



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, January 25th, 2022

Attendees Present:							
x	Andrew Beebe (Chair)	x	Norm Kobler	x	Tony Bugica	x	Courtney DeGraff
x	Travis Foote		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 the overall administration of the group
- Critical issues and requests for support to be funneled to the AVWA BOD meeting (1st Thursday/month)
- [Shared Google Account](#) (minutes, documents, etc.).
- Follow-up

2. Open Discussion:

a. Housekeeping

- Feb 25: [CDFA Healthy Soils Program Application Closes](#)
 1. EASY application but requires some attention for getting flagged; etc. (Domaine Anderson)
 2. Strictly Vineyards has started applications for some clients;
 3. Philo Vineyards has submitted a few applications
 4. Courtney to remind members
- Debrief on Environmental Committee
 1. Ecotours: Pennyroyal (SWEEP, CDFa) this spring
 2. Fish Friendly Certification- 73% of vineyards are certified (they do a ton of research and provide an environmental report)
 3. Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022
 4. North Coast Soil Hub, RCD, Land Trust
 - a. Feb 10 Virtual: Making the Connection: Soil Biology & Soil Health
 - b. June - Land Trust x Filigreen Farm

- c. Fall- “Anderson Valley Resilient Lands” Land Trust workshop or symposium in the fall (Yoriko would appreciate any referrals for speakers or potential topics for state of the elements)
 - d. RCD willing to be tailgate co-sponsor; have deliverables for grants (staff time to coordinate, promote) - water or biochar workshops
 - iii. PNF Tech Conference:
 - 1. Vineyard Technology panel- thoughts about fertigation (applying fertilizer to a crop through the irrigation system)?
 - a. tied into soil health/water/fertigation; some vineyards are doing it (water dependent); a lot of nutrient ads are still via sprays. Atlas does a lot of fertigation. For example: sprays are like a vitamin in mouth and fertigation is like an intravenous drip. A lot of fertigation is post harvest (6-12” growth stage)
 - b. Wilbur-Ellis (Ukiah) or Grow West (Geyserville) - chemical company; invite them if we need someone there
 - 2. Future-Proofing Vineyard:
 - a. Technology Innovations:
 - i. VineView Panelist: Vineyard aerial assessment (water management/soil health/composting)
 - ii. Mechanical labor assistance (pruning, leafing, suckering, & harvesting)
 - iii. Water Management (Mark Greenspan) & Soil Health (UCD- Christian Chen):
 - 1. Cultivating your soil- disking, spading, ripping, vs. leaving it native)
 - 2. Permanent cover crop (no-till) vs. plow-down
 - 3. Fertigation
 - 4. Carbon Farm Planning presentation by NCRS (water holding capacity)- Linda/Erika Lundquist at NCRS
 - 5. Nature Conservancy - strategies with vineyards re: flow enhancement strategies Linda/Montey Schmitt
 - iv. Wildfire Impact:
 - 1. ETS sponsor: What did they present to the Napa Valley farm vintners? Travis spoke to someone who had experimented with some sprays that could combat smoke taint....travis to report back on product
 - v. Sustainability vs. Organic farming and practices
 - 1. Atlas Vineyard Management- Madeline, UC Davis graduate
 - 3. UCD as speaker - ?
 - iv.
- b. Water
 - i. Half-Day 2022 UCD Water Irrigation Workshop w/Lunch - Kaan Kurtural
 - 1. Month/Date TBD UCD Workshop Agenda (send to members in next member newsletter)
 - 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. **Climate Smart Water Practices Agriculture & Funding Sources (MRCD), Andrew, to connect Linda and Christian**
- 2. Workshop Sponsor(s):
 - a. Mendo Resource Conservation District Manager (flyers and planning), Belkorp (sponsor lunch-?), Team up with Land Trust (TBD-?)
- ii. Anderson Valley Water Usage Overview - Vineyard Newsletter
 - 1. Publication goal in February - coastal perspective
 - a. Common practices for water usage in AV- Norm/Andrew outline
 - b. Glenn water report - Andrew is reviewing the report and will highlight important segments **Expected next week**
 - c. Lake/Mendocino UCD Needs Assessment request form for Christian at UCD **Include in the newsletter**
 - d. New & anticipated regulations (if any)
 - i. Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022
 - e. Healthy Soils closes February 28th; SWEEP next round funding expected later in the year **Courtney to get a blurb from Linda**
 - 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.
 - a. Ag Waivers went out to Sonoma and Napa years ago who have been under this regulatory compliance
 - b. It is coming our way, but uncertain when <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/>
 - 3. Russian River Water Shed vs. Navarro (Devon assistance?); Courtney has emailed her

c. Vineyard Management

- i. Vineyard workshop/tailgates/seminars in 2022 - topic/focus TBD
 - 1. Ideas:
 - a. **Business & Labor Law Update** (BBSI sponsor; invite member law firm to present):
 - i. **Target last week of February - not Friday's; mid-week morning 10 AM**
 - ii. Webinar Agenda **Tony to partner with Courtney:**
 - 1. Wine & Agriculture Industry Changes (Carle, Mackie, Power & Ross LLP)
 - 2. New Regulation for Labor and H2a (Carle, Mackie, Power & Ross LLP)
 - 3. Tax Law (BBSI)
 - 4. Payroll Services (BBSI)
 - 5. CalSavers (BBSI)
 - 6. *Anything else- ?*
 - b. Canopy management workshop; UC Davis has a team that is traveling together
 - c. Whip 2 Applications + [Crop Insurance](#)
 - d. 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
 - a. How do exemptions work for viral pathogens?
 - b. How do we collectively work together against this?

d. Next Meeting Date:

- i. Group will meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at **4 PM - February 22, 2022**

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
	Seminar: Labor Law Vnyd Newsletter: Water Workshop Agenda & AV Water Usage Overview Tailgate: Biochar	Eco Tour: Pennyroyal	Workshop: TBC- Water - UCD/MCRD
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

Topics for Consideration:

1. Possible Member Educations/Workshops/Tailgates:
 - a. H2A Program - an 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 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.

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.