



## ECO-Vrindaban Board Meeting Minutes 1/24/2021

**Mission Statement:** ECO-Vrindaban promotes cow protection, local agriculture, and above all, loving Krishna, as envisioned by Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON New Vrindaban's Founder-Acharya.

Participating ECO-V Board Members: Anuttama, Jamuna Jivani (board secretary), Makara (chair), Ranaka, and Vraja.

Participating Advisors: Chaitanya Mangala, Devananda, Ishana, and Jaya Krsna

### 1. Ranaka's Monthly Report

Ranaka reported on the previous month's projects:

- Lalita Gopi (Temple Barn)
  - There are seven cows being milked: Usha, Sita, Sriya, Lalita, Vamsika, Surabhi, and Gopi Katyayani.
  - The cows are producing 25 gal of milk per day.
  - Anandavidya makes 20-30 lb of butter weekly.
  - There are now three calves at the barn: Bhisma, Radhika Keshavi, and Sumitra
  - Surabhi delivered her calf on Monday, January 4 at 5:30 am. She has a healthy heifer named Sumitra (named by the fundraising department).
  - Harley has resumed helping with the evening milkings.
  - Noah has been helping some mornings
  - A regular visitor donated a few personalized collars
  - Jayasri has been brought to the milk barn as she will calf soon.
  - Bahulaban Herd Count
    - Steer - 1
  - Valley Barn Herd Count
    - Bull- 1
    - Bred Heifers - 3

- Being Bred Heifer - 1
  - Open young Heifer (not yet breeding age) - 2
  - Retired Cows - 20
  - Steers - 6
- Ray
  - Spread gravel and graded around Valley High Tunnels.
  - Hung screen doors on the west side of Valley HT's 1 & 2 and began fittings for exhaust fans.
  - Made and secured a board for garden tool organization at Valley HT's.
  - Fed cows and cleaned the Valley Barn.
  - Delivered hay to Temple Barn as needed.
- Caitanya Bhagavat (Nandagram)
  - Daily general cow care and ensured the safety of the Nandagram herd.
  - Monitored the herd numbers:
    - Bull - 1
    - Steers - 3
    - Cow being bred - 1
    - Ox - 3
    - Retired Cows - 3
    - Steers - 9
  - Planned and arranged for favorable social dynamics among the cows
  - Cow checks, arranged and facilitated veterinarian visits.
  - Oversaw and supplemented Nandagram's hay stock.
  - Facilitated, monitored, and cared for aging cows, cow pregnancies, and herd accommodations.
  - General barn maintenance
- Bhakta Joseph
  - Building repairs on the main barn in Nandagram.
  - Training under Caitanya in maintenance and herd dynamics.
  - Tending to Gopinath (an escape artist Holstein steer) residing in Bahulaban for the winter.
- Hari Bhakti (Outreach Department)
  - Strengthened our outreach efforts by creating attractive ECO-V related content on social media and in this way also appreciating ECO-V staff and volunteers.
  - Continued our ECO-V quiz on Facebook as an educational outreach strategy to promote ECO-V's mission by actively interacting with the local (devotee) community as well as the broader public through social media. In this way we also increase our organic social media reach and grow our page.

- Started a social media plan for Facebook to more accurately measure the effectiveness of our social media efforts and our organic reach of our target audiences.
- Suchandra (Teaching Garden & Valley Barn Flower Beds)
  - Teaching Garden and Barn
    - Covered some beds with compost
    - Cleared more areas
    - Cleaned out bulbs stored in the front part of the shed.
    - cleaned and dried bulbs for better storage
    - cleared out beds at the barn and stored canna bulbs.
- Moksa (Vidya's Garden & High Tunnel)
  - Crew: Hari Nama and Gopal
  - Covered six out of 20 outdoor beds with composted manure. Covered three out of 20 beds for weed prevention.
  - Outdoor activities are limited during blizzards.
  - Major cleanout of high tunnel: removal of dead plants, cages, wire trellis, and weeds.
  - Swept excess dirt and debris from half of beds and aisles
  - Rearranged the T-posts in the center of the beds still containing live plants to create a more efficient tenting system with the cover cloth on cold days and nights.
  - Rearranging potted plants in the center of the beds.
  - Carnation harvest (still blooming!)
  - Harvested the last of the carrots
  - Planted approximately 50 double carnations (bigger blooms).
  - Dripline restrung under groundcover to lessen surface moisture and slippery mud hazards.
- Analaksita (Valley High Tunnels One and Two)
  - Crew: Melody and David
  - High Tunnel One
    - weeded and watered
    - A pipe on our fertilizer injector froze and burst. Hose clamps were added for a temporary fix. We ordered the piece from the manufacturer so we can repair it.
  - High Tunnel Two
    - finished adding a thick layer of manure, peat moss and lime, then tilled it in with a small tractor and new tiller attachment. After that, the soil was leveled, flame weeded, and beds remarked.
    - entire inside was sprayed with vinegar and then pressure washed. It is now ready for planting.

- Sprouting Station
  - cleaned, organized, and updated with new shelves and lights that hold 24 flats.
- Inside HT Building
  - maha cleanup of inside and outside the tunnels and HT building: cleared out our work corner, hung shelves, got rid of garbage, cleaned, and organized.
- Outside HT Building
  - weeded and cleared brush to expose garbage and metal to be hauled off. ECO-V's flatbed truck was repaired and inspected for removal of metal.
  - Production from Outdoor gardens and High Tunnels (Vidya, HT #1 and HT #2) for the month of December 2020:
- No produce or flowers from the outdoor gardens or high tunnels were sold or delivered to the temple in the month of December.
- Ranaka
  - Art Studio demo update from Ishana: The demolition is finished. As soon as the snow clears up, we will clean up the waste and the project will be complete.
  - Completed year end payroll reporting with the IRS and WV state tax department for ECO-V. Distributed W-2s and 1099s to all employees and contractors.
  - Prepared for yearly audit with Ram Associates, CPAs at the end of February.
  - With the birth of Sumitra, the herd count is now 65.

## **2. Email Vote: Allegra as Advisor**

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to maintain a team of advisors.

RESOLVED: The Board renews Allegra's position as an advisor for a one-year term.

## **3. Advisor Status**

- Allegra, Ishana, Chaitanya Mangala, Jaya Krsna, and Devananda have accepted their advisorship positions.
- Lalita Gopi has decided not to continue as an advisor this year. The ECO-Vrindaban board thanks Lalita Gopi for her one year of service as an ECO-Vrindaban board advisor and looks forward to her continuing on as an ECO-Vrindaban staff member.

#### **4. FY20 Finalized Operating Budget Approval**

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to review ECO-V's income and expenses for the previous year.

RESOLVED: The Board approves a finalized operating budget of \$366K for 2020.

#### **5. FY21 Operating Budget Approval**

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to set projections of ECO-V's operating budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

RESOLVED: The Board approves an operating budget of \$400K for 2021.

#### **6. External Funding Request: \$30K for Devotee Care Department**

The Village Council has requested a grant to start a devotee care department in New Vrindaban.

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to help support devotees in the New Vrindaban community.

RESOLVED: The Board authorizes up to \$30K in grant funding to the New Vrindaban Village Association for a devotee care department.