



## 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, March 10, 2022

Attendees Present:							
X	Joslyn Thoresen (Chair)		Sarah Cahn Bennett	X	Yoriko Kishimoto		Cris Carter (AVWA BOD)
	Jessica Van Griekan		Colleen Kobler	X	Zac Robinson		Courtney DeGraff
	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. New-Attendee Introductions & Housekeeping

##### 1. Housekeeping

- a. New Committee Member: Felicia Smith, Sonoma Clean Power works for programs team 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.
- b. Laurel Marcus presented on Fish Friendly Farming -
  - i. [Slide presentation available here.](#)
  - ii. To Note: The first site certified for the program was Navarro Vineyards in 1999.
  - iii. Laurel recommends vineyards under 5 acres to be exempted from enrollment; Napa and Sonoma did this.

- iv. If 2 or 3 sites can be signed up it'd save on time. The typical cost is \$10/acre. A USDA grant could help cover costs.
- v. FFF could help with regulatory compliance for County Water Board permit/Irrigated Lands Program (TBD on announcement and deadlines).
- vi. Opportunities to link into (i.e. Healthy Soils grant to restore riparian corridor).
- vii. Environmentally, AV has great talking points: low pesticides, biodiversity, etc.
- viii. Additional Info to Utilize: Percentage of the Anderson Valley Appellation is actually under vine: 57,000 acres in the appellation with 2500 acres vineyard (4.4%). It'd be good to gain additional facts of % forested and % grazing.
- a. Review Responses
  - i. [March Newsletter](#)
  - ii. [Initial Survey](#) - minimal. Reminder with the deadline.
- b. Eco Tour Planning
  - i. March 24, 10:30 am @ Pennyroyal Farm (CDFA, Regenerative Ag & a focus on Fish Friendly farming)
  - ii. Bio-char Tour @ Roederer Estate on April 5, 2022
  - iii. June - Land Trust x Filigreen Farm - Yoriko
    - 1. AVWA BOD is interested in helping to support the symposium in partnership
- c. Promotional Partnership
  - i. "Anderson Valley Resilient Lands" state of the elements workshop/symposium
    - 1. Will be hosted at The Land on Sat, Oct 15, 9a-3p. Capacity of 150ppl and able to stream.
    - 2. Keynote speaker Obi Kaufman. Invited Senator McGuire. Maybe Jared Huffman could be available - Doug will share contact info.
    - 3. Other Options: Potential panel on vineyards. Reaching out to inter-tribal council members.
    - 4. Planning Committee is on Mondays @ 4pm. Yoriko will reach out to Joslyn about monthly participation. Doug may be able to attend too.
- d. Recent News Roundup
  - i. None.
- 2. Open Business:
  - a. Fish Friendly Farming - 73% of Anderson Valley vineyards
    - i. Need to cross-check list with AVWA members - Zac to update
    - ii. Inclusion in ongoing AVWA member newsletter
    - iii. 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
    - iv. Trying to certify the region as organic farming is more difficult; some properties can be partially organic, vs. others that are not
  - b. [California Sustainable Winegrowing Program](#)
    - i. *Larger winery input on the program - ongoing*
    - ii. Twomey environmental coordinator/CSWA rep for a webinar (*hold*).
  - c. V Sattui & AVWA

- i. Yoriko connected Courtney to Darius; Courtney looks forward to connecting with him, likely around the symposium
- d. Vineyard Committee Debrief
  - i. Vineyard newsletter
  - ii. Water Workshop
  - iii. Biochar tailgate
- e. 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. Cold Stabilization - Zac brought up need help on heavy consumption for peak periods. Felicia will look into it as in July SCP funding will be available for peak period reduction.
  - i. Monitoring panel like [Sense](#) could be worked into this.
- b. Water Right / Drought
  - i. Upcoming certain properties would have access to hold winter water
  - ii. [Nature Conservancy helped store and use for summer drought](#)
  - iii. A recent law that says water right to store is an environmental benefit
- c. 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](#)
  - iv. Under Vine Management Workshop - hosted at Pennyroyal by Linda
- d. **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 April 14

## Calendar of Ideas/Events:

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

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