Browner looking to put the kibosh on regulation as usual?

Elieve it or not, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is bending over backwards to make points with the American business community. How else can we explain the spate of market-friendly directives spilling forth from the desk of Carol Browner, who has changed her stance somewhat? After storming into office as one of the more visible FOBs, running a tough and shouting all the traditional liberal rallying cries for all to hear, Browner's office is now talking about softening its labeling restrictions (see page 39).

Could it be that Browner and her agency have been dragooned into the Clinton Administration's headlong rush to the free market for small businesses that make "good-faith" efforts to correct past violations under most EPA statutes.

"With this new program of incentives for small business," Browner told her WHCSB audience, "the Clinton Administration has developed a program of incentives for small business."

Do you believe her? I say, it doesn't matter. If your course has plans to proceed with no outside environmental expertise. "There will be no environmental organizations involved," said Beverly (Boody) Anderson, a spokesman for VIT which owns Hogan, ANS Sporting Goods and other Kiawah golf courses.

It is my opinion that Mr. McLoughlin's opinion stems from the inability of many in the industry to consider feasibility analysis as a part of a highest and best-use analysis done in every appraisal assignment.

My 1963 dictionary in part defines "commitment" this way: "The act or state of giving in trust or charge; the act of giving responsible polities a break. We do want to help honest business owners comply with the law and run their business as cleanly and efficiently as possible."

Apparently, this policy is part of Clinton's Executive Memorandum on Waiver of Penalties and Reductions of Reports, which gives federal agencies the ability to waive penalties for violations by small businesses, under certain conditions.

Do you believe her? I say, it doesn't matter. If your course has

While our product does indeed reduce traffic damage — along with providing a number of other benefits — the correct product name is "Netlon mesh elements." In Netlon Advanced Turf, the Netlon mesh elements are blended with a selected growing medium to form a stabilized turf rootzone.

The unique Netlon mesh elements act as "springs," with a flexing action that creates and maintains voids along the length of the mesh filaments. This "self-cultivating" action ensures that Netlon Advanced Turf root zones are healthier than those associated with ordinary turf, with a built-in resistance to soil compaction.

In this combination of benefits that makes Netlon Advanced Turf an ideal solution for cart path and foot path wear, the use of fire-resistant fire retardant sites, surface parking areas and other problem areas of golf course turf.

Netlon mesh elements have been used by many premier golf courses in England. Instalation in the cart paths of St. Andrews is a prime example. Within the United States, Netlon Advanced Turf has undergone extensive successful testing by Dr. James Beard at Texas A & M. In 1983, Mr. McLoughlin (p. 55) regarding the alleged shortfall of qualified and credible consultants to perform feasibility analyses for golf course properties. As you can imagine, I strongly disagree and offer the following rebuttal.

It is my observation that Mr. McLoughlin's opinion stems from the inability of many in the industry to consider appropriately deployed and specifically qualified real estate appraisers for feasibility assessments.

As golf has become a "fad" industry to many, those with limited qualifications simply "hanging a shingle" in search of feasibility consulting assignments. Real estate appraisers (good ones) perform the necessary detailed analysis in a regular basis. A comprehensive feasibility analysis is only part of a well done lowest and highest-use analysis. Usually, there is more than one appraisal assignment.

"I know my New American College Dictionary is 32 years old and that there is a living, evolving language. But something troubles me here. My 1963 dictionary in part defines "commitment" this way: "The act or state of giving in trust or charge; the act of committing, pledging or engaging oneself."

The modern revision of the word reads more like: "I will stay in the game until it is no longer a commitment." Well, looks like we have a case in point, and low and behold, it is right in golf's own camp. Virginia Investment Trust, the apparent buyer of the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, S.C (see story page 3), has apparently reneged on a commitment with the Audubon Society of New York (ASNY) that the Audubon would be involved if VIT ever bought the property. "Desire to be past vicinal environmental problems involved," said Beverly (Boody) Anderson, a spokesman for VIT which owns Hogan, ANS Sporting Goods and other Kiawah golf courses.

And although the Ocean Course had previously joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, when asked if VIT would follow through with that commitment, Anderson replied: "No, I don't think there will be any plans either way in that regard." This all despite a written agreement which states in part that if VIT's The Ocean Course (TOC) acquires an ownership interest in the course "either pursuant to the RTC's

Mark Leslie, managing editor
Course owners must cooperate to survive & thrive

By MIKE TINKEY

Are you interested in an effective formula to improve your bottom line? Golf course owners and operators are making a significant positive impact to their marketing, purchasing, research and governmental and regulatory affairs. Also, cooperative marketing is building strong and effective bridges to decision-makers in the public and private sectors that are yielding additional positive results.

Clay Brittain, chairman of the board of the Myrtle Beach National Golf Co. — which owns 153 golf holes in Myrtle Beach, operates three hotels and is actively involved with his family in the travel, tourism and hotel industry — attributes working cooperatively with the local businesses in your industry as one of the keys to success.

"Working with others doesn’t necessarily mean you don’t compete," he says. "When you make the golf industry successful you have a better chance to be successful yourself." He is proud to being one of the original organizers of the Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday, which is widely considered to be the largest and most effective golf marketing group in the country today. The Myrtle Beach cooperative effort attracts more than 2.5 million golf rounds a year and the number of courses in the area has grown from one in 1960 to more than 100 by 1997.

Each tax dollar spent on golf advertising produces $14 in spending by golfers. Working together, owners have realized group health insurance savings of 18 percent per employee with increased benefits. These are examples of cooperative efforts in South Carolina.

Mike Hughes, the Executive Director of the National Golf Course Owners Association, noted that "the answer to how a small state like South Carolina can become a golf powerhouse, lies in cooperative efforts in South Carolina."

Continued from previous page

Kubota’s GF1800 diesel front mower delivers more power with its easily engaged Foot-Control-4WD. This "on demand" 4WD locks in on-the-go by simply pressing a pedal.

The 18 horsepower GF1800, with its 3-cylinder diesel engine, is ideal for commercial mowing jobs that demand maximum performance and efficiency as well as outstanding maneuverability. There are three shaft-driven mower choices – 48" mulching rear discharge mower, 54" or 60" side discharge mowers – all with cutting heights from 1" to 4". The independent hydraulic PTO clutch ensures smooth mower engagement. The PTO brake stops the mower quickly and secures the PTO shaft when the PTO is disengaged. Hydraulic lift system is standard.

The hydrostatic transmission features a single pedal to manipulate both speed and direction, eliminating shifting and clutching. Four-wheel traction, and rear-wheel steering for tight turns, let you work efficiently on all types of grass.

For the best quality cut, step up to Kubota’s GF1800.