



# Presidential Perspective

by Roger Stewart, CGCS Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities

*This month I am sharing a letter of support your Board of Directors sent to the GCSAA for their endorsement of the Science of (the) Green project at the UMN Les Bolstad Golf Course.*

**Gentleman:**

**On behalf of the MGCSA membership and Board of Directors, I am writing to inform you of an exciting new initiative called Science of (the) Green at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minnesota. The initiative's first project involves the renovation of the University's 85 year old Les Bolstad Golf Course that will provide a model for golf course restoration and renovation projects, along with management practices in the future.**

**The re-design concept is to provide a working, 'real time' example of how to renovate golf properties using three components of sustainability to insure the long-term success of a golf**

**course. Identified as agronomic, economic and environmental principles and procedures, the study of these components will create a comprehensive business model for success, which can be applied at any golf course facility. In addition, there will be a one stop demonstration area to showcase the current options for facilities considering a renovation, such as green and bunker construction, irrigation and sensing systems, grass species and bunker sand options, etc. The demo area will permit decision makers to compare options in one location while considering the corresponding costs.**

**Water use in Minnesota, the land of 10,000 lakes, and across the country is under great**

**scrutiny. It is clear our industry must take action to find better ways to reduce, reuse and recycle water so that we have access to this crucial resource for future generations, as well as for the long-term viability of the game of golf. The Science of (the) Green initiative at the University of Minnesota is unique in that it will employ the strategies that will demonstrate effective ways to use and conserve water, and reduce inputs from the design and engineering phase of the project, all the way through the construction phase and operational phase when the project is complete.**

**This initiative is more important today than ever before. The growth of golf and golf course construction was at an all-time high in the 1980's and 1990's. The last 15 years we have seen the world economy contract to a point where new course construction came to a halt and the golf industry, like other businesses,**

**has struggled. Most of those golf courses built during the last boom have not been renovated, upgraded, or enhanced since they opened.**

**Assuming the recent economic improvement continues, many of those courses will be positioned economically for renovation and restoration over the next 10-20 years. It is crucial that these golf courses be able to undertake those projects using sustainable techniques that contribute to the long term viability of the facility, the environmental stewardship as part of their surrounding community and ultimately the game of golf for future generations.**

**The University of Minnesota project will provide crucial information for golf course architects and golf course builders for their future renovation contracts. Owners, club officials, general managers,**

**golf course superintendents and golf professionals considering a renovation will also benefit from information related to how to manage their facilities economic sustainability during and after the project. The outcomes of this proposed project can provide the roadmap to a successful and sustainable golf course renovation for the foreseeable future.**

**The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association strongly endorses the Science of (the) Green initiative and its first project because it is relevant to the guiding principles of our association, which are education, outreach and the environment. In addition, we believe the outcomes from this project will provide valuable information that will change the way golf courses are constructed, renovated and managed now and in the future.**

**GCSAA and its affiliated Chapters are recognized as the leaders within the golf industry**

**in the areas of turf research, environmental stewardship and sustainability. As President of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association and on behalf of our entire membership, I am asking GCSAA to maintain its leadership position and endorse the Science of (the) Green initiative at the University of Minnesota for its potential to provide valuable information, data and tested procedures that will become the standard for sustainability in golf course renovation and construction now and in the future.**

**Thank you for your esteemed consideration of this request and I look forward to hearing from you.**

**Respectfully,**

*At the time of publication, the SOG project has received endorsement from both the GCSAA and the EIG. Thank you for your support of this progressive destination for golf studies. RS*