

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**COPLEY TOWNSHIP, Ohio**—Developer Doran D'Avella has dropped plans to construct a golf course near Barberton Reservoir. His decision not to pursue purchase of city-owned land followed a special committee's recommendation against construction. Several city officials feared pesticides and fertilizers could run off into the reservoir.

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**PONTIAC, Mich.**—The Pontiac City Council has looked favorably on a project that includes a redesigned municipal golf course and up to 414 new homes circling Crystal Lake. The course would be designed by Jack Nicklaus Jr. The council approved Weiss Development Co. Inc. as the preferred developer. The Weiss proposal calls for the city to pay \$7.15 million for golf course construction and improvements.

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**WHITEFISH, Mont.**—In a surprise about-face, the Whitefish City Council voted 4-2 against a required master plan for a mammoth subdivision and golf course. The Mountain Valley Club vote was presumed to be routine ratification of an earlier decision at a public hearing in December.

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**ROME, Ga.**—Financing for municipal golf course construction—in the form of \$6 million in revenue bonds—has received unanimous approval of the Rome City Commission. The golf course, which will be built on property the city will buy from Berry College, is expected to be open late in 1994. The course is expected to handle 30,000 rounds the first full year of operation.

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**PORT ARTHUR, Texas**—Port Arthur residents by more than 1,500 votes opposed the city's issuing \$8.9 million in certificates of obligation to finance a golf course on Pleasure Island. Residents on May 2 voted down a similar proposal by 32 votes.

# Study urges environmental cooperation

NGF-sponsored report says golf industry needs more networking and a single clearinghouse for shared information

JUPITER, Fla.—The National Golf Foundation has released the results of a special environmental study that was conducted on behalf of the golf industry. It examines the extent to which the game is being affected by environmental concerns and makes recommendations for future industry action.

Conducted by Vinson & Elkins, a Houston-based law firm specializing in environmental law, the study was commissioned by the NGF and funded in part also by the PGA of America, PGA Tour, USGA and LPGA. The report was released at Golf Summit '92 in Orlando, Fla.

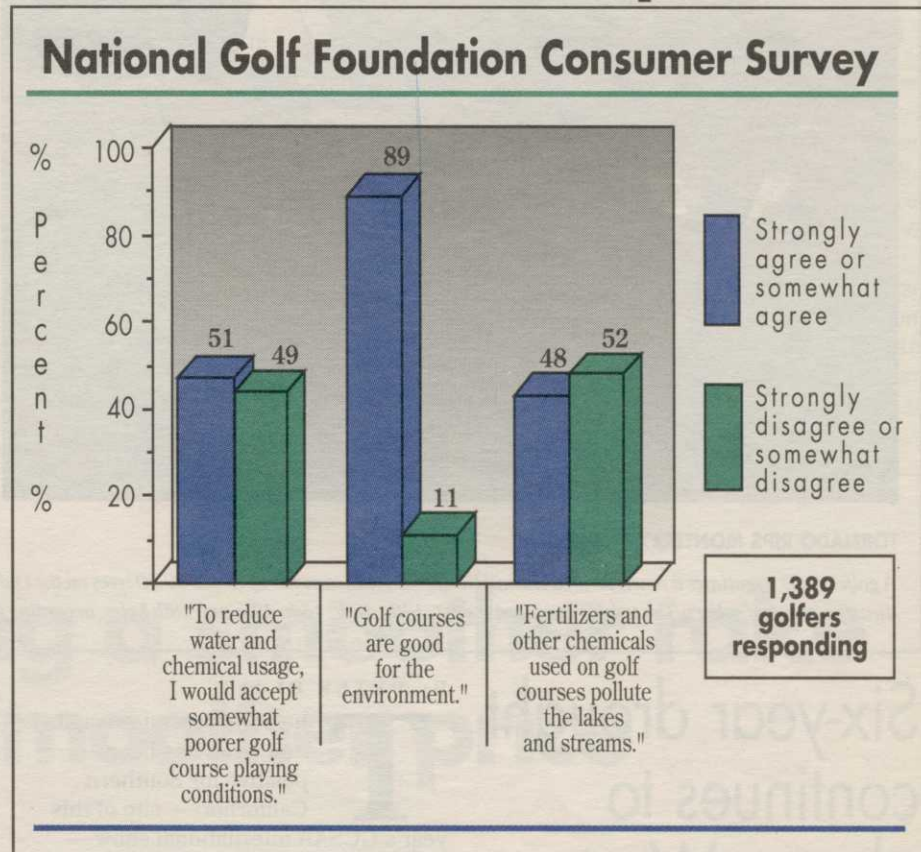
Among the study's recommendations are establishment of a special information clearinghouse and a suggestion that the golf industry begin networking with other industries that have similar interests.

Driving these recommendations is a situational analysis that notes that, while things may not be all that bad at the moment, "environmental issues have the potential to be a serious threat to the golf industry."

The report points out that while golf is not unaffected by today's environmental regulations and lobby, neither is it being unfairly singled out. It says the range of environmental issues facing the golf industry is fairly limited compared to other industries.

For existing facilities, the key issues are the availability of water and pesticide use. "Costs associated with environmental regulation of pesticide use... and acquisition of water supplies are increasing course operating costs," notes the report.

According to the report, certain environmental issues are more common in some



parts of the United States than in others. It says wetlands are more of an issue in New England than they are in the High Plains. The question of water is raised more often on the West Coast than it is in the Northeast.

The one exception is pesticide use, which is a concern throughout the nation.

The report gives the industry high marks for its response to environmental issues. It does point out, however, that the response has been somewhat "uneven," i.e. those concerns impacting existing facilities have received more attention than those impacting the development of new ones.

The study stresses the need to establish and foster relationships within national groups, like the National Home Builders Association and Urban Land Institute, that

share similar concerns about environmental issues.

The study calls for development of a national media plan, a coordinated state and local strategy, and a program to empower and enlist the support of the nation's golfers.

"The study provides those less-involved with environmental issues with a greater awareness of the industry's accomplishments and opportunities that lie ahead," said Carol Dinkins, a Vinson & Elkins partner in charge of study. "For those most involved with the environment, our study effort confirmed that they are on the right path. The future of golf and the environment can only be enhanced as the industry achieves greater coordination and communication."

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