

Mesa Conservation District – 2023 Local Working Group Meeting

May 3rd, 2023

Following is a summary of what occurred during our facilitated hybrid meeting on May 3rd:

[LINK to agenda](#)

DRIVING FORCES for VISION STATEMENT

1. Agricultural Infrastructure and resource efficiency
2. Climate extremes
3. Water availability and quality
4. Population (land use, generational) changes and growth
5. Engaged community collaboration (with people and nature)

Parking lot ideas for driving forces

- Soil degradation
- Education/outreach of public
- Increased fire risk
- Changes in increased regulations
- Paradigm paralysis / stuck in the status quo. Need cultural shift
- Loss of Native plants/ecology pollinators
- Need RESILIENCY

VISION STATEMENT – SAMPLE and IDEAS

An engaged community collaboration to (do what?)

Evolve/adapt and sustain/enhance/thrive

Limited natural resources

In a climate of extremes

Other ideas (parking garage) for vision statement:

- Inclusive in engaged community (there is power in inclusivity)
- Land use changes
- Limited or depleting/decreasing resources
- Identify what the collaboration is addressing specifically. What are we doing?
- Make sure “community” includes nature, and other stakeholders, not just people

REVISED VISION STATEMENT BY GROUP

An engaged community collaborating to sustain and enhance limited natural resources in a climate of extremes.

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Resource Priorities – “What keeps you up at night?”

1. Loss of agriculture and Colorado lifestyle
2. Improve resiliency in local food systems by improving water quality and soil health
3. Loss of wild spaces/habitat
4. Aging infrastructure and funding and interest to maintain/improve water supply and delivery system efficiency
5. Increased weeds, increased herbicide/pesticide resistance, decreased biodiversity
6. Community awareness / support of ag/Natural resource management
7. Water availability, water quality, water rights
 - a. Ecological benefits/value
 - b. Multiple uses
 - c. Food supply
 - d. Wildfire impacts to quality and availability
 - e. Federal impacts to availability and water rights
8. Economics/margin squeeze: increased input costs, decreased commodity prices
 - a. Local/national resource economics
 - b. Local markets
 - c. Data needs
 - d. Cost of inputs: materials, equipment, labor
 - e. Cost of infrastructure and land
9. Climate change, natural disaster (fire (incl. impact on air quality), drought, flood)
10. Injustice/equity – social, economic, environment. Equity in access to resources
11. Helplessness, despair, overwhelm – economics of change-making .
 - a. Staffing shortages.
 - b. New public perspective change/changing how things have been done.
 - c. Inability / lack capacity to effect change.
 - d. Need education to change minds.
 - e. Need culture shift.
12. Air quality is degrading