



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

The State of Our State Superintendent's Association

Welcome to 2013! I hope everyone is

enjoying a winter that seems to be a little better than what we have had the last couple years. I know I have enjoyed the snow, despite the cold temperatures, more this year. That said I am looking forward to kicking off the 2013 campaign...as long as it doesn't start before St. Patrick's Day!

Last year and a few months have been very exciting for our association! Jack MacKenzie, CGCS has been a great acquisition as Executive Director. We are lucky to have an agreement with Jack for the foreseeable future. I have certainly seen an improvement in daily operations. We have adopted an incremental dues increase to fund University of Minnesota research driven by our needs. Two great initiatives!

Were you aware that we also formed an Environmental Stewardship Committee to finalize and implement BMPs for Minnesota? The committee had its first meeting in late January and has picked up the work done in 2009. We have

divided into sub-committees to finish the first phase: Irrigation Water BMPs. We feel that this is the "hot-button" item at this point. Most of Minnesota is still in a "moderate to severe" drought designation. In fact, there were several Minnesota courses that lost their water rights late last summer. We feel this is not a viable option and are working hard to implement a large-scale, self-regulating plan and a short term, strategic, crisis management plan to prevent that from happening again. We will be meeting with other local industry organizations including the club managers, Minnesota Section PGA, course owners and the MGA to summarize our mission and garner the support as we move to the state level with the information. Our intent is to have a plan to the Minnesota DNR sometime in June of this year and be fully implemented in 2014. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward.

The writing and adoption of BMPs is a huge undertaking! Future BMP topics may include pesticide use/fate and further nutrient run-off. Thank you to those who initiated this task in the past

“Advancing the art and science of golf course management and promoting the welfare of its members and the profession.”

The NEW MGCSA Mission Statement

and a huge thanks to those working with the committee at this point as we move to finalize and implement.

The Board of Directors with the assistance of our GCSAA Field Representative, Steve Randall, held a two-day strategic planning meeting to forge a clear direction for the MGCSA. It was a great exercise! We adopted a new mission statement. We have identified areas we feel we can improve on to make the association better in general. The BMPs are part of this. Other facets are outreach, research and how to better involve all our members in activities of the MGCSA. We streamlined the committee structure so that we have committees that are engaged and involved in making

recommendations for the Board to consider. If you have any interest in being active in any committees please feel free to contact Jack or myself.

We have had these meetings from time to time in the past. With the assistance of Steve Randall we will be doing this almost yearly to check on time lines, activities and where we stand with reaching the short-term goals we have established for ourselves. I think this is a great stride forward for our association!

As we are getting closer to start of the 2013 season take a little time and enjoy the last part of winter. Best wishes and good luck in the coming year.