



## 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 challenges and anticipating things that may lead to issues 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 to request support.

**Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Attendees Present:							
x	Andrew Beebe (Chair)		Norm Kobler		Tony Bugica	x	Courtney DeGraff
	Travis Foote	x	Justin Jackson	x	Linda MacElwee		

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday/month)
- [Shared Google Account](#) (minutes, documents, etc.).

### 2. Open Discussion:

#### a. Housekeeping

- i. 5 PM, 12/9 General Meeting at Scharffenberger Cellars - Introduce committee
  1. [San Joaquin](#) General Meeting had met at a banquet hall; tables at the entry hall
  2. Speakers: Allied Grapegrowers Association, land appraisal (water focus), CA winegrowers association (policy/national), exports and wine market, nursery panel, banking panel
- ii. CDFA Soil & SWEEP Applications open
- iii. Debrief on Environmental Committee
  1. Ecotours: Pennyroyal (SWEEP, CDFA) & Husch (rainwater catchment & native garden)
  2. Sustainable Newsletter Features
  3. CA Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance Certification discussions w/largest AVWA members
  4. Biochar ecotour (Domaine has offered)
  5. RCD willing to be tailgate co-sponsor; have deliverables for grants (staff time to coordinate, promote) - water or biochar workshops
- iv. PNF Tech Conference:
  1. Vineyard Technology panel
  2. UCD as speaker - ?
- v. Glenn water report

#### b. Water

- i. Half-Day 2022 UCD Water Irrigation Workshop w/Lunch - Kaan Kurtural (*target March*)
  - 1. Draft workshop agenda (send to members in Jan)- Draft from Andrew below
    - a. Irrigation strategies for wine grapes
    - b. Available technologies and tools for managing grapevine irrigation
    - c. Measuring vine water status and stem water potential
    - d. Water management considerations for optimal grape yield and quality under full and limited water supply
    - e. Water budgeting: Where to find the relevant information and how it all works together
    - f. Grapevine water relations (get nerdy and technical)
    - g. Evapotranspiration and grapevine water use
    - h. Soil characterization for efficient water management
    - i. Soil health and water holding capacity
    - j. Discuss climate smart agriculture & funding sources (MRCD)
  - 2. Workshop Sponsor(s): Mendo Resource Conservation District Manager (flyers and planning), Belkorp (sponsor lunch-?), Team up with Land Trust (TBD-?)
- ii. Anderson Valley Water Usage Overview
  - 1. Publication goal in January - coastal perspective
    - a. Common practices for water usage in AV- Norm/Andrew outline
    - b. Lisa at Casa Cristal offered to help with writing an overview from the outline
    - c. New & anticipated regulations (if any)
    - d. SWEEP program improvements
  - 2. Irrigated Ag Waiver (expected in 2022); regulatory item through the water board. You have to have a plan in place to show how you are managing your irrigated ag runoff.
  - 3. AV farmers get Devon Jones emails from the Russian River watershed; value to get something that compares and contrasts the Navarro watershed vs. the Russian River. Can we coordinate a local effort on what affects us vs. not?

### c. Vineyard Management

- i. Vineyard workshop/tailgates/seminars in 2022 - topic/focus TBD
  - 1. Ideas:
    - a. New regulation for labor, H2A, etc.
      - i. [The Saqui Law Group](#)
      - ii. BBSI sponsor
    - b. Canopy management workshop; UC Davis has a team that is traveling together
    - c. Supply logistic issues; rising cost of trellis, etc.
      - i. [Vineyard Industry Products \(VIP\)](#)
      - ii. Dan Drake, [Jim Supply](#)
  - ii. Regulate viticultural burn regulation:
    - 1. To go into place in Central Coast by 2025 to eliminate burning; caps by acre
    - 2. How do exemptions work for viral pathogens?
    - 3. How do we collectively work together against this?

### d. Next Meeting Date:

- i. Group will meet the third Tuesday of the month at 4 PM - December 20th, 2021

## 2022 Calendar of Ideas/Events:

- 1. Produce Quarterly Vineyard Newsletter (is this desired- ?)
- 2. Vineyard Member Networking Opportunities:

- a. Sponsored workshops/seminars (1-2/year)
- b. Tailgate lunches/discussions (idea for winter- ?)
- c. AVWA socials (6-9/year)

Working Calendar of **possible** events/timeframe, as coordinated by the Environmental & Vineyard Committees.

January	February	March	April
<b>Seminar: Labor Law</b> <b>Vnyd Newsletter:</b> Water Workshop Agenda & AV Water Usage Overview	<b>Tailgate: Pruning or Biochar</b>	<b>Workshop: Water - MRCD</b> <b>Eco Tour: Pennyroyal</b>	<b>Vnyd Newsletter:</b>
May	June	July	August
<b>Pinot Fest</b> <b>Tailgate: Vnyd Replanting Casa Cristal - ?</b>	<b>Tailgate/Eco Tour: Filigreen Farm- Land Trust</b>	<b>General Meeting</b> <b>Vnyd Newsletter:</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
September	October	November	December
<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Eco Tour: AV Brewing</b>	<b>Seminar/Tailgate</b> <b>Vnyd Newsletter:</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>

## Topics for Consideration:

1. Possible Member Educations/Workshops/Tailgates:
  - a. H2A Program - opportunity for member education
  - b. New regulation for labor
  - c. Whip 2 Applications + [Crop Insurance](#)
  - d. Dry Farming – soil type/rootstock/time sacrifice (no fruit to encourage root development)
  - e. Pruning Competition (vineyards pay a fee to participate and win prizes) followed by BBQ
  - f. Biochar
2. Thank You Picnic - develop relations with winemakers
3. Climate Change
  - a. Fire
  - b. [Grape Reconsideration in California](#)
  - c. [The Greening of Bordeaux](#)
  - d. [California Faces Another Dustbowl Vintage](#)
  - e. [Webinar: Our Path to Zero Carbon Emissions - Session 1](#)
  - f. [Accelerating nature-based solutions to achieve California's climate change goals](#)
  - g. [California Biodiversity Collaborative \(Collaborative\)](#)
  - h. [Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022 \(More Water Now\)](#)
4. Vineyard Management:
  - a. [Glyphosate](#)
  - b. [Dry Farming](#)
  - c. [Drone Technology for Spraying](#)
  - d. [Vineyard Tech & The Green Cyber Revolution](#)
  - e. [In Sonoma County, 'Regenerative Agriculture' Is the Next Big Thing](#)

- f. Post-Harvest Activity: Cover Crop Seeding - *Not recommended in 2021 due to drought situation & cover crop may not be advisable*
5. Jackson Family Rooted for Good Master Series Webinars
  - a. [Webinar](#): Our Path to Zero Carbon Emissions
  - b. [Webinar](#): Smart Water Management Practices - Session 2
  - c. [Webinar](#): Regenerative Farming - Session 3

#### Roster of Prior Discussions:

- a. *Pinot Fest Tech Conference: 10/19/21*
- b. *Vineyard Water: 8/14/21, 10/19/21*
- c. *Dry Farming: 8/14/21,*
- d. *Emergency Access: 8/14/21,*
- e. *Fire: 8/14/21,*
- f. *Mendocino County Farm Advisor: 8/14/21*

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Justin Jackson, Casa Cristal Nursery** - Originally from Woodland, CA. Family spent a lot of time in Mendocino and he has a personal connection to the area. Looking to hire a regional manager for the North Bay. Studied at UC Davis and moved to Bakersville in 2007 to work for Casa Cristal. Core of marketing is at the local level with associations around the state. Involved with some discussions around macro headwinds across the state. Casa Cristal is family owned - table grape producers, raisins and own a few wineries.

**Travis Foote, Strictly Vineyards** - General Manager, mostly in Anderson Valley but extends into Mendocino County. Finished his tenth harvest in Mendocino. Approximately 70-75% of their business is Anderson Valley clients. Most of the clients they have were already organic, and they have focused to convert clients to contact herbicides vs. systemic herbicides.

**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 are forthcoming.