

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Project  
Workgroup Meeting #6 Summary  
August 26, 2014 4:00-6:00pm  
Farm Bureau  
975 NE Carpenter Rd, Lacey, WA 98516**

**In attendance:** Laurence Reeves, Cindy Wilson, Alex Callender, Ben Rau, Bruce Morgan, Patrick Dunn, James Myers, Glen Connelly, James Weatherford, Karen Parkhurst, Jon McAninch, Theresa Nation, Dean Pigman, Rick Nelson, Raul de Leon, John Stuhlmiller, Erin Ewald, Mike Gaffney, Christina Sanders

**Communicated inability to attend:** Lucas Patzek, Kathleen Whalen, Christy Carr, Laurie Pyne, Allyson Beal King, Jim Goche

**Summary:**

This meeting discussion focused primarily on the group getting a better understanding of what content areas members would like to know more about for use in developing a plan. Members suggested topics they would like to have experts come to present to the group, discussed the kinds of information they hope to gain and suggested options for people who could speak to those topics. The group also discussed the benefit of having a field trip for the group, where members would meet at an agreed upon location and have the opportunity to better understand the issues that are being addressed and possibly the impacts of actions that have been taken to address those issues.

**General Discussion:**

The group spent a good amount of time discussing possibilities for topics for presentations, which were grouped into the following categories:

1. VSP Primer Presentation – Conservation District, NRCS, Farm Bureau
2. Ag Practices/Goals/Economics – Farm Bureau?
3. Critical Areas/Habitat/Compatibility – Thurston County, WDFW
4. Regulatory Framework/Goals – Ecology
5. Water Quality – Ecology
6. Site Visit – Jon McAninch

**Information the group would like to learn from presentations:**

- Kinds of uses for agriculture and impacts of types of agriculture on water quality
- Their understanding of agriculture impacts regulation development).
- Impacts of agriculture and challenges associated with modification of practices, understanding the impacts of different levels (intensity) of farming, and the time frame for seeing the impacts of modifications.
- Regulatory requirements and environmental threats in the County. What issues does CAO regulate, what were the issues behind the regulations and what were the anticipated goals?
- Habitat and compatibility with agriculture.
- Thurston County Extension's data on farming in the county. (Lucas's data)

**Additional information the group would like to obtain:**

- Historical studies
- Existing data collection efforts
- Current/best practices
- Challenges/threats/barriers
- Opportunities – incentives
- Mitigation potential – deliberate trade-offs
- Sustainability
- Markets/economy/transportation
- Prioritization

**Additional thoughts/suggestions:**

- Cindy is working on getting maps onto CD's for the group.
- Jon McAninch is willing to have the group visit his farm, however it will need to happen by the first week of October
- Jon will be receiving a report on a survey DFW did on his land and will share it with the working group
- Ben Rau will send out links to other plans that have been done in Thurston County
- A future task of this group will be coming up with an outreach plan
- We will work to get table tents for members & a shared calendar on the website
- Mike Gaffney will update and share research on existing plans done by one of WSU's graduate students