



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, October 13, 2022

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

- a. Committee Meetings: Recommended by Board to change frequency to accommodate for event periods and better attendance. Thoughts?
 - i. Determine the date of the next meeting based on the discussion.
 - b. Promotional Partnership - Update by Yoriko/Joslyn on "Anderson Valley Resilient Lands Symposium: Think Like a Watershed"
 - i. Sold Out! AV Grange on Sat, Oct 15, 8:30 a-4:30 p. [Keynote speaker is Obi Kaufman; see list panelists/speakers and program.](#)
 - ii. Livestream available here > <https://youtu.be/10Q7i8Hi6dE>
 - c. Recent News, Grants or Opportunities Roundup
 - i. Linda, any word on CDFA Healthy Soils & SWEEP opening?
 - ii. Any hits on SCP Energy Audits?
2. Open Business:
- a. Nov 3, Wine Institute: What is AVWA's stance on sustainability?
 - b. March 2023, Media Group: What to showcase about sustainability.
 - c. 2023 Objectives

- i. Collaborate with Vineyard Committee on Water Permit Workshop Part of the Proposal: Fish Friendly Farming x AVWA Environmental Committee How Fish Friendly Farming Certification Can Help with Your Vineyard's Water Board Permit.
 - 1. All vineyard parcels subject to the General Permit – regardless of slope of the planted area - must achieve performance standards for soil erosion in the farm area, and for discharge of nutrients and pesticides.
 - 2. The proposed project consists of the Regional Water Board establishing General WDRs for Vineyard Properties to control discharges of sediment and stormwater runoff originating from Vineyard Properties located within the project boundaries. Vineyard Properties have the potential to discharge pollutants to surface water and groundwater from stormwater and irrigation runoff, the application of pesticides and fertilizer, erosion of sediment, and removal and suppression of riparian vegetation. The proposed Vineyard Permit will require Dischargers to assess, plan, and implement a suite of site-specific actions and best management practices (BMPs) targeted towards controlling discharges from Vineyard Properties including their:
 - a. Related Vineyard Facilities,
 - b. Road networks,
 - c. Gullies and shallow landslides, and
 - d. Points of concentrated stormwater runoff.
- ii. Co-partnering/expanding awareness/zooming out - like Noyo Center and Uni Festival
- iii. Eco Tours?

ii. Agenda and Group Focus

1. New Discussion:

- a. Environmental Committee Newsletter Items
 - i. Determine the next date + potential content.
- b. Association statement around sustainability
- c. Upcoming opportunities to communicate
 - i. [Compost Zero Food Print](#) - apply for free/low-cost compost, open now
 - ii. [Climate Applications](#) - Closed Aug 8th
 - iii. CDFA Healthy Soils & Sweep
 - iv. 2023 County Water Board Permit

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. Created 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. Thu, Oct 13

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 Workshop	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

Enviro Newsletter: UCEE Water Workshop, Survey, Fish Friendly Farming Social: 5/31 @ Greenwood Ridge			
September	October	November	December
Harvest Enviro Newsletter: AVLT Symposium Think Like a Watershed, SCP Energy Audit, MCRCD Prep for CDFA opportunities	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)
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. Co-partnering/expanding awareness/zooming out - like Noyo Center and Uni Festival
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 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.

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.