Minutes April Piceance Creek Meeting
April 27th, Rock School House

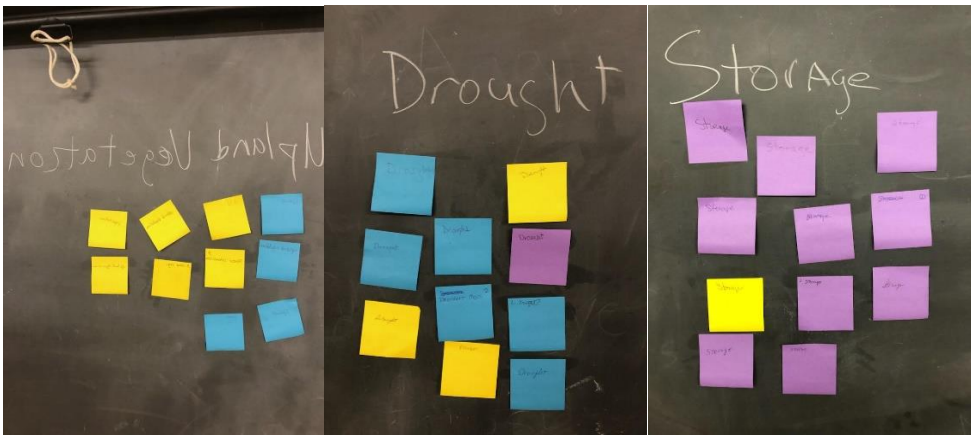
Attendance

Neil Brennan	Walt Proctor	Tim Mantle	Dean Mantle
Sherry Robinson	Susan Robinson	Tom Knowles	David Bowers
KC Burke	James Roberts	Jim Brennan	Hattie Brennan
Chris Uphoff	Kari Brennan	Liz Chandler	

Outcomes

Phase III Scope of Work Priority Vote: 1st -Storage on Piceance Creek, 2nd – Drought Planning, 3rd – Upland Vegetation Management.

Purple = 1st Blue = 2nd Yellow = 3rd



Minutes

Dave Bowers spoke about the water portfolio owned by the Energy Industry. He clarified that he was there to represent his personal opinions from his experience working with the industry. The industry water portfolio is extensive and significant. Most of the water rights were acquired when it took approximately 52 barrels of water to produce 1 barrel of fuel from oil shale. With current technology, water is not needed to retort oil shale. The conversation centered on the mutual benefits to water users if storage on Piceance Creek could be developed. At present, all users are dependent on a variable flows and low water availability during the summers, fall, and winter months. Multiple sites for storage were discussed.

Walt Proctor spoke about the availability of the PL-566 program to provide grants to build storage. These grants do not provide for long-term maintenance of dams. The obstacles to developing storage are: the willingness of water rights holders to develop storage, cost of projects and hence the cost of the water held in storage. If a field was irrigated with 5cfs for 24 hours that equals 10-acre feet of water. If

the cost were $7/acre foot (a known historical estimate of cost), then it would cost $70/day ($2100/month) to run 5 cfs to your field.
Drought Contingency Planning was briefly discussed. This could involve crop selection or building soils to better hold water.
Voting for Phase III Scope of Work priorities was held. Storage was 1st, Drought Planning 2nd, and Upland Vegetation Management 3rd.