



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.

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Attendees Present:							
X	Joslyn Thoresen (Chair)		Sarah Cahn Bennett	X	Yoriko Kishimoto		Cris Carter (AVWA BOD)
X	Jessica Van Griekan		Colleen Kobler		Zac Robinson		Courtney DeGraff
	Linda MacElwee	X	Erica Torgesen		Doug Stewart (AVWA BOD)		

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. Housekeeping

- a. New Committee Members- Erica Torgesen, Sonoma Clean Power
 - i. Erica Torgesen: Director of Customer Service at Sonoma Clean Power; replacing Nate Kinsey. She was in charge of Mendocino County Rollout, where 80% of the county is enrolled in service.
- b. Status - Still Open?
 - i. CDFA Healthy Soils & SWEEP Applications Open
 1. Joslyn shared links in the meeting reminder. Would like to hear back if AVWA members applied and any grants awarded.
 - ii. North Coast Soil Hub and RCD
 1. Upcoming Virtual Event on Feb 10: Making the Connection: Soil Biology & Soil Health

- c. Eco Tour Planning
 - i. March- Pennyroyal (SWEEP, CDFA, Regenerative Ag)
 - 1. Joslyn will confirm with Sarah Bennett and report back at Feb meeting.
 - ii. June - Land Trust x Filigreen Farm - Yoriko
 - 1. Land Trust Board is excited for the tour in conjunction with the symposium (more below). Date/s needs to be confirmed.
- d. Promotional Partnership
 - i. "Anderson Valley Resilient Lands" workshop or symposium in the fall - can we cohost?
 - 1. Joslyn said EC will definitely cross-promote though will need to check with Courtney on AVWA participation.
 - 2. The symposium will be to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Land Trust. Central theme is "state of the elements" with some larger "big picture" topics followed by a lunch period for sharing and then brainstorming session with other organizational groups like The Land, AV Food Shed, Farm Bureau, County + State Parks, Fibershed, etc. that have both private and public land interests
 - 3. Venue possibilities are the Fairgrounds, Grange or The Apple Farm.
 - 4. Yoriko would appreciate any referrals for speakers or potential topics.
- e. Recent News Roundup
 - i. Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022
 - 1. This was mentioned in an earlier committee meeting. Joslyn reviewed the details as this may be on the 2022 ballot and wanted to know if anyone else has heard of it as it's mainly being driven by SoCal entities. Still in the process of obtaining signatures, though a few environmental organizations (ie Sierra Club) oppose it as it would expedite/remove important environmental review processes.

2. Open Business:

- a. Fish Friendly Farming - 73% of Anderson Valley vineyards
 - i. Introduced Laurie > Courtney > List of Certified Vineyards and in process in Shared Folder > Need to cross-check with AVWA members
 - ii. Is this something that we can add to the newsletter? Overall, an environmental committee item can be included in all the member emails > Monthly or bi-monthly member feature, just need to confirm schedule with Courtney and create content calendar
- b. Survey > Group reviewed together and would appreciate others feedback!
 - i. Goal is to review the final at EC's Feb meeting and then send it in late Feb to members.
- c. [California Sustainable Winegrowing Program](#)
 - i. *Larger winery input on the program - ongoing*
 - ii. Update: Jessica's company Twomey has an environmental coordinator that can connect with CSWA rep for a webinar or in-person meeting. Wait until after the member survey to setup.
- d. V Sattui & AVWA
 - i. Update at next meeting.

- e. Vineyard Committee Debrief
 - i. N/A

ii. Agenda and Group Focus

1. New Discussion:

- a. Environmental Committee Newsletter (twice/year)
 - i. February: March Eco Tour, Sustainability Survey, Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022, Fish Friendly
- b. Open

2. Our Goals:

- a. Define Goals- what are they and define priority:
 - i. Support the AVWA community, provide community support and help the AVWA understand what is currently happening with members so they are able to share the eco-conscious efforts that are being performed by our members, as well as any goals that may be established regionally by members
 - ii. Support ecology (watershed, soil & carbon management), e.g.
 - 1. Winery: Packaging, onsite, shipping
 - 2. Vineyard: Cover cropping
 - 3. Watershed: Coho & Steelhead populations, flows
 - 4. Hydrology of valley- impacts to microclimate of area
 - iii. Support clean energy
 - 1. Net Energy Framework (NEMS) 2.0 program expiration
 - 2. Solar arrays for irrigation systems & EC vehicles
 - 3. Other renewable technology
 - 4. Clean Start and Evergreen products vs. onsite renewable
 - iv. Identify & promote certification(s)
 - 1. Fish-Friendly
 - 2. California Certified Sustainable Alliance - Winery &/or vineyard
 - v. Cause/Community Marketing – at both the member level and regional (e.g. 1% for the Planet, Save the Redwood, Navarro River, Hendy Woods)
- b. Create a 2022 AVWA Sustainability Member Survey
 - i. Map out the phases where members are currently at in certain sustainability efforts
 - ii. Build member engagement and expand committee
- c. Promote Events/Networking Opportunities:
 - a. AVWA sponsored
 - b. Earth day, local economic, UC Davis, county efforts
 - c. CDFA Healthy Soils & CDFA State Water Efficiency Enhancement Programs

iii. Next Meeting Date:

- 1. Normally Second Thursday - Confirm Next for 2/10/2022. Also ask group if 4:00pm start time or Mondays would work better for others in group.

Calendar of Ideas/Events:

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

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

Ideas:

1. Pennyroyal (SWEEP, CDFA, Regenerative Ag)
2. Husch (rainwater catchment & native garden)
3. Domaine Anderson (biochar) - TBD
4. Ferrington (Carbon Plan w/the USDA) - TBD
5. Brewery Tour (for a larger group)
6. Filigreen Biodynamic Farm Tour
7. Land Trust is interested in co-sponsoring an eco tour; they don't have easements over many vineyards aside from V Sattui.

Completed:

- Member Sustainable Features in newsletters
- Create Annual calendar of member events; feature members who are doing interesting things with eco tours and tailgating so that members can learn from one another
- Create informal "tailgates" that feature members (visit Pennyroyal or Husch to see...)
- Create a list of indicators for the health of the valley
- Share and learn from the Jackson Family Wines [Rooted for Good Roadmap](#) + Master Class Series
 - JFW goal is to reduce carbon emission by 2030 – [press release](#); webinar replays on [YouTube](#)

Next Steps:

1. Next Steps/Outstanding:
 - a. Create survey questions for sustainability
 - b. 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 ? Can we learn from Sustainable Sonoma - invite Karissa Kruse to a meeting at some point?
2. Topics for future 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.

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.

Colleen Kobler: Background in biology. Business partner with Norman Kobler for Philo Vineyard Solutions, and owner of Vonarburg Vineyard. Raised in Anderson Valley, worked for Ardzrooni Vineyard Management, Volunteer Firefighter.

Zac Robinson: 3rd generation owner and Operator of Husch Vineyard. Grew up on the property so history with the Navarro river, the local forest, and valley. Has performed a lot of research on best practices for responsible farming and stewardship. Assembles the vineyard census report for the AVWA every few years.