



ON BOARD

Musing the Monthly Minutes

*By Rick Traver, CGCS
Monticello Country Club*

Being a lifer, and living through Minnesota weather has always been an interesting experience, but it still amazes me we can have record highs one day and extreme lows the next. We probably should get medals for doing this job. Does anyone out there want to write the president? Just joking.

Moving ahead to the business of your Board of Directors, they met on Tuesday, April 15 at the barn at Woodhill C.C. All but two members were present. Once again the Power Limited Technician training and license issue arose. For those of you who have yet to take the test, it appears that a vast majority of it is on alarms and not irrigation. Paul Eckholm also reported that it did not look like the legislature was going to extend the April 29 deadline. Since like many of you out there I have not been given a test date, I will be watching the progress of this issue online, at www.electricity.state.mn.us. If you would like to follow the actual bills, they are House File 645 and Senate File 937 and can be found on www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis/asp.

Scott Turtinen reported that Turtinen Communications has moved its offices to new quarters. The phone number remains the same, however they have a new fax number, 763-253-1661. He also will post address changes in *Hole Notes*.

Speaking of *Hole Notes*, you may have noticed a little extra color in this issue. It appears while conversing with a printer in St. Cloud, Scott negotiated a new price for our publication. This will allow us to add color without any substantial increase to our cost. I won't go into how this can be achieved, it had something to do with a web press. Anyway this should dramatically improve the appearance of the publication and help in putting in colored ads with only minor increases to the advertisers.

Your membership committee, headed by Mike Nelson, has been active in trying to recruit new members. They will be sending out letters and invitations to all vendors who participated in the Turf Expo but were not members of our association at the time.

The membership committee is also sending out letters to golf courses that have not been members of our association. The Board of Directors has temporarily created a new Facility membership. This would allow low budget clubs that can't meet the dual membership requirement with the GCSAA to still be active within our association. The cost is the same as a class A member with no voting benefits, and the club would be a member, not the superintendent. (This membership is only temporary and would have to be ratified at the next annual meeting of the membership.) This will also help us to contact more golf courses in an effort to fulfill our commitment to the state in trying to get everyone certified for phosphorus applications.

Dr. Horgan informed us all that the candidates have all been interviewed for the teaching position at the U of M and that opinions from the selection committee have been sent forward to the Dean for review.


Dr Horgan also reported that the TROE center has received

three NTEP trials. One trial will be for fine fescue, one on Bentgrass greens and one for Bentgrass fairways. The TROE center is in action, and you would not believe everything they have planned. I am sure we will get a complete update in future issues.


As reported last time, Jack Mackenzie and Paul Eckholm with help from Dr. Horgan have been working on a way to increase funding to the TROE center. The program they are promoting is a Hole-in-one day or week for the TROE center. You will all be getting something describing this program and how it works. We need participation by all the superintendents to generate the funds needed to move forward with this project. Please support this project and keep in mind that it will be a great way to get some one-on-one contact with your members. It will be good public relations for you and YOUR ASSOCIATION.

John Wiley was invited to this meeting to give the Board some insight into the O.J. Noer Foundation. We have been making annual contributions to this association, and the Research Committee as well as the Board was interested in how it was being used. Mr. Wiley was very informative and while his presentation was too long to elaborate on, it seems they are very good stewards when it comes to allocating funds to projects.

I hope all of you are enjoying the Minnesota weather and your profession. We are lucky people to be doing what we do even if the weather doesn't always cooperate. Take care and have a great month.



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