



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 the collaborating around issues that include, but are not limited to, fire issues, watershed and drought, and soil and vegetation concerns. The goal of the committee is to protect the unique microclimate through awareness and education by elevating community issues and seeking the support from the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association around issues impacting community viability and economic development.

Tuesday, August 17th, 2020

Attendees Present:							
X	Joslyn Thoreson (Chair)	X	Sarah Bennet	X	Yoriko Kishimoto	X	Cris Carter (AVWA BOD)
	Jessica Van Griekan		Colleen Kobler		Jesse Richards	X	Courtney DeGraff

Agenda & Discussion

1. Committee Meeting Logistics:

- Monthly meeting, scheduled for 90 minutes after 5PM on a Thursday
- Rotating scribe (unless someone can volunteer for the role exclusively)
- The Chair will manage the agenda development and overall administration of the group
- Critical issues and requests for support to be funneled to the AVWA BOD meeting (1st Thursday/month)

2. Open Discussion:

a. Water Issues in Boonville

- i. The lack of municipal water district is causing issues and 30 wells have been reported to have gone dry in Boonville. Livestock and harvest needs are approaching. Domestic use water is drying up due to tourist gray water use. People are drilling additional wells around the valley to assist with agricultural issues and well permits are on a few years delay.
- ii. When CSD did initial study state reporting on wells there was an impact on farms at the Boonville end of the valley for managing domestic water usage. Recently, farms in Philo and Navarro are now also having to comply. Sarah believes that metered water is going to be the best way to help manage water usage and flow meters assist with water that is being wasted. Viticulturally, this committee can recommend best practices for responsible irrigation practices, similarly to how the AVWA helped with the wind machine effort.
- iii. The public water project has many challenges, including crossing creeks and the issues around the smell with a sewage plant. Discussions are recommended to learn if local businesses support the CSD water project. The AVWA should consider facilitating discussions with memberships around the effort and downstream issues to our community if the project is not implemented.
 1. Fort Bragg has issues because they passed the water system independent of the sewage effort; this has been good learning that both projects (water and sewage) really need to be performed in unison.
- iv. Trucking water is going to be an issue once wells begin to dry up; as regulations become more restrictive at the state level, we are going to be more dependent upon trucking water and is going to impact a lot of workers, employee housing, and smaller businesses.

1. Can there be collective efforts around water hauling to reduce pricing?
- b. **Public Restroom in Boonville (short-term + long-term)**
 - i. *Short-term*: Joslyn attended a fairground meeting to discuss the option for public restroom via a port-a-potty. Volunteer Fire Dept is the only public use bathroom for emergencies. She is going to petition help from local businesses and the county to support a temporary bathroom solution at a location TBD.
 - ii. *Long-term*: Is a public restroom part of the CSD water project for long-term solution? We need the CSD to understand this is an issue.
- c. **Next Meeting Date:**
 - i. Thursday, September 2nd at 5PM

Next Steps:

1. Understand the CSD and their project(s) better
 - a. AVWA is going to invite Val &/or Catherine to attend an upcoming BOD meeting
 - b. Informal discussions should occur by this group when they have CSD interactions
2. Joslyn to advance the short-term temporary toilet proposal
 - a. She can work with AVWA to get messaging out to local businesses
 - b. She will attend the next Fairground Meeting on Tuesday, September 8th
3. Topics for next committee meeting:
 - a. Non-Attendee Member Introductions
 - b. Water:
 - i. Trucking & Hauling Water
 - ii. Boonville Port-a-Potty Effort
 - iii. CSD Water Project
 - c. Fire Season
 - i. Best Practices
 - ii. Mendocino County Emergency Access Effort
 - d. Determine Monthly Thursday Meeting Date

Committee Members:

Joslyn Thoreson (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 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.

Not in attendance:

Colleen Kobler: Business partner with Norman Kobler for Philo Vineyard Solutions, and owner of Vonarburg Vineyard.

Jessica VanGrieken: Educational focus has been on environmental issues. Tasting Room Manager at Twomey Cellars.

Jess Richards: Forester who works on the Coast, and part time at Foursight on the weekends.