

Chapter 1 - Introduction

This document is West Virginia's revised Nonpoint Source Management Plan (WVNPSMP). It updates the State's NPS Management Plan originally developed under §319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 2000. WVNPSMP was revised and received USEPA approval September 2014. This update is the five-year revision as required by [USEPA guidance](#).

The WVNPSMP will be reviewed/revised periodically. If updates occur before the five-year cycle, the changes/addendums will be submitted to USEPA for approval. Every five years the entire document will be updated as needed and re-submitted to USEPA for comment. WVDEP is committed to the process of making sure WVNPSMP consistently addresses NPS Program needs and priorities considering new and existing TMDLs, WBPs, funding and stakeholder opportunities.

Statutory background

Congress enacted §319 of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control nonpoint sources of water pollution. CWA §101(a)(7) states, "it is the national policy that programs for the control of nonpoint sources of pollution be developed and implemented in an expeditious manner to enable the goals of this Act to be met through the control of both point and nonpoint sources of pollution."

Funding appropriated under §319 can be used to implement state NPS programs including, as appropriate, non-regulatory or regulatory programs for enforcement, technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, and demonstration projects to achieve implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and water quality goals.

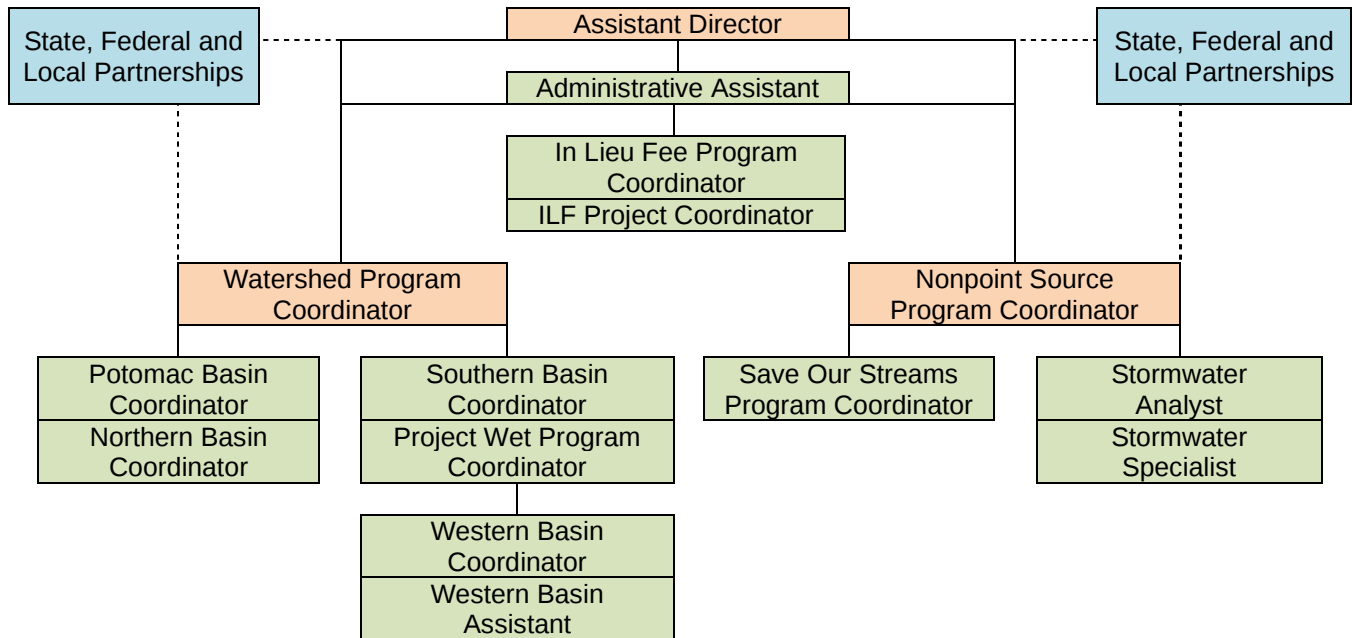
Under §319(a), all states have addressed NPS pollution by developing NPS assessment reports that identify NPS pollution problems and sources responsible for the water quality impairments. Under §319(b), all states have also adopted state NPS management programs to control NPS pollution. State NPS management programs provide the foundation for state programs to address NPS pollution. These programs should articulate each state's strategy to address nonpoint sources and to achieve/maintain water quality standards. Since 1990, Congress has annually appropriated grant funds to states under §319(h) to implement their approved state NPS management program.

Nonpoint Source pollution is not specifically defined in the CWA. A brief definition is that nonpoint pollution includes pollution caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground and carrying natural and human-made pollutants into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, other coastal waters and ground water. Atmospheric deposition and hydrologic modification are also sources of nonpoint pollution.

Organization and structure

As the lead agency, WVDEP's, Division of Water and Waste Management's (DWWM), Watershed Improvement Branch (WIB) NPS Program manages and coordinates the statewide NPS Program activities. The NPS Program is grouped within WIB along with the Stream Partners Program (SPP), Chesapeake Bay (CB) Program, and the In Lieu Fee (ILF) Program. WIB employs four environmental specialists as Basin Coordinators (BCs), a Western Basin Assistant, and two Stormwater Specialist (SWS) to locally coordinate, develop, track and implement plans and projects. WIB also employs the Project Wet Coordinator, Save Our Streams (SOS) Coordinator, and an ILF Program and Project Coordinator. USEPA's §319 Grant funds the NPS Program Coordinator, Northern and Southern Basin Coordinators and a portion of the Assistant Director and Administrative Assistant salaries. WV Conservation Agency (WVCA) takes a leadership role in agriculture and construction activities.

Table 1 – WIB Organizational Chart



The above chart shows the hierarchal structure of WIB. However, many of our duties and responsibilities cross-over into many areas depending upon the type of grants, goals and objectives of the work and the skill sets of the employees. To carry out the overall goals and objectives of the NPS program we work as a team. Our Mission Statement is **"To inspire and empower people to value and work for clean water"**. The WIB name change occurred in July 2015. The Watershed Improvement Branch (WIB) is a name that better reflects what the programs in this section are all about.

WIB coordinates within WVDEP with the Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR), the Office of Abandoned Mined lands and Reclamation (OAMR), the Stormwater Permitting Program, Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF), the Watershed Assessment Branch (WAB), Office of Oil and Gas (O&G) and Office of Environmental Enforcement (EE). Other agency partners include the WV Dept. of Agriculture (WVDA), WV Division of Forestry (WVDOF), WV Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), WV Dept. of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR), US Office of Surface Mining (OSM), US Dept. of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Non-governmental partners include West Virginia University (WVU), Canaan Valley Institute (CVI), Cacapon Institute (CI), WV Rivers Coalition (WVRC), numerous watershed groups, schools (elementary through college), and multiple non-governmental organizations (NGOs).