

Musing the Minutes

By MATT McKINNON
MGCSA Secretary



The MGCSA Board met at Golden Valley Golf and Country Club on March 9, 2010.

Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS, reported that projections for this year are on track. The Board needs to look at committee budgets and report any changes for the year at the next meeting.

There also was some discussion if we should send out the *Hole Notes* publication electronically and possibly reduce it down to six times per year. MGCSA board will need to survey the membership before anything could possibly be done.

Scott Turtinen reported that the Hospitality night in San Diego made \$1,000 profit this year. The March Mega Seminar made \$4,300 but there are some travel expenses that still have to be paid. The March Mega Seminar had 78 attendees on Wednesday and 98 on Thursday. Fifty-eight people signed up for both days. MGCSA dues are coming in. We have received 416 paid Superintendents and 186 have not paid. Affiliates have 88 paid and 44 have not. MGCSA has received \$2,600 from the dues for Research.

Eric Counselman and Jeff Ische reported that they are working on the 2011 Green Expo. For the 2011 Expo there will only be eight sessions offered where we have had more in the past. On Thursday

MGCSA will have one additional session, which was not offered to the other Associations. The 2010 Green Expo was down 20% from the eight-year average. MGCSA was down 6% from the eight-year average, and the Vendors were down 12% from the average.

Paul Diegnau, CGCS and Jeff Ische reported that Dave Oberle is the new Vice President of the MTGF and Brian Horgan is the Secretary. Since Kathy Aro is no longer with MTGF, Turtinen Communications, Inc. will take on some administrative responsibilities. MNLA will also take on some responsibilities.

Scottie Hines, CGCS reported that the MGCSA would continue to advertise for the Turf Tourney. Since we have started advertising for this event participation has increased. Since attendance was down at the Expo the MTGF has less money to give out. The Research Committee recommended that the MGCSA donate \$25,000 to the TROE Center and the TROE Center may need some more help before the year is over.

I hope everyone's spring has gotten off to a good start. As I look outside on March 15th it has been a few years since we have had almost zero snow cover in Brainerd.

- Respectfully Submitted,
Matt McKinnon, Secretary

Turf's Carbon Footprint-

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components (plants and soils) as well as management components that are not well understood. Further research is needed in several areas including:

- The potential for sequestration is influenced by soil conditions, climate, turf species, management practices and turf use. The influence of these factors on carbon dynamics needs to be sorted out. A range of locations across the U.S. should be studied to understand the influence of geography on carbon dynamics in turf management as well.

- Methodologies that accurately measure resource inputs and gases emitted in management need to be refined to deter the use of borrowed and unrepresentative estimates.

- Machine choices and management practices that influence fuel consumption must be studied and improved.

- Ultimately research must define best management practices for specific climate and soil conditions, turf species and uses that maximize carbon sequestered for the most efficient use of irrigation, nutrients, chemicals and fuels.

Turfgrass is an important component of our landscape. It is an environmental asset at many levels. Life without turf for sports, relaxation, environmental cleansing and stabilization is hard to imagine. Our responsibility is to make turfgrass the strongest contributor to environmental quality and sustainability that it can be. We have momentum. We need to keep pushing.

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