1. **Meeting was called to order by President Sweet at 10:01 am**

2. **In Attendance:** President Jeff Sweet, CGCS, Vice President, Rob Steger, CGCS, Secretary/Treasurer, Doug Ware, Past President, Dan Dingman, Doug Hoeh, Scott Pulaski, Gene Davis, Jeff Hopkins, Ryan Moore, John Tuckerman, Assistant Liaison Tim Matty, Equipment Manager Liaison Ben Beard.

3. **Not Present:** Jesse Shaver

4. **President’s Comments:** President Sweet spoke about how fast the year went by for him and thanked the board and committees for their work and progress. The speed on getting the bylaws changed and the new nomination process. He spoke about attendance at the Michigan Golf Alliance meeting to plan on the 2020 Golf Day and other legislative issues. He thanked Doug Hoeh on his work towards some new awards for members. He thanked Jeff Hopkins for his work on the education committee. He thanked Past President Dingman for his many years of service to the chapter. He also welcomed Ben Beard as the new Equipment Manager Liaison from Walnut Creek. The Board introduced themselves to Ben and Ben introduced himself to the Board.

5. **Financial Report:**
   a. The 2019 Donations from the Fundraiser proceeds ($23,101.06) are as follows:
      i. EIFG - $1,000
      ii. Scholarships - $13,000 (An increase of $3,000 was approved for two additional Heritage Scholarships after a formal request by Gene Davis and Doug Hoeh the Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs. These funds will be drawn from the investment account rather than decrease the amount donated to the MTF)
      iii. MSU Turf Club - $1,000
      iv. MGHoF - $500
      v. MTF - $10,601.06
   b. With this decrease in donation to the MTF there was discussion on how the chapter can better help in raising funds to research other than golf fundraisers that are not getting any more profitable. The best way the MiGCSA can help is through individual club/course donations. At private facilities they can look at donating per member per year, at public facilities it could be a specific turf research day where a portion is donated to the MTF or any other way for individual MiGCSA Members to work with their facilities to get these donations. The limit to fundraising is much higher with this model that golf fundraisers. Also the direct member benefit of the funds raised at these golf events could be substantial. The hope it to be able to transition from cash donations to individual member donations and to use the fundraiser revenue for scholarships and direct
member benefit. This can be a positive effect on the entire industry and both groups.

6. **Dues:** At the previous meeting a dues increase from $100 to $135 was approved. Adam wanted to let the board know that we have had an increase in the past, in 2012 dues went from $75 to $100. At the previous meeting Adam said there had never been an increase but was mistaken. Discussion of why this is needed was started by Past President Dingman. The reliance on Industry Partners for funding, the possibility of the new awards coming with possible trips to the GIS and continued investment into the reserve funds are a few reasons. This will be worked through in more depth over the 2020 year and will be presented to the membership for a vote with the reasoning letter in mid 2020. There was discussion of a CPI dues increase like the GCSAA but that was not seen as a positive idea. An increase of $35 will be possible revenue of $14,000 per year.

7. **GCSAA Logo:** Vice President Steger spoke about his trip to GCSAA Headquarters for the Chapter Delegates meeting and the presentation by GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans on the total commitment to the new GCSAA logo and the need for all chapters to adopt the logo as well. The board approved the official logo change while continuing to use the mitten logo for apparel and other areas. Past President Dingman spoke about Birmingham C.C. having two logos, one for the club and one for the members. The mitten logo will continue as the MiGOLF logo for outside sales and the members logo for member use. Adam will communicate with GCSAA on grant funds to help change the many areas the current logo exists.

8. **Bylaws Changes:** The bylaw changes were both approved
   a. **Section 2. Annual Dues change was passed with 100% of the vote**
      The annual dues shall be sums fixed by the Board of Directors, except for Class A, Class B and Class C members. Annual dues for Class A, Class B and Class C members shall be fixed at any annual meeting of the Association, as decided by a ballot conducted under regular voting procedures set forth in accordance with Article VII of these Bylaws.
      The annual dues notice for payment for the next fiscal year will be mailed to all members by October 15. All dues shall be payable on or before the fifteenth day of June
   b. **Election of Directors change was passed by 96.8% of the vote**
      c. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the remaining elected members, who shall be elected by ballot and a plurality vote. Each District will have three (3) members represented on the Board of Directors, of which one (1) Director shall be elected at the Annual Meeting each year and The Board of Directors shall be composed of (2) members from each district and (4) at large positions from any district, their terms shall run three years starting immediately after the Annual Meeting, and until their successors are elected and qualified and shall perform the duties hereinafter prescribed for each Director, up to three (3) consecutive terms are allowed per Director position.

9. **GCSAA Delegate:** Vice President Steger represented the MiGCSA at the 2019 Chapter Delegate Meeting at GCSAA HQ in Lawrence Kansas. Rob spoke about four things from
the meeting, first was the candidates running for the GCSAA Board. Kevin Sunderman and Kevin Breen are both running for Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Breen ran last year for this position and was runner up. Ron recommended to the board to vote for Kevin Breen and this was approved, if Kevin Breen wins Kevin Sunderman will run from the floor for his expired position and the board approved the MiGCSA votes for Sunderman to remain on the board. Zachary Bauer, Douglas D. Dykstra, CGCS and Glenn M. Matthews, CGCS are running for the open position that will remain. ROB has recommended that the MiGCSA votes go to Zachary Bauer and this was approved by the board. Rob spoke about the push at GCSAA for the new PAC fund to help with legislative issues, these are not for elections but are part of the process in Washington to be heard by representatives on issues. He also spoke about the Round for Research auction and Michigan not being part of it because of Tee Times for Turf ran by the MTF. Continued discussion with the MTF on how best to raise money with golf auctions are recommended, the marketing and administration with the R4R may be of more value and lead to higher income in the future if the MTF is interested in moving the auction.

**GCSAA BMP:** Chairman Pulaksi spoke about the progress of the BMP’s thanks in large part to Shane Conroy with the GCSAA who has done a ton of the leg work. Also reminded the board of the grant we received for $5,000 to promote the BMP’s. The goal is to use those funds to send a hard copy of the BMP to every golf course in the state even non members. This would include a membership form and letter about the chapter to hopefully gain some new members and most importantly get the BMP’s in front of those who need them the most.

10. **Social Media SOP:** Past President Dingman spoke about this document that he tried to get adopted at the end of his last meeting as President which was not approved. After discussion it was decided that this document would not be binding in any specific way but would become part of the Board Orientation handbook. There was discussion on the importance of being aware of what it posted to social media outlets and how they can reflect back to the MiGCSA. Each individual on the board is in their place to represent many other individual members and consideration of social media posts is an important part of this representation.

11. Committee Reports:
   a. Assistant Superintendent: Chairman and Assistant Liaison to the board Tim Matty
      i. Future Nomination Protocol: Past President Dingman spoke about the need for a more formal process for selecting future Assistant Committee Chairs. Past Assistant Committee Chairman and current MiGCSA Board Member Ryan Moore will work with current Chairman Tim Matty on more formal process and report back at the next meeting.
      ii. Tim spoke about the possibility of doing a fundraiser for the committee to help fund future endeavors by the committee or possibly help offset the costs of sending an Assistant to the GIS.
   b. Equipment Managers: New liaison and committee chairman Ben Beard spoke about the history of the committee and some of the initiatives his committee is working on. The number one priority is the new apprenticeship program. The goal
of this program is to help produce trained Equipment Managers that are in high
demand by our membership. Another goal is to help provide education for
Superintendents and Assistants from Equipment Managers to help bridge the
understanding gap that can be present. They are also trying to get more
interaction with the MSU Turf Students with hands on Equipment Manager
education. The committee is also interested in creating a mentor program where
EM’s can volunteer as a mentor to help assist/mentor other EM in the area.
Another goal is to increase the amount of EM members in the MiGCSA. Inclusion
of EM in the magazine or short video. Finally promotion of the GCSAA
certification for EM and possibly hosting a mass exam day here in Michigan.
c. By-Laws: nothing new to report that has not been discussed.
d. District/Events: The 2020 Calendar is almost complete. Rob Steger is working on
a site for the 2020 State Championship. Tim Matty will work on the 2020
Assistant Superintendent State Championship, the Detroit District representatives
need to find a host for the 2020 Big Event on October 5th or 12th and Adam is
working on a date for the 2020 Western Golf Day at Kalamazoo C.C. (This has
been confirmed as 9/21/20 as of these minutes)
e. Communications: Nothing to report
f. Education: Chairman Hopkins presented the final lineup for the 2020 Spring
Meeting and approved registration to open as soon as possible. Also there was
discussion on promotion to the Ontario Chapter. Adam will let Sally with OGSA
know they are welcome but the discounted room rate only applies to MiGCSA
Members.
g. Government Relations: Chairman Kyle Barton has won the GCSAA Grassroots
Ambassador Leadership Award, publication of this is forthcoming.
h. Membership: Chairman Ryan Moore had no new report
i. Nominating: Chairman Dan Dingman has nominated Ryan Moore to run for the
position of Secretary/Treasurer, Ryan has accepted this nomination and will be
on the online voting ballot. There will be two open positions to be filled for 2020.
The vacant spot left by Andy Dalton and the vacated spot as Dan Dingman
comes off the board. Scott Pulaski and Jesse Shave will also be running to retain
their seats on the board. The nomination email will be going out next week with a
one week deadline for applicants.
j. Scholarship and Awards: Chairman Doug Hoeh spoke about the proposed new
awards:
Superintendent of the Year: This award will be given to the person who has
demonstrated dedication and outstanding service to his/her profession.
• Must be a member of good standing in the MiGCSA (Class A or B)
• Has made significant contributions to their facility and the game of golf.
• Is active outside the profession by giving back to the community.
• Has the character, image and integrity to reinforce the values of the
MiGCSA
• A leader in the industry by serving on committees or boards in the state and/or national level.
• Environmentally conscience with sound agronomic practices.
• Provides innovative ideas to deal with budget, staffing and/or course issues

**Assistant of the Year:** This award will be given to the person who has demonstrated dedication and excellence at their job over the past year.
• Must be a member of good standing in the MiGCSA (Class C)
• Has made significant contributions to their facility and the game of golf.
• Is active outside the profession by giving back to the community.
• Holds the character, image and integrity to reinforce the values of the MiGCSA.
• Serves (d) on a board or committee in the state and/or national level.
• Provides innovative ideas to deal with budget, staffing and/or course issues

**Equipment Manager:** This award will be presented to the person who has demonstrated dedication and professionalism over the past year.
• Must be a member of good standing in the MiGCSA (Class EM)
• Has made significant contributions to their facility and the game of golf.
• Is active outside the profession by giving back to the community.
• Holds the character, image and integrity to reinforce the values of the MiGCSA.
• Serves (d) on a board or committee in the state and/or national level.
• Provides innovative ideas to deal with budget, staffing and/or course issues

**President’s Award? (or Distinguished Service award?):** This award will be presented to an individual who has devoted extensive time and effort to promote the Turfgrass industry and Golf Course Superintendents.
• Must be a member of good standing in the MiGCSA.
• Displays leadership and humanitarian efforts towards the profession and the game of golf.
• ?????
• ?????
• ?????

There was discussion of naming the Presidents award after a historical figure in our industry, this can be a challenging task on selection and the possibility of needing to someday change the name because of unseen circumstances. Doug would like everyone to look at the criteria and critique the process with the hope to possibly open nominations in 2020 and present the awards at the 2021 Spring Meeting reception.

12. New Business: Adam asked every member to go back and try to get some sort of direct donation to the MTF from membership or a specific golf day to help fund turf research at MSU.
13. Next meeting will be set by Rob Steger after the annual meeting
14. Adjourned at 1:48