

<b>Presenter</b>	Abby McQueen Canaan Valley Institute
<b>Type</b>	oral presentation
<b>Category</b>	<b>Policy and Regulation Changes</b>
<b>Title</b>	<i>Watershed Based Planning Efforts to Reduce Sedimentation in Two West Virginia Watersheds: Mill Creek of the Opequon and Mountwood Park Lake</i>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Biologic impairment is the leading water quality impairment in West Virginia streams. In 2008, 5135 miles of stream were determined to be biologically impaired. Sediment is often the cause of this impairment and land use practices combined with streambank erosion are major sources of this sediment. To accurately assess sediment sources and transport, entire watersheds must be assessed. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) Nonpoint Source Program, funded primarily by the Clean Water Act Section 319, has provided guidance on assessing sediment sources and prioritizing sediment reduction projects at a watershed scale and offers small grants to encourage the development of watershed based plans across the state. Canaan Valley Institute has partnered with the WVDEP and others to develop watershed based plans for Mill Creek of the Opequon and Mountwood Park Lake. The plans include estimates of the current sediment loads contributed by streambank erosion as well as estimates of load reductions anticipated to be achieved through restoration practices. Estimates involve on-site reconnaissance, morphological &amp; biological assessment, the development of WBP success criteria, conceptual designs and estimated budgets. The plan combines these estimates with an information/education campaign; anticipated schedule, goals and milestones; and a monitoring program. This process based, collaborative planning promotes successful, holistic watershed restoration.</p>