Board Meeting Minutes November, 2014
10:00 – 3:00
Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, East Lansing

1. Called to order by President Matthews at 10:02
2. In attendance: President Gregg Matthews, Vice President Jeff Holmes, CGCS, Secretary Treasurer Justin Bickel, Mark Ostrander, Phil Owen, CGCS, Jeff Sweet, CGCS, Dave Pawluk, CGCS, Dan Dingman, Jim Bluck, CGCS, Mike Rosen, Assistant Superintendent Liaison Troy Evans and Adam Ikamas, CGCS MiGCSA Executive Director.
3. Not in attendance: Past President Greg Pattinson & Brad Fry
4. President’s comments: Gregg thanked everyone for coming to the first official BOD Meeting of 2014, Strategic Planning in April was not an official BOD Meeting. Thanked Adam for keeping the chapter going.
5. Approval of the minutes; 13 January motion from Phil Owen to approve, second from President Matthews.
6. Wee One Committee discussion: Should the MiGCSA offer to the Wee One help by making it an MiGCSA Committee to provide the group with a more stable long term platform to ensure longevity. VP Holmes would like to offer that to them. President Matthews asked Adam to have further discussions with Steve Cook and the Wee One group in Michigan and see if they would find value in this option. This is in no way any sort of takeover or additional responsibility for the MiGCSA ED but rather a satellite support role to provide momentum in the case of a reduction in participation in the future.
7. Mailings to non-Members website costs: This was discussed and no one on the BOD would utilize this option, at a cost of close to $1,000 in website upgrades and at $6.25 per issue for the magazine this was not approved.
8. OTF Matches: This was a discussion on the proposed bi-annual Ryder Cup style matches with a team from Michigan vs. a team from Ohio. This would be paired up with a tour of the field research at each states college. There were plans to host the PTF this year but the schedules fell apart. The BOD unanimously agreed that it is a very good idea but also did not feel that there was much chance of both groups being able to get away on a consistent basis to proceed with the logistics involved with such an event.
9. Future BOD Members: Jeff Holmes wanted to discuss where the MiGCSA will find the future of the chapter. The new generation of members does not seem to have the same time available to meet in person or to get together after events. Mike Rosen spoke about how he had heard about the groups getting together and that he never felt like it was an opportunity for this generation to come into that group. How do you foster an environment where the networking aspect is as important as content. The goal is to get stronger committees to identify the future board members.
10. Record Education? Costs: The board would like Adam to look into the costs of purchasing recording equipment for future education seminars and the cost of hiring videographers to record our education session. The goal is to provide these to the attendees as soon as possible and to the entire membership after a few months to still encourage attendance for the meeting in person.
11. Chapter Delegate Report: Jeff Holmes attended the meeting this year and really encouraged anyone who has not been to GCSAA HQ to take advantage of this opportunity. It is an inspiring experience to see all of the staff and how much they do for the membership. The highlights from the meeting included the work of Chava McKeel in government relations and lately the extended use of Nemacure in southern climates. The changing of the GCSAA Classes to reduce it from
around 12 to 5 the committee is still working on the new classes to include Equipment Technicians. The rounds for research results, the Tee Times for Turf Auction run by the MTF has outperformed the Rounds for Research so there is no need for the MiGCSA to start. The GIS and how large a part it plays in the revenue stream for GCSAA. The goal of changing the perception of golf working with other golf groups. And the NPEDS Permitting. The final discussion was who the MiGCSA should vote for this year.

12. 2014 Auction Results: The 2014 auction has brought in an additional $13,500+ in revenue but we need more action on the bids. Hopefully the BOD members can help promote this to their fellow members to get a good deal and support the chapter. Even if they pay full price it is still on budget but also helps the MiGCSA.

13. 2014 Fundraiser Disbursements: This will be decided once the bill from the Winter Prep meeting is paid and all accounts are reconciled for 2014. The total will be sent to the BOD for decision on disbursements.

14. Investments: Mike Meindertsma, Managing Director for Northwestern Mutual Traverse City, MiGCSA Member and former Superintendent spoke to the group about the options involved with investing the $50,000 the chapter set aside in July to a savings account. Mike recommends an investment into a moderate to conservative mutual fund. The cost involved with this investment is an up-front charge of roughly 4% on A shares and 6/10 of a percent average each year, or C shares with no up-front cost but a larger yearly fee of 1.6%. The average return for this type of investment is 5 to 7% but is completely dependent on the market and can be volatile with no guarantee. The board approved by a majority vote to invest $50,000 into a mutual fund managed by Northwestern Mutual. The immediate goal of the funds is to provide a reserve operating fund of one year of expenses, this is $170,000. After that the BOD will decide on how to allocate the proceeds of these funds.

15. Committee Reports:
   a. Financial Report: Adam displayed the financial reports to the board and there were no questions.
   b. Assistant Superintendent: Troy Evans updated the group on the Belle Isle event in the spring, the two meet and greets, the Orchard Lake shop talk and the Assistant Student Networking event. The BOD approved a budget not to exceed $1,000 for the 2015 meet and greets.
   c. By-Laws: Adam would like to propose a change to the name of the Equipment Technician category to follow the GCSAA if they go forward or change it to Class EQ.
   d. Communications: Justin offered the option to the BOD to make recommendations for content in the magazine. The Communications Committee will meet at the Turf Conference to plan the 2015 magazine features.
   e. Education: Jeff Holmes spoke about a committee meeting on 12/19 to plan the spring meetings. Jeff offered the group to let him know if there are any hot topics they want to hear at the meetings.
   f. Government Relations: Adam spoke about the need for MiGCSA Members to attend Legislative Golf Day on 6/4 in Lansing.
      i. Membership: Gregg Matthews spoke about the worry of the dues increase but it seems like it has not affected the membership numbers. Current Members – 727 Fall 2013 - 707
   g. Nominating: Gregg Matthews spoke about Dan Mausolf running for the vacant mid district spot. Dave Pawluk, Phil Owen, Mark Ostrander and Mike Rosen have term ending. Phil Owen will not be running again, he will look into finding a replacement in the Mid District. Troy Evans is also up for reelection. The possibility of having an Industry Partner on the board was discussed as well.
h. Scholarship and Awards: Jim Bluck spoke about the Heritage scholarship being open and the Student interviews are set for 12/10
i. District/Events: Adam will find a site for the Michigan gathering in San Antonio, Jeff Holmes will find a site for the Spring Opener, Adam will talk to Eagle Eye about the State Championship and Gregg Matthews will look for a Big Event site.

16. Next meeting, January 18th 3:00 – 6:00 Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing
17. Adjourned at 3:00