

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Project**  
**Workgroup Meeting #5 Summary**  
**August 5, 2014 4:30-6:30pm**  
**Farm Bureau**  
**975 NE Carpenter Rd, Lacey, WA 98516**

**In attendance:** Addie Candib, Bruce Morgan, Raul deLeon, James Weatherford, Dean Pigman, Ben Rau, John Stuhlmiller, Evan Sheffels, Rick Nelson, Patrick Dunn, Glen Connelly, Erin Ewald, Karen Parkhurst, Alex Callender, Laurencxe Reeves, Christina Sanders. By phone: Allyson Beall-King, Devon Seymour

**Communicated inability to attend:** Lucas Patzek, Eric Johnson, Jim Goche, Kathleen Whalen, Christy Carr, Mike Gaffney.

**Summary:**

The bulk of this meeting was spent with working group members walking around and reviewing the maps provided by the county and by the conservation district. Cindy Wilson briefly explained each of the maps, answered questions and provided additional, more detailed information as members discussed the potential use for various maps as we work through the process of developing a plan. The group also continued the discussion of what additional information they need to move forward with some action tasks.

**General Discussion:**

- Discussed maps and county break-down and evaluations-electronic copies to be sent to group. Cindy Wilson will work to get maps saved to CD's for the group.
- WSU will be doing background research in collaboration with the county to gather necessary information – especially with regard to what is already being done that is consistent with VSP goals.
- The Conservation District may be able to give a comprehensive summary of necessary information and potential recommendations.
- WSU will work to see if there are VSP's in other states that might inform the Thurston County process and will conduct a search for case studies on voluntary stewardship.
- The group discussed the potential of having subgroups to work on issues
- There seems to be a general consensus that experts in the field are needed before decisions are made – the group will work together to identify experts to present information at working group meetings, one example of an area the group would like to know more about is whether there are known, successful techniques.
- Discussed the need to make sure that the group understands how 'agricultural activity' is defined by the legislature for the purposes of VSP.
- Discussion regarding how impacts/success should be measured. Suggestions/possibilities, depending on the issue & technique used, included:
  - Water quality
  - Soil composition

- Acreage
- Economic success
- Agricultural activity
- Product yield
- Number of people participating
- Air quality
- Habitat loss/gain
- Benchmarks/goals must be quantifiable and have a direct impact.
- Discussion on marketing VSP to the public in Thurston County. How do we market our findings and recommendations in such a way that the impacted population wants to contribute and become involved in the process?
- Outreach needs to happen prior to having a final plan/concept in place. The possibility of conducting a survey and/or developing informative emails that go out to interested parties in the region to garner some support and buy-in.
- The idea was raised that the working group should plan to spend some time going out to locations where measures/techniques have been implemented that are consistent with VSP.