



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, February 9, 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		Felicia Smith	X	Doug Stewart (AVWA BOD)		Tina Casey

Agenda & Discussion

1. Committee Meeting Logistics:

- Monthly meeting, scheduled for 90 minutes after 4 PM 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:

a. Housekeeping

1. Upcoming Events:

- a. Feb 17: [AV Pruning Contest](#)
- b. Feb 18 - 19: [AV White Wine Weekend](#)
- c. Feb 28: [UCEE On the Road in Mendocino County](#) @ UCHREC, Hopland, CA
- d. Mar 3: [Fish Friendly Farming Program Review of Management Practices and Orientation](#) (Passcode: 752405)
- e. Mar 28 - 31: AVWA Media Trip
- f. Mar 28, 2 pm - 4:30 pm: [Anderson Valley Vineyard & Landowners Seminar](#) @ Fairgrounds, Boonville, CA
 - i. Chris Chen received a grant; topics on consumer trends and broader marketplace; more focused on vineyards.
- g. Outreach tactics:
 - i. Getting organizations involved earlier on (i.e. Resilient Symposium was planned for 6 - 8 months in advance with community partners involved initially)

2. Water Permit:

- a. Laurel of FFF drafted an email summarizing the permit points, Fish Friendly compliance, and a template for members to submit their opposition/requests before the delegation.
 - i. Repost Letter on Members Corner
 - ii. Opens for Comments in June 2023
 - iii. Future seminar with Sonoma Vintners - would like to have someone like JFW Susann Zeichel who has experience with compliance in Sonoma/Napa (and vineyards in AV)
 - iv. Land Smart Program for little guys - assistance for funding and planning
- b. Web: [North Coast Regional Water Board Program for Discharges of Waste Associated with Vineyards](#)
- 3. Confirm [AVWA Sustainability Statement](#) - edits will need to be approved by the board
- 4. Promotional Partnerships:
 - a. AVLT Resiliency Committee - Update by Yoriko/Joslyn:
 - i. Living with Wildfire in Anderson Valley, January 28
 - 1. Need more vineyard members in attendance
 - a. Part of issue with Vineyard representatives is that vineyard management is now consolidated - managed by others
 - ii. Meeting (every other?) Monday @ 4 pm
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 - b. Environmental Defense Fund Grant - Update by Linda
 - i. Meeting monthly last Friday @ 1:30 pm
 - ii. Plans to create a Steering Committee to meet and be a Decision-Making Body (as needed, TBD)
- 5. 2024 Waste Water Permit Update
 - a. Do we need a webinar for discussion? Are wineries aware of this permit for existing pumps?
 - i. No - N/A for Most Small Wineries and most wineries in AV are on private septic
- 6. Items from the last meeting that we didn't discuss yet:
 - a. March 2023, Media Group: What to showcase about sustainability.
 - i. March 28 seminar will be an excellent opportunity! Plan on attending social afterward too.
 - b. AV Pinot Fest Tech Conference Panel - how do we support/help shape it to further our sustainability goals to our membership + beyond.
 - i. History or Vineyard Panel - Moderated by Linda.
 - ii. Soil Health + Measuring Soils > <https://soilhub.org/what-we-do/soil-health-database/>
 - iii. Will keep this agenda item active as this develops.
 - 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.
 - 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 (Rainwater Garden) x Handley (Hedge Row + Inzola Management) - JT will reach out to Zach and Lulu once Linda's date for Cover Crop Trial @ Ferrington and Biochar workshop dates are set.
 - 3. Check with Twomey about their ponds?

4. Roederer Estate BioChar - Broad Community
5. MCRD Ferrington Vineyard (Cover Crop) - End of April
6. Lichen x Roma - Unique vineyards with environmentally friendly features

b. New Discussion:

- i. Environmental Committee Newsletter Items
 1. Determine the next date + potential content.
- ii. Upcoming opportunities to communicate
 1. [Compost Zero Food Print](#) - apply for free/low-cost compost, open now
 2. CDFA Healthy Soils & Sweep - Currently Closed
 3. 2023 County Water Board Permit
- iii. Recent News, Grants, or Opportunities Roundup - Any for early 2023?

3. Next Meeting Date:

- a. Thu, Mar 9

1.

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	AV Vineyard & Landowners Seminar 3/28	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