



Environmental Committee

The purpose of the Environmental Committee is to collaborate around the long-term sustainability of environmental issues impacting Anderson Valley. The volunteer committee is committed to collaborating around topics that include, but are not limited to watershed and drought, soil and vegetation concerns, managing carbon emissions, and fire preventedness. The committee aims to protect the unique microclimate through awareness and education by elevating community challenges and seeking support from the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association around issues impacting community viability and economic development.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Attendees Present:						
Joslyn Thoresen (Chair)		Sarah Cahn Bennett		Yoriko Kishimoto		Cris Carter (AVWA BOD)
Jessica Van Griekan		Colleen Kobler		Jesse Richards		Courtney DeGraff
Linda MacElwee		Nathan Kinsey		Zac Robinson		

Agenda & Discussion

1. Committee Meeting Logistics:

- Monthly meeting, scheduled for 90 minutes after 5PM on a Thursday
- The Chair will manage the agenda development and overall administration of the group
- Rotating scribe (unless someone can volunteer for the role exclusively)
- Google [Shared Folder](#) (agendas, reference materials, project documents, etc.)
- [Environmental Committee Idea Workbook](#) (upload shared ideas and research)
- Critical issues and requests for support to be funneled to the AVWA BOD meeting (1st Thursday/month)

2. Open Discussion:

i. New-Attendee Introductions & Housekeeping

1. New-Attendee/Committee Members
 - a. **Zac Robinson:** Owner and Operator of Husch Vineyards.
2. Housekeeping
 - a. Feedback from Sustainability Member Communication/Newsletter
 - i. AV Brewery Kevin McGee offer EC group tour in early December
 - b. 5 PM, 12/9 General Meeting
 - c. Vineyard Committee Debrief
 - d. EC Dec Meeting, 12/2

ii. Agenda and Group Focus

1. New Topics:

- a. Certification Research Update - Jessica & Joslyn

- b. 2022 AVWA Member survey focused on environmental/sustainable practices already in place as well as gauge interest for resources like certification?
- c. Other Carbon footprint to consider - packaging, freight, on-site
- d. Cause Marketing – member level and regional
- e. Electric technology - Insight into how many wineries are using renewable energy?
- f. Any other items before moving forward on prior topics review?

2. Prior Topics:

- a. **Hydrology of the Valley** – *what can we (community members and the AVWA) do?*
- b. **Progress of the Valley** – *how can we talk to our members about where we want to go (e.g. The Green New Vineyard/Wine Region/Winery). Transparency and communication is how change occurs.*
 - i. **Deliverables:**
 - 1. Create a list of indicators for the health of the valley
 - a. What are other regions doing and can we leverage their framework? Is what they are doing possible here (scalability)? Can we check with the Wine Institute (Courtney)? Can we learn from Sustainable Sonoma - invite Karissa Kruse to a meeting at some point?
 - b. Map out phases where members are currently in certain efforts (via survey)
 - i. If doing, how many acres? If not, would you like to?
 - c. Vineyard Indicators
 - i. Soil health
 - ii. Clean energy
 - iii. Health of the river (flows)
 - iv. Steelhead salmon populations
 - v. Perennial grass ecosystem (no till)
 - vi. Riparian health
 - vii. Sheep in the vineyard
 - viii. Organic/Biodynamic
 - ix. Dryfarming
 - x. Solar arrays
 - xi. Biochar
 - xii. Conservation burning
 - xiii. Off Stream Storage
 - xiv. Wind machines
 - xv. Conservation Tillage/No-Till
 - xvi. On Farm Composting
 - xvii. Microsprayers
 - xviii. Pesticides use
 - xix. Herbicides use
 - xx. Electric tractors
 - xxi. Blue Bird/Owl Boxes

- xxii. Raingardens/stormwater LID retrofits
- xxiii. Native plant gardens/accents
- xxiv. Weather stations (CIMIS)
- xxv. Solar array for irrigation system
- xxvi. Pump retrofits
- d. Winery Indicators
 - i. Clean energy
 - ii. Water usage in winemaking
 - iii. Carbon footprint - packaging and shipping
 - iv. Electric vehicle charging stations
 - v. Pressure washer
 - vi. Rainwater catchment
 - vii. Spraying
 - viii. Wind machines
 - ix. Organic winemaking
 - x. Native plant gardens/accents
- 2. Identify green efforts to support
 - a. Earth day events
 - b. Local economic events
 - c. UC Davis
 - d. County efforts
 - e. CDFA Healthy Soils Program
 - f. CDFA State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program
- 3. Support soil & carbon management
 - a. Winery: Packaging and shipping
 - b. Vineyard: Cover cropping,
- 4. Support clean energy
 - a. Solar arrays for irrigation systems & EC vehicles
- 5. Identify & promote certification(s)
 - a. California Certified Sustainable

iii. Jackson Family Wines [Rooted for Good Roadmap](#) + Master Class Series

- 1. Prior Master Class recaps - Joslyn
 - a. JFW goal is to reduce carbon emission by 2030 – see press release [here](#)
 - b. RSVP for future masterclasses [here](#)
 - c. Webinar replays on [YouTube](#)

iv. **Resource Conservation District:** \$50M CDFA State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP) money for Agriculture producers \$25M allocated to disadvantaged communities. Projects must reduce water use and also reduce greenhouse gas emission. CDFA Healthy Soils Program coming online soon as well. Application on rolling deadline.

v. Sonoma Clean Power:

- 1. Net Energy Framework (NEMS) 2.0 program expiration
- 2. Benefit for solar arrays for irrigation systems & EC vehicles
- 3. Clean Start and Evergreen products vs. onsite renewable
- 4.

vi. Next Meeting Date:

1. Normally Second Thursday - Confirm Next for 12/2 due to General Meeting on 12/9

Next Steps:

1. Next Steps:
2. Topics for next committee meeting:
 - a.
3. References:
 - a. [In Sonoma County, 'Regenerative Agriculture' Is the Next Big Thing](#)
 - b. [Accelerating nature-based solutions to achieve California's climate change goals](#)
 - c. [California Biodiversity Collaborative \(Collaborative\)](#)
 - d. [Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022 \(More Water Now\)](#)

Committee Members:

Joslyn Thoresen (Committee Chair): Works for Pennyroyal Farm doing Media, Special Projects, and Product Development. Background in non-profit arts and cause-based marketing. Pennyroyal is a regenerative agriculture farm and is very committed to this cause due to the many aspects of their regenerative agriculture operation and concern for the broader ecosystem of Anderson Valley.

Cris Carter (BOD Representative): Weatherborne owner and Treasurer of the AVWA. Has lived here four years and own property across from Gowans. Passionate about environmental concerns and has real concerns about the future of our local environment. His desire is to help ensure that AV viticulturists and wineries are prepared for challenges ahead, as well as current issues with water and bathrooms, etc.

Sarah Cahn Bennett: Owner of Pennyroyal Farm. Believes this committee is very needed. Impressed by how New Zealand markets themselves as a green wine region in a collective effort and would like to see the Anderson Valley community work together on environmental issues. She recently worked on the Carbon Farm Plan with the CDFA and supports investment in soil health programs. She serves as a volunteer on the fire department.

Nathan Kinsey - Sonoma Clean Power Commercial Accounts Manager, supporting largest industrial customers. He was the fifth hired employee at SCP. Expanded into Mendocino in 2017. Background in clean energy. Interfaces often with PG&E and Public Action Commission. Fuel switching efforts to get off of natural gas ("dirty gas") and onto renewable energy.

Yoriko Kishimoto: Owns a home and two-acre vineyard with olive trees next to elementary school. Split time between AV & the Bay Area. She is the former Mayor of Palo Alto and still serves on the Open Space District. She has recently joined the Anderson Valley Land Trust Board and is very interested in sustainable farming and sustainable everything.

Linda MacElwee- Mendo Resource Conservation District Manager to assist landowners on best management practices on forest, water, soils, etc. Works with the AV ag community here, and getting

vineyard and climate smart agriculture grants. Creating a regional database to help develop a rating curve for healthy soils. Recovery of steelhead salmon flow in the Navarro River. Lot of grants and money forthcoming.

Jesse Richards: Forester w/Mendocino Redwood Company, and part time at Foursight on the weekends. Minor in GIS and has proficiency in GIS. Bachelor of Science in forestry and does mapping in GIS computer work. Jesse takes the Forest Guide for California and ensure that practices are being followed to protect geology.

Jessica VanGrieken: Educational focus on business and environmental policy & management. Personal interest in business sustainability. Tasting Room Manager at Twomey Cellars in Philo, formerly Toulouse.

Not in attendance to date at a meeting:

Colleen Kobler: Business partner with Norman Kobler for Philo Vineyard Solutions, and owner of Vonarburg Vineyard.