



Vineyard Committee

The purpose of the Vineyard Committee is to collaborate around the issues impacting grape growers in Anderson Valley. The volunteer committee is committed to vetting current problems and anticipating things that may lead to problems downstream in the future. These may include but are not limited to farming practices, pest and disease, sustainability, fire safety, and changes occurring in the microclimate, which may impact farming and economic viability. The committee's goal is to address concerns, build vineyard relations, identify helpful seminars and workshops, and elevate critical issues to the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association for support.

Wednesday, August 18th, 2020

Attendees Present:							
X	Andrew Beebe (Chair)	X	Norm Kobler	X	Tony Bugica	X	Courtney DeGraff

Agenda & Discussion

1. Committee Meeting Logistics:

- Goal will be to meet every four to six weeks for 60 minutes in the afternoon on Monday or Tuesday
- Courtney will work with the Chair in agenda development and overall administration of the group
- Critical issues and requests for support to be funneled to the AVWA BOD meeting (1st Thursday/month)

2. Open Discussion:

a. Emergency Access

- i. Mendocino County is working on a program that grants emergency access to farmers in the event of a fire. They hope it can be approved by year end. Sonoma has a similar effort in place and has performed training with farmers. Napa is granting access via licenses who have a spray permit with no training required.

b. Fire

- i. Outdoor employers, including agricultural employers are required by General Industry Safety Order 5141.1 to offer N95 respirators for employee's use when the Air Quality Index for PM 2.5 exceeds 150 when the employer should reasonably anticipate that employees may be exposed to wildfire smoke. Courtney to include in newsletter.

c. Vineyard Water

- i. We had 14" of rain this year; the last time we had conditions like this was the 1970s (12")
- ii. Wells are being mined in AV currently and there is a wait for new wells up to two years. A 10 gal/min well is good for consumers, but for vineyards the primary source of water is rain collection from winter rains
- iii. Vineyards need to save water for potential frost protection this winter
- iv. Water diversion should be considered based upon water rights that landowners have
- v. Water information is helpful: the best practices around the use of the water you do have could be a helpful member reference
 1. Recommendations around:

- a. When is the best time to apply water
 - b. Build canopy up front before veraison is set
 - c. keep track of the vines and make sure carbohydrates return to the plant before next year
 - d. Measure pond levels
- 2. **Andrew** to work with **Courtney** and create a Guide for the timing of water applications
- d. **Dry Farming**
 - i. Requires deep soil, pressure bung measures vine water stress. Root system ventures out to find water
 - ii. Both Tony & Norm agree that the least problematic vineyards tend to be dry-farmed (roots go under the drip); drip-irrigation does make the vine weaker. More discing and less competition; cover crop often dries up
 - iii. Recommended in drought to keep canopy smaller to mitigate water usage over the year
 - iv. Depends on type of planting you do (e.g. field budding)
 - v. Establish root growth for 2-3 years and then let the canopy go; keep cutting it back so the vines can get established (production will take longer)
 - vi. Choosing a root stock to the soil that you have is the most important thing for farmers to get right
- e. **Post-Harvest Activity: Cover Crop Seeding**
 - i. It is not recommended to have a tailgate discussion or seminar on this topic; in a drought situation cover crop may not be advisable
- f. **Mendocino County Farm Advisor Position Open – Glenn McGourtey replacement**
 - i. Position has been approved to be reopened
 - ii. The AVWA will be able to work with this person re: designing field days for vineyard members
- g. **Next Meeting Date:**
 - i. Tuesday, Oct 19th at 4 PM

Topics for Later Discussion:

- 1. [Crop Insurance](#)
- 2. [Glyphosate](#)
- 3. Climate Change
 - a. [Grape Reconsideration in California](#)
 - b. [The Greening of Bordeaux](#)
 - c. [California Faces Another Dustbowl Vintage](#)
- 4. [Drone Technology for Spraying](#)
- 5. Possible Member Educations/Workshops:
 - a. Dry Farming – choosing a root stock to the soil that you have

Committee Members:

Andrew Beebe: Andrew works with Roederer Estate, Scharffenberger Cellars and Domaine Anderson (DA). He has worked five harvests with them and oversees the 17 acres biodynamic project at DA. He

has performed vineyard research work at UC Davis and completed his Masters in Viticulture & Enology. He has taught as an instructor at Fresno State teaching varying viticulture coursework.

Tony Bugica Tony grew up in an agriculture family and started his own landscaping business. He later chased the wine dream and landed in Sonoma County where he has worked as a ranch manager, followed by a few years in vine sales, he was VP Bacchus Vineyard Management (8 years), and is now an equity partner and Director of Sonoma Farming and Business Development with Atlas Vineyard Management. He is in his 16th harvest season. He served on the BOD for four years with the Sonoma County Grape Growers, as the President of the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce, and has recently joined the BOD for Alexander Valley Healthcare.

Norm Kobler: Norman grew up in Anderson Valley and sits on the AVWA Board of Directors. He has farmed most of the ranches in AV and has worked in vineyard management for most of his career. He now owns and operates Philo Vineyard Solutions Vineyard Management.