



# Musing the Minutes

By RICK TRAVER, CGCS  
Monticello Country Club



Well, how is everyone faring during this wet and wild spring? I have never been a strong proponent for global warming, but I am starting to jump on the global "what has happened to the average weather day" campaign. You just never seem to know what is coming next.

Quote of the day: When talking with James Gardner, CGCS about his winter down south, I asked him how he enjoyed his time down there. His reply: "It was nice to be in a place where every conversation doesn't revolve around the weather." It sure does seem as though weather dominates our lives sometimes.

Weather aside, we had a relatively short but productive Board of Directors meeting at Dellwood Hills on Monday June 13th.

**Executive Director Scott Turtinen** reported that unpaid past members have been deleted from the MGCSA mailing list. He also reported that, at this time, we are ahead of most years with paid memberships.

**The MGCSA Turfgrass Research Benefit Week** filled up all but 17 tee times. He has also submitted three names to be nominated to the PGA Hall of Fame. They would be Dr. Don White, Larry Mueller and Jerry Murphy, CGCS. Scott also reported that longtime member William Fisher had passed away in Florida.

**Hole Notes editor Jack MacKenzie, CGCS** reported that this issue of *Hole Notes* features an article about "Getting up to Code." That's something I am sure we all aspire to do; however, some of us have difficulty determining what we actually need to do versus what is actually legislated and how those legislations pertain to our industry. James Gardner, CGCS, as a representative from the Human Resources Committee, is in discussions with the Department of Labor to sort out some of those issues. We look forward to his report.

**Paul Eckholm, CGCS** reported that the state legislature stated that the minimum wage bill has been passed. Effective August 1 all businesses will have to raise their minimum wage to \$6.15, the exception to the rule are businesses with under \$650,000 in gross

revenues. Their minimum wage is \$5.15 per hour. He did mention to keep our eyes open, as we all know anything can get tacked on as a compromise to getting the budget balanced. Hopefully, this doesn't affect too many courses. I know personally I would have been in trouble with the \$8 per hour they were talking about when the bill was first introduced. I do feel for the full-timer making minimum wage, but maybe in the future they could talk about an exception for seasonal labor. If anyone has the ear of a legislator, try and put a bug in it.

**Dr. Eric Watkins reported that the U of M** discussed a new format for the Field Day on July 28. It sounds like they have a great program set up, so don't miss it. Dr. Watkins also touched on the New Strategic Positioning strategy that has been formulated at the U. It appears little in their department will be changed, but they may be under a different college. Check out last year's turf trials information on the U of M's website.

Well, I do hope the weather is good to everyone and that you have a stress-free, enjoyable summer. See ya next month!

## Tidbits

### *Why do Superintendents syringe greens?*

*Superintendents spray a light cover of water on a green during hot weather to reduce the temperature of the turf. This prevents putting surfaces from becoming "baked" and "dried-out" and having a negative impact on putting surface quality.*

### *Why do Superintendents aerate turf?*

*Because it reduces compaction on a golf course by removing soil cores from the ground, allowing the movement of water, air and nutrients to the turf roots. Highly traveled areas plus poor soil composition creates compacted surfaces.*

## Providing Full Service Golf Course Design



**Bonestroo**  
Architects Of  
The Game **Golf**

651-636-4600

[www.bonestroogolf.com](http://www.bonestroogolf.com)

a division of Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Assoc.