



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 prevention. 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, April 14, 2022

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

Agenda & Discussion

1. Committee Meeting Logistics:

- Monthly meeting, scheduled for 90 minutes after 4PM 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. Presentation & Housekeeping

- a. Presentation by Felicia Smith and Kimberly Beltrane on Sonoma Clean Power's new Commercial Energy Assistance Program. [Replay is available here.](#)
 - i. Kimberly Beltrane works on SCP technical programs and has experience working with wineries. Questions or more details on the program, contact kbeltran@sonomacleanpower.org
 - ii. Program Overview: Evaluating, Finding Projects, Find Resources, Incentive or Rebate (ie PG&E). Initially: Identify customers wanting efficiency measures and projects to forecast savings. Three levels of audits: Looking at all data points and systems in operation and maximizing investment in energy efficiency; long-term including equipment. Program does provide assistance in engineering though has limits with Sophisticated systems. Review maintenance logs, audits project, report, loading docs. Are there trends? Fine tune - implementation results in actual action.

- iii. Are there 2-3 sites to look at in AV? Difficulty finding a consultant to provide an efficiency report come up. Coordinate with others to sync appointments!
 - iv. Recs: Retro-commissioning (ie upgrades); Systems, better alternatives? Save money on energy, save energy in general,
 - v. PG&E's program:
https://www.pge.com/en_US/small-medium-business/save-energy-and-money/rebates-and-incentives/industry-rebates/agriculture-and-food-processing.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_wineries
 - vi. Follow up on NRCS and how non-carbon intensive use can be cost-effective
- b. Feedback on Recent Eco Tours
 - i. March 24, Eco-Tour @ Pennyroyal Farm (CDFA, Regenerative Ag & a focus on Fish Friendly farming)
 - 1. Good job done by Sarah. Especially effective with the Sheep onsite.
 - ii. April 5, Bio-char Tour @ Roederer Estate on April 5, 2022
 - c. Upcoming Eco Tour:
 - i. June 15, 9:30 am - Land Trust x Filigreen Farm
 - ii. RSVP to [Yoriko](#)
 - d. Promotional Partnership - Update by Yoriko on "Anderson Valley Resilient Lands" state of the elements workshop/symposium
 - i. Will be hosted at The Land on Sat, Oct 15, 9a-3p. Capacity of 150ppl and able to stream. Keynote speaker Obi Kaufman.
 - ii. Planning Committee is on Mondays @ 4pm. Next on Mon, Apr 18.
 - iii. Joslyn will review the agenda and comment on the promo partner and vineyard side.
 - iv. Q came up: What to "restore" it to? Biodiversity and land ties.
 - e. Related Events to Share:
 - i. Apr 29, 8:30a - Cover Crop Field Trials & Soil Health Tailgate @ Ferrington Vineyard
 - ii. May 11 & 12 Webinar - Water Resilience for Vineyards in Drought by UCCE, MCRCD, & Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association
 - f. Recent News, Grants or Opportunities Roundup
 - i. Pinot Fest Visibility - Linda participating on the panel in morning. Let her know anything to relay.
 - ii. April rains are helping to mitigate stress. Linda said flows were disconnected and this can help.
 - iii. Joslyn to get update from Laurel on Fish Friendly Farming's new "Climate Certification"
- 2. Open Business:
 - a. Lackluster response to survey - 6 Total. Takeaway? Next Steps?
 - i. Maybe do a joint survey with Vineyard Committee on specific topics?
 - b. Fish Friendly Farming - 73% of Anderson Valley vineyards
 - i. Inclusion in ongoing AVWA member newsletter - when is next?
 - ii. Should be a reasonable effort to help get the region 100%; if the smaller farmers can receive help in getting this completed; Yoriko said they did 95% of the work and was an easy process. If we can quantify approx. how many hours of work this would take a farmer to do alongside of the FFF surveyor, this would help
 - iii. Trying to certify the region as organic farming is more difficult; some properties can be partially organic, vs. others that are not

- c. [California Sustainable Winegrowing Program](#)
 - i. *Larger winery input on the program - ongoing*
 - ii. Twomey environmental coordinator/CSWA rep for a webinar (*hold*).
- d. V Sattui & AVWA
 - i. Yoriko connected Courtney to Darius; Courtney looks forward to connecting with him, likely around the symposium
- e. Vineyard Committee Debrief
 - i. Vineyard newsletter
 - ii. Water Workshop
 - iii. Biochar tailgate
- f. Environmental Committee Newsletter (twice/year)
 - i. March: March Eco Tour, Sustainability Survey, Fish Friendly
 - ii. Next in May? Determine Content as a group

ii. Agenda and Group Focus

1. New Discussion:

- a. May Environmental Committee Newsletter Items
 - i. Pushing more for Drought & Vineyards Workshop!
 - ii. June - Fish Friendly Climate Certification
- b. Upcoming opportunities to communicate
 - i. [Compost Zero Food Print](#) - apply for free compost, open now
 - ii. [Climate Applications](#) - opening soon
 - iii. [North Coast Compost Use in Agriculture Workshop Series](#)
- c. **Questions Presented from 2.10.22:**
 - i. *We have a major threat affecting us this year and the future, between resiliency & sustainability of vineyard (see the recent Grape Crush Report). Can we come up with new ways to manage water considering this threat? Is this more important than fish-friendly certification right now than our members?*
 - 1. The Vineyard Committee was leading an effort for a water workshop with UCEE. The new staff there wants to schedule this as part of a larger effort with the Russian River watershed and greater Mendocino.
 - 2. Best solutions: on-premise management and soil health
 - 3. Voluntary drought initiative program (flow releases, reversing water into streams, etc.)
 - 4. Water diversion and storage practices are not allowed and that is an issue; water laws need to be addressed. Linda advised that there is a very small effort happening with one staff person for the state who was processing applications, but with the Governor's water policy taking priority it has stalled
 - ii. What are the group's priorities of this group?
 - 1. List goals; list target dates to achieve; list a strategy
 - a. Get the region/AVWA members 100% Fish Friendly Farming
 - b. Support Linda
 - c. Align with the Land Trust
 - d. Establish a WIFT list for farmers to farm organic

2. Speak to the vineyard farmers & managers (Ardzrooni, Vineyard Philo Solutions, Atlas, Strictly Vineyard), and the large vineyard owners in AV
 - a. Create a summit

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. Second Thursday - 4 pm on **May 12, 2022**

Calendar of Ideas/Events:

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

January	February	March	April
	Vnyd Newsletter: AV Water Usage Overview	Seminar: Employment & HR Webinar Enviro Newsletter: Survey, Fish Friendly Farming Eco-Tour: 3/24 Pennyroyal Social: 3/29 @ AVWA Office	Tailgate: Roederer Biochar
May	June	July	August
Pinot Fest Workshop: UCEE Water Tailgate: Vnyd Replanting Casa Cristal - ? Social: 5/31 @ Greenwood Ridge	Tailgate/Eco Tour: Filigreen Farm- Land Trust Social: 6/20 @ Lula Cellars	General Meeting & Social: 7/28 @ Maggy Hawk	Sparkling Harvest Social: 8/18 @ Goldeneye
September	October	November	December
Harvest	Eco Tour: AV Brewing Social: 10/27 @ Foursight	Seminar/Tailgate Vnyd Newsletter: Social: 11/9 @ Bewildered Pig	General Meeting & Social: 12/8 @ TBD

Ideas:

1. Pennyroyal (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. 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.

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 Ardzooni 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.

Felicia Smith: Program Manager for Sonoma Clean Power with an emphasis on fuel-switching. Currently implementing a program for peak usage (i.e. winery usage during harvest). Background in sustainability and worked for the city of Healdsburg on water conservancy.