**Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association**  
11 May 2007 meeting minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am on Friday May 11th in the clubhouse of The Pines at Lake Isabella by President Morris.

Those in attendance were: President Mike Morris, Vice President Mike Mulkey, Secretary/Treasurer Rick Hakken, Dan Bissonette, Ron Dahlin, Tim Dorner, Mike Jones, Greg Pattinson and Dave Rossman.

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed.

The minutes from the March 29th meeting were approved.

Old business was discussed starting with:

1. A review of the MTF Partnership Meeting held on the 8th of May. Participants in the meeting included President Morris, Dan Bissonette, MTF President Tim Doppel and MTF Executive Director Tom Smith. Results from the meeting are found in the appendix to these minutes.

2. Review of logos for the MiGCSA presented by Dan Bissonette. Of the 4 presented it was agreed that 2 would be selected, one for use as letter head in all future correspondence and one with less wording for use in embroidery. Dan agreed to send these to all members of the board to be used starting immediately.

3. President Morris informed the board that 2 more information updates will be sent soon. Update # 6 will cover the membership categories of the MiGCSA and update #7 will focus on partnerships with Industry Partners and the MTF. President Morris used the list of the top 30 Industry Partners identified by the board as recipients of a letter from the president explaining our Industry Partnership Program as defined to date. Soon to follow will be an updated power point presentation to allow all members of the board to be consistent in the information presented to our soon to be constituents.

4. The MiGCSA time line was modified. The current time line can be found in the appendix.

5. Secretary/Treasurer Hakkin informed the board that a checking account will be set up within the next 20 days. The board asked that the Secretary/Treasurer send a letter to the 4 current chapters asking for $1,500 from each to start the account.

6. President Morris informed the board of discussion with Tom Smith of the MTF on the current economic impact study being conducted and how Tom was asked to represent the golf industry for the current study.
7. New board members Mike Jones, CGCS of the Lochmoor Club and Dave Rossman of Currie Municipal Golf Course were welcomed and thanked for their commitment to the MiGCSA.

8. Mr. Jones presented his excellent review of the current By-Laws and proposed changes. A reading of the minutes with the changes was done along with the reasoning for the changes. Mr. Jones did an excellent job of removing any ambiguity and redundancy from the current By-Laws. It was decided by the board that wording should be inserted to define the following committees; Membership, Finance/Audit, Communication, Education/Events and Foundation. Mr. Dahlin moved that the By-laws be adopted with these changes and additions, and then sent to a subcommittee for their final approval before being sent to the GCSAA for review by their legal council. This was seconded by Mr. Bissonette. The subcommittee was set to include President Morris, Mr.’s Dahlin and Jones.

9. Motion was made by the Vice President to accept the proposed ballot wording presented by Mr. Jones with the addition of the wording “accepted by a 2/3rd’s majority”. Along with this wording the decision was made to automatically roll the current membership category enjoyed by members upon acceptance of the proposed ballot vote with a provision to include an area for the member to request a change in membership status on the form to be included in the first dues cycle of the MiGCSA which will begin in October of 2007. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bissonnette and passed without further discussion.

10. The merger plan was discussed in relation to what would happen to the current MiGCSA board of directors. It was agreed that the current board would transition into the official board and the current Greater Detroit board would transition into the district committee for the Greater Detroit District.

The official ballot wording will read

Upon adoption of Proposal 1, 2 and 3 the current Greater Detroit Board of Directors shall resign their positions as directors and assume the role of the district committee and with authority to complete the transition of the chapter into a district of MiGCSA. The sitting Board of Directors of the MiGCSA shall take over responsibility of MiGCSA as the transitional board until the first annual meeting to be held in 2008. During the first business meeting in 2008 of the MiGCSA a vote will be held to delegate who will serve each current term along with designation of length of service remaining.

11. The content of the MiGCSA vote packet was discussed and it was decided that it should include:
   a) Notice of Vote
   b) Sample Ballot
   c) Notice of By-Law availability
   d) Board of Directors contact information (not to include cell phone #’s)
12. Sub-Committees that are important for the transition were decided upon.

**By-Laws** = President Morris, Mike Jones and Ron Dahlin.

**Communication** = President Morris, Vice President Mulkey, Scott Pulaski and Dan Bissonette.

**Industry Partnership Plan** = John Fulling and Ron Dahlin.

**Financial** = Rick Hakken

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Dahlin, CGCS
APPENDIX

MiGCSA/MTF Partnership Meeting

Goal: Build on the strengths of the MTF and the MiGCSA to enhance research, education, and communication—ultimately enhancing the services, and benefiting the participants and members of both organizations.

Agreed: MTF will keep four representatives from MiGCSA, ideally one from each district, on the MTF Board. MTF will consider any necessary by-laws changes to accomplish this. MiGCSA will promote MTF representatives from the board and from committees. There is a need to define the responsibilities of the superintendent MTF representatives.

Discussed: Need to coordinate and schedule meetings and events for efficient use of time and travel, and for improved participation from board members.

Discussed: Two-way communication between MiGCSA and MTF must be a high priority, and must be improved from previous efforts.

Discussed: MTF’s future plans and propriety for Super-GAM Day; MTESP; and Field Day.

Agreed: MiGCSA will help promote and encourage participation in Super-GAM Day, MTESP, and Field Day events, and will be a noted presence at these events.

Agreed: MiGCSA will take on a comprehensive, green industry directory with cooperation and support from MTF. The directory will showcase the green industry and the golf course superintendent to decision-makers at all levels.

Discussed: GLTE is a tradition and a key source of revenue for the MTF. MiGCSA will begin to be a presence at the GLTE in the lobby, with a reception, and with expanded educational offerings in the future. MiGCSA should have a vision to bring more to the conference by way of local and regional attendance. If the MiGCSA can enhance its presence and participation in education it will become a partner in the conference.

Discussed: Future of MSU Turfgrass Management Program. Goals are: increased applied information; increased research; a focus on the environment; a focus on the economics of golf course management; and recruitment of graduate students.

Discussed: Cross-marketing with dues billing—promoting dual or multiple membership packages in MiGCSA, MTF, and MTESP.

Agreed: MTF News Notes can be a supplement or an insert with MiGCSA magazine.


Discussed: Develop a plan and schedule for communication, specifically related to Industry Partners (a bi-annual meeting), and between the MiGCSA management company and the MTF.

Agreed: Prior to Fall 2007, formalize a “letter of understanding” to provide direction and continuity for the future.

The MiGCSA and the MTF agree to work together in this partnership with the following considerations in mind: Transition:
• Agree to mutual cooperation and support
• Communicate completely and regularly
• Keep an open mind

MTF Strengths:
• Established, long-standing relationships with key, allied state and national associations: USGA, Michigan PGA, Michigan Golf Course Owners, MNLA, Michigan Sod Growers, etc.
• Established, long-standing relationships with key state government offices: MDA, MDEQ, etc.
• Management, and support of the MTESP
• Established, long-standing relationships with Michigan State University, its faculty, and its administration
• Established programs that highlight and focus on the research supported by the Foundation: Field Day, Super/GAM Day, Winter GLTE Conference
• A strong reputation among golf course associations and foundations across the United States
• Strong relationships with, and support of industry partners in Michigan

MiGCSA Strengths:
• A sizable, active membership that is dedicated, passionate, and hardworking for the game of golf in Michigan
• A sizable contingent of MSU Turfgrass Management Alumni
• A strong and time honored tradition of annual fundraising and support for the foundation and university research
• Receives strong support from industry partners in Michigan
• One of the largest markets, in number of golf courses, in the US: a key target for the support from national industry partners
• A force and an example among GCSAA affiliated chapters across the US
• Provides cooperative programs and sites for “on site” University Research
• A tradition of organizing educational programs for all regions of the state
• Mentoring and leadership for the next generation: programs for college interns, assistants, and technicians

Partnership Strengths: MiGCSA and MTF Working Together
• A strong, unified alliance for industry issues at the state and national level: two strands are stronger than one.
• A strong, unified alliance and voice for MSU Programs and University Research
• A strong, unified support for the next generation through scholarships, education, and training programs
• Realized administrative efficiencies through cooperation, allowing more resources to flow to member services and foundation efforts
• Member recruitment

Areas for Cooperation and Efficiency
• Dues collection for MiGCSA memberships as well as, MTF and MTESP: one billing (installments)
• Educational Programming for GLTE Winter Conference
• Print Publications
• Shared administrative tasks

MiGCSA Timeline through 2008
(The following are suggested as benchmarks):
ii) March 2007—Meet with District Board Presidents and officers to update.
iii) April 2007 - Set up bank account w/ start-up funds from chapters.
iv) April 2007 - District and MiGCSA By-Laws to Mr. Church for review along with Articles of Incorporation.
v) April 07 - Provide district boards with information packet and checklist.
vi) April 07 - Build Requests for Proposals for Management Company.
vii) May 07 - Notification of By-Laws and Name Change vote to Greater Detroit district.
viii) June 07 - Notification of statewide vote along with the final product plan w/ sample ballot (are your dues paid?).
ix) June 26th - Greater Detroit informational meeting on Vote & By-Laws change.
x) June 07 - Finalize ballot and notify memberships of vote.
xi) June 15th 07 - Update from districts on members eligible to vote.
xii) July 23rd - Greater Detroit vote on By-Laws and Name change, MID, NMTMA & Western BOD take action on these results.
xiii) July 25th - ballots sent to MID, Northern and Western with return date of 10 August.
xiv) **Postmarked by August 10 - Vote on MiGCSA** (independent organization, by mail).
xv) August (during Field Day) - Officers meet with major Industry Partners and introduce available opportunities.
xvi) Sept-Nov - Follow up with Industry Partners.
xvii) Sept - Interview and hire Management Company.
xviii) Oct 1st - Institute initial dues cycle (due Dec 31)
xx) 30 November 2007 – Shift in Name and By-Laws of Greater Detroit.
xxi) 1 December 2007 - Dissolution of district 501c6.
xxii) 1 January, 2008 - MiGCSA becomes official State Association.
xxiii) January 2008 - Inauguration, Annual Meeting, and Reception at GLTE
xxiv) February 2008 - Initial MiGCSA Bi-Monthly Publication.