

# Montgomery GC volunteers to go effluent route, hails results

By MARK LESLIE

**M**ONTGOMERY, Minn. — While golf courses in some states are being forced to irrigate with effluent, officials at Montgomery Golf & Recreation Club here voluntarily hooked into a wastewater plant and suggest others give it a try.

"This was not only a money-saving program, as we were previously using city water for irrigation, but we have also noticed that it takes less water to obtain the same results," said Club Manager John LaFramboise. "Other courses being built might consider doing the same thing if it is feasible to them. We feel it is in their best interests to investigate the possibility."

"In Arizona, Florida and California it [effluent use] is often mandatory," said superintendent Jim Reiter. "But we're the pilot program in Minnesota. Not only does it save money, but I feel the environmental impact is the biggest issue."

"Why should I be taking 247,000 gallons of clean, nice fresh water out of the ground every day, when that could be used better by the people? I'll



Montgomery Golf & Recreation Club superintendent Jim Reiter (left) and Club Manager John LaFramboise stand in front of their effluent-water retaining pond.

just use what they've already used. Think of the savings. That's a lot of water out of our water plain."

"We could drain our [city] water tower in four hours and the city didn't care for that," LaFramboise added of his community of about 4,000 people.

LaFramboise expects a four-year payback on the club's \$22,000 investment in piping, ditching and permits to hook up to the wastewater plant. Other courses could pay

substantially more. Montgomery Golf & Recreation Club is across the street from the effluent plant, needing only to lay 500 to 600 feet of pipe, going under one road and one railroad track.

While annual water costs have run from \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year, Reiter said, "All it costs now is the electricity to run the pump and to have water tests done monthly — \$30 to \$40 a month."

Working with city engineers and the Minnesota Pollution

Control Agency (MPCA), Montgomery Golf & Recreation Club dug two ponds and tied them into a third, existing one, to serve as holding tanks.

The project was completed in July 1995 and, since then, the water is delivered to them on call.

"The whole concept of having water always available takes a lot of stress off a superintendent," Reiter said. "Think of a drought when you can't get water. In 1985 this area went 2-1/2 months without rain."

Reiter believes his turfgrass is living better with effluent than it did with city water.

"The pH is a little high. It runs 7.5 and I prefer 6.5," he said. "But I can take 7.5. If I had to, I could add some acid. But everything's looking great."

"Organisms would be my concern, but the water is chlorinated to kill bacteria and is tested often. If the chlorine injection system went down, the water would be contaminated. But it takes 24 hours just to get through their system. And if it did get to the course, I can isolate it, cap it and chlorinate it to decontami-

nate it."

Meanwhile, Reiter said, the effluent is an improvement on city water because, as it travels to his irrigation ponds, it is "picking up minerals along the way. It's in a holding pond first, and then it travels underground to another pond and through a creek to my final holding pond. So it's doing a lot of movement — through soil and mixing with rainwater — picking up a lot of good things [nutrients]."

"We are concerned about the environment and the conservation of our natural resources," LaFramboise said, "and we feel we have indicated this by going with this program."

In the meantime, the project has helped public relations, with support from the city and its staff as well as the MPCA. "The city was really helpful and they still are," LaFramboise said. And the MPCA is loosening what at first were very restrictive regulations.

"We have to use city water to irrigate our 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th tees and 6th green," Reiter said. "But that will change, too. We have a written OK from the neighbors."

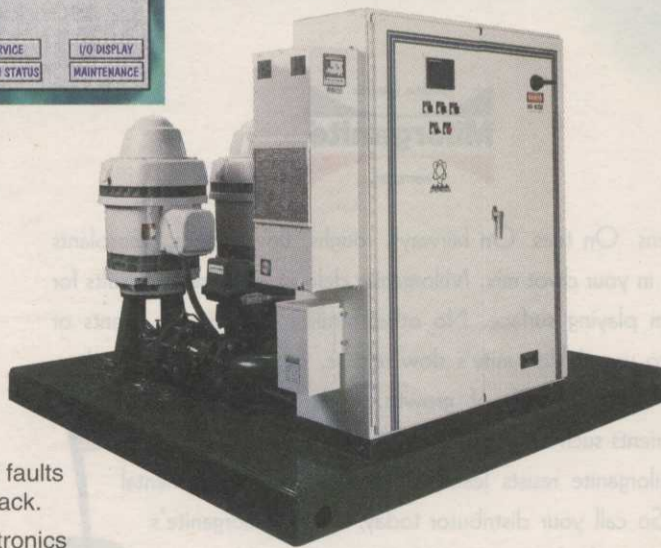
## THE MOST ADVANCED CONTROLS IN THE INDUSTRY JUST HAPPEN TO BE ON THE FINEST PUMPING SYSTEM

Watertronics Pumping Systems, with Watervision® Controls



### Watervision® UL Listed Controls:

- Provides remote access, Windows based, fully interactive control. Monitor your pumping system with the easy-to-use computer interface from your office or home.
- Intuitive, simple, point and press, touch-sensitive computer control panel with built-in maintenance and troubleshooting screens.
- "Ride Through" self diagnostics analyze system faults, and automatically keeps your station on line. No need to lose sleep during critical night watering cycles.
- Exclusive, patented, *Electronic Butterfly Valves* provide surge-free back-up pressure regulation in the event of VFD faults and smooth pump start-stop transitions that other stations lack.
- Breathe new life into your existing pump station with Watertronics touchscreen controls and electronic regulating valves.



### Pumping System:

- All units custom-built to your watering schedule requirements, at costs comparable to others' off-the-shelf models.
- The only manufacturer to provide full dynamic testing of every unit at the factory, with certification of performance.
- Exclusive *Mechanical Seals* on vertical turbine pumps are maintenance-free, eliminating bothersome packing adjustments and spraying water.
- The most durable, best looking finish in the industry — baked epoxy undercoat plus baked UV resistant polyurethane top coat.
- One-piece, structurally engineered, seamless deck eliminates rust-prone welds, sharp edges and debris-collecting surface pockets.

Learn how over 30 years of irrigation pumping experience can make your life easier, and your watering system more dependable and efficient: Call Watertronics today to get the whole story about superior Watervision controls, retrofit conversions, and custom pumping systems:

**1-800-356-6686**



**WATERTRONICS®**

525 Industrial Drive Hartland, WI 53029 fax: 414-367-5551