



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, January 12, 2023

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
X	Linda MacElwee	X	Felicia Smith	X	Doug Stewart (AVWA BOD)	X	Tina Casey

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. Promotional Partnership - Update by Yoriko/Joslyn on AVL Resiliency Committee:
 - i. Living with Wildfire in Anderson Valley, January 28 @ AV Grange, 9 am - 1:30 pm. [Register here.](#)
- b. Recent News, Grants or Opportunities Roundup
 - i. Linda on the new Environmental Defense Fund Grant and AVWA partnership
 1. Program on Carbon Accounting – new metric for land use and vegetation cover
 - a. Looking at forests, grasslands, vineyards, etc.
 - b. Climate-beneficial practices can be incentivized for landowners via credits and other grants
 2. Provides a start on obtaining a Historical Ecology of Anderson Valley

3. Workshops and community presentations with partners AVWA and AVL T
4. Kick-off meeting Friday, January 27 at 1:30 pm - Joslyn & Doug will join
- ii. Others:
 1. Zero Footprint and Restore CA
 2. [CUSP](#)
- iii. Industry-Wide Issues
 1. Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
 - a. State Department Receives Fund > State Agencies > CDFA
 - b. Can we connect with our representatives, Jared Huffman or Ted Williams, to have them discuss this at our local level?
 - c. Felicia recommends talking directly to state departments that are implementing energy credits as they likely have a role or program for that purpose
 - c. Confirm Next Meeting Date: **Thu, Feb 9**, and keep monthly but consider in schedule heavy event months (i.e. Pinot Fest in May) and harvest schedule (Sep and Oct)
2. Open Business:
 - a. Review [AVWA Sustainability Statement](#) - edits will need to be approved by the board
 - b. 2024 Waste Water Permit Update
 - i. Do we need a webinar for discussion? Check if wineries are aware of this permit for existing pumps
 1. [Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements \(WDRs\) for Wineries](#)
 2. Digestible Overview + Help sheets > [Wine Institute's Compliance Tool for California Water Order](#)
 - c. Upcoming on Water Permit:
 - i. Laurel of FFF is drafting an email that summarizes the points of the permit, Fish Friendly compliance, and a template for members to submit their opposition/requests before delegation
3. Next Meeting (items we didn't get to):
 - a. March 2023, Media Group: What to showcase about sustainability.
 - b. AV Pinot Fest Tech Conference Sustainability Panel - how do we support/help shape it to further reach our membership + beyond
 - c. 2023 Objectives
 - i. Ongoing collaboration 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. Create proposal and outline what this will entail and which stakeholders
 2. About the upcoming Water Permit:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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:

- i. Related Vineyard Facilities,
 - ii. Road networks,
 - iii. Gullies and shallow landslides, and
 - iv. Points of concentrated stormwater runoff.
- ii. Co-partnering/expanding awareness/zooming out (i.e. Noyo Center and Uni Festival)
 - iii. Eco Tours:
 - 1. Cold Creek & Frey Vineyards - TBC
 - 2. Husch Vineyards?

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. CDFA Healthy Soils & Sweep - Currently Closed
 - iii. 2023 County Water Board Permit

iii. Next Meeting Date:

- 1. Thu, Feb 9

Calendar of Ideas/Events:

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

January	February	March	April
Cross-promo: 1/28 Fire Resiliency Workshop @ AV Grange	Vineyard Committee: 2/17 AV Pruning Contest White Wine Weekend 2/18 & 2/19	Eco-Tour?	Eco-Tour?
May	June	July	August

Pinot Fest 5/19 - 5/21		Eco-Tour?	Sparkling Harvest General Meeting & Social: 8/3 @ Maggy Hawk
September	October	November	December
Harvest		Eco-Tour?	

Ideas:

1. Husch (rainwater catchment & native garden)
2. Ferrington (Carbon Plan w/the USDA)
3. Brewery Tour (for a larger group)
4. Land Trust is interested in co-sponsoring an eco-tour; they don't have easements over many vineyards aside from V Sattui.

Done:

1. Pennyroyal (CDFA, Regenerative Ag)
2. Roederer (biochar)
3. Filigreen Biodynamic Farm Tour