include tools, analyses, indicators and other projects that will enhance the GIT’s ability to achieve goals.

The GIT Funding process has been continually refined since its inception. It puts great emphasis on a cross-GIT, collaborative approach. Multiple groups, including GIT Chairs, Coordinators, Staffers and the Management Board were consulted during the process, to ensure input from a wide audience on project selection criteria, key priorities and timeline(s).

To date, forty four projects have been funded, for a total amount of \$2.6 million. 18 projects are currently underway, 11 have been completed, and 15 are set to begin during 2017. If you would like to learn more about the deliverables of completed projects, please visit: <https://cbtrust.org/git/> (note: not all projects from years FY14-FY15 appear).

GIT Funding Impact in the Community

In the FY2016 round of GIT Funding, a Request for Proposals was sent to over 150 Women and/or Minority Owned Businesses, listed as such in the Office of Minority Business Enterprise Database. The

Chesapeake Bay Trust received six proposals from four of these types of organizations. One – Innovative! Inc. – was selected as the winning bidder for funding for the “Environmental Justice Screen” project.



Photo courtesy California Diversity Council

“GIT funding has allowed the Habitat Goal Implementation Team to strategically address a major factor influencing the partnership’s ability to accelerate restoration of wetlands, many of which are located on private lands. For example, funds awarded in 2014 developed and tested a research-based social marketing plan targeting agricultural landowners of 40 or more acres in three geographic areas of Pennsylvania and Delmarva. The study found that even though there is little outreach, many landowners are already engaged with government programs and know that such programs come with strings attached. Many other landowners are hesitant to trust these programs. In 2016, funds will be used to build on these findings and help overcome a key obstacle to implementation of wetland restoration programs in the Chesapeake: landowner knowledge of available programs.”

- Jennifer Greiner,
Coordinator, Habitat GIT

CBP GIT Funding Contact Information:

Greg Allen and Emily Freeman
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 304
Annapolis, MD 21403
United States

Phone (G. Allen): 410-267-5746
Email: allen.greg@epa.gov
Phone (E. Freeman): 410-267-5721
Email: freeman.emily@epa.gov



FY2014-FY2016: Development of a Citizen Stewardship Baseline Indicator

This three-phase project began in 2014 to develop an index (or indicator) to measure the extent of citizen and community participation and engagement in watershed



Planting a rain garden
(Photo courtesy Chesapeake Bay Program)

protection and restoration actions. The data gathered will be used to inform baseline metrics for the Stewardship goal and associated outcomes — Citizen Stewardship, Local Leadership and Diversity. The regional, local, and social metrics collected can be used for a variety of purposes, including assisting in the design of local programs and strategies. The first phase of the project focused on developing a methodology to quantify the extent to

which the public is taking, or willing to take, individual actions and behaviors. Pilot-level data was collected via a random survey of citizens throughout the watershed, which both tested the viability of the survey instrument and provided data to inform the development of the aggregate index of citizen stewardship. The second and third phases will scale up implementation of the data collected in phase I, and will measure stewardship behaviors, individual and civic engagement and volunteerism.

FY2015: Habitat Targeting Tool for Black Ducks in the Chesapeake Bay

In support of the Vital Habitats goal and Black Duck outcome, this recently completed project supports the development of a decision support tool to inform black duck wintering habitat goals, taking current and future landscape conditions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed into consideration. Developed by the

Black Duck and Atlantic Coast Joint Ventures, this tool will allow conservation managers to estimate habitat needs and prioritize on-the-ground conservation actions, to ensure habitat of sufficient quality and quantity to support the wintering black duck population goal. Information is provided at

multiple spatial scales, allowing acreage goals that all partners can use to measure and report progress in two to five year increments. This project supports cross-goal benefits by informing conservation action recommendations for both Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Wetlands strategies.

FY2014: Climate Change, Marsh Erosion, and the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

This three-phase project set out to: 1) estimate marsh loss and transition due to sea-level rise; 2) investigate the reactivity of material eroded from marshes; and 3) quantify the effects of marsh loss on water quality and the TMDL. To date, the project team has: obtained GIS maps of existing tidal wetlands and mapped wetlands to adjacent cells on the Water Quality and Sediment

Transport grid; explored methods of estimating marsh loss; and begun calculating the effects of solids retention and marsh respiration. New sources of nutrients and organic matter are being considered, including shoreline erosion, reservoir scour and marsh erosion. The project aims to ensure that the limits imposed by the TMDL account for

the quantity and reactivity of alternate sources of nutrients and organic matter.



The Choptank Wetlands Preserve
(Photo courtesy Chesapeake Bay Program)