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**VGCSA Board Meeting**

**Online, Thursday, April 23, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Leann Cooper, David Walter, Ed Eagle, Eric Snelsire, Bill Keene, Jeff Whitmire, Robb Bohannon, Stacey Kingsbury, Steve Randall, Tim Doran,**

**Tyler Eastham, Jeff Whitmire, Josh Peters, David Norman**

*Minutes Notes*

1. Call to Order 9:34 am – Bill Keene
2. Government Relations Update
   1. Legislative Session Recap
      1. Democrats control both house and senate
      2. New committee chairman in every committee, new speaker
      3. First year Robb can recall committee meetings go through 11 pm in the evening consistently.
   2. Key Golf Issues
      1. Senator Mason has pushed the bill limiting drilling into the deep aquifer.
         1. Successful in getting amendment to Senator Mason’s bill that golf course will have an expedited review process if they want to go in deep aquifer. DEQ will have 30 days to review each case for golf courses.
         2. Senator Mason wants to be included in any issues golf courses are having to help expedite the process.
      2. Senator Mason also has a bill
      3. Chloropyrifos – a bill to ban the use of the pesticide was introduced again. The bill went from a subcommittee docket, but Hunton Andrews Kurth let them know how it is essential to golf courses and that they responsibly use the product. The bill was pulled.
      4. Minimum Wage Bill – Senator Marsden and Mason helped keep the minimum wage increase to a moderate page and it will be $9.50 in May 2021 with a $1 increase through 2026. Robb expects the bill to be debated every year.
   3. COVID-19 update
      1. Todd Haymore with HAK is main line of communication with the governor’s office. Governor Northam is comfortable about his decision to stay at home through June 10th. Until we see a large decrease in cases, we won’t see any restrictions lifted.
3. BMP Update
   1. Tim Doran notes the final draft edit should be finished today and the committee will conference tomorrow and will send a draft out to various organizations for their suggestions for changes and approval. We are on track for a June publication.
   2. Stacey Kingsbury review the schedule
      1. Committee met in RVA in February to discuss the first draft and changes.
      2. Changes have been made and a professional copy editor has reviewed the document. Once the photos are incorporated, the PDF will be generated for mass review. Committee members and regulators will review.
         1. Stacey suggests that the document be made available to everyone/anyone that can review, maybe post on the web for all members to look it over.
         2. Stacey will provide a spreadsheet for adding comments.
         3. Committee members will review comments and final changes will be submitted to Stacey for updating.
         4. A new creative website will be established, and the designer is already working on the website.
4. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve David Walter, 2nd Jeff Whitmire
5. Treasurer’s Report – David Norman gave report for Mike Mueller
   1. Financials
      1. Budget vs Actual
         1. We are on budget currently
         2. Syngenta is supporting Virlina Cup with advance payment (i.e., prepaid in 2019)
         3. Dues – ODGCSA is ahead of budget, the rest of the local association are behind.
         4. Partner Revenues are pretty much on par with last year, which is good.
         5. Expenses are under budget. Factors include less payments to locals for dues reimbursement, and cancellation of the chapter leaders symposium.
         6. GCSAA Social – MAAGCS brought in an entertainer that was more costly than usual, we broke even on the event.
         7. Eric Snelsire notes interactions with other vendors – some may be wondering about the value proposition of partnerships.
            1. Eric notes that Bayer is on a lockdown in terms of spending because of the pandemic.
            2. David Norman suggests we do an email blast thanking our partners for their support during the pandemic.
   2. Investments
      1. We are down but due to our asset allocation, much less than the stock market as a whole.
   3. EIDL
      1. We applied for an EIDL, a 10K forgivable loan. They are backlogged on the applications and we have not received anything back on the application yet.
      2. We were not included in Paycheck Protection Plan the first time around, so we sent messages to Congressmen, asking to be included our organizations in any new programs.
6. External VP Reports
   1. GWGCSA - David Walter – not much going on with the current restriction, will review the rest of the schedule as the restrictions are lifted.
   2. ODGCSA – Tyler Eastham – scholarship tournament is postponed (TBA), March social event cancelled. Will review the rest of the year once restrictions are lifted.
   3. SVTA - Ed Eagle – a couple of courses closed in the region. There is a meeting scheduled for the end of May that might get rescheduled to June or July.
   4. TTA – Tim Doran plan to have Dick Cake and Virlina cup qualifier on May 12 at Riverfront. Tee times will be used to maintain social distancing.
      1. Steps are put in place to keep social distancing guidelines.
      2. Tyler Eastham will be sure to highlight the guidelines in email announcements.
      3. Leann notes that basically all chapters have postponed or cancelled all events, to include states that are not under a stay-at-home order.
         1. Optics of having an event during this time is an issue, so hosting an event should be done carefully following guidelines.
   5. VTA – Bill Keene gave short report. Sean Baskette says hoping to have the Bob Ruff on June 16th.
      1. VGCSA promoted an auction for Primland that will support their staff.
      2. Bill notes that courses in the region are open and Blacksburg CC is doing record rounds.
7. Recap of Recent Events
   1. GCSAA Social – Successful event, lots of positive feedback.
   2. MATE – Eric Snelsire attended.
      1. Tables were set up in the hallway in lieu of a tradeshow.
      2. 2021 they are moving the venue to Richmond, January 19-20
   3. Golf Council Meeting
      1. Looking to bring the MAGC conference back in 2021, possibly move the venue to Richmond, but it is on hold until the pandemic has subscribed.
      2. Bill Keene mentions VSGA events are cancelled/postponed through June.
8. Rounds4Research Update
   1. Mischia is working with the committee on an update for when R4R will happen.
9. Other Events
   1. VA Tech Tourney
      1. Postponed from May to August 31st.
      2. Research plots will be different from what you would see in May.
      3. Assumption is that there will be less sponsorship this year.
   2. Match Play
      1. Jeff Whitmire suggest compressing the schedule to the rest of the year and not to promote playing golf until after June 10th.
      2. Bill Keene is in favor of not doing anything until after June 10th, we should not be promoting doing anything as far as golf except for the essential business of taking care of the golf course.
      3. David Norman and Bill Keene suggest we announce have the first-round match completed by June 30th giving people three weeks to complete the first-round match.
   3. Virlina Cup
      1. James River CC in Newport News will host October 11-13.
   4. Assistants Forum
      1. Looking to do a joint meeting with MAAGCS.
      2. Josh spoke with MAAGCS assistant rep Alejandro Biaocchi to brainstorm ides. Looking to do something agronomic with a leadership backing to it.
      3. Venue will be in the GWGCSA region and the date will be in the fall.
   5. Annual Conference
      1. UVA is not sure how long the students will be in class.
      2. Space is reserved for the meeting for Dec. 7-8, but it might be in a different room.
      3. Bill Keene mentions we should have a contingency plan in the event UVA will not be able to host us in the fall.
         1. Eric Snelsire mentions we pick 1 or 2 options for a fallback in case we can’t go to UVA.
         2. David Norman will scope out conference centers and clubs and will go from there.
10. Partner Program Update
    1. Status – David Norman gave an update on the partner program.
       1. Luckily, we secured a lot of the partners before COVID-19 hit. We have 71 committed, with 4 dropping and 4 new partners. SiteOne moved to the Diamond level.
       2. A couple of partners are on hold until everything opens back up.
    2. Directory – collecting ads and finalizing membership rolls
11. Committee Assignments Review
    1. Josh Peters in on Assistants Committee/Website & Social Media
    2. David Walter on Awards
    3. Tim Doran on BMP
    4. Sean Baskette on Bylaws
    5. Ed Eagle - Certification
    6. Jeff Whitmire – Newsletter/Golf
    7. Jay Wade – Community Service
    8. Bill Keene & Eric Snelsire – Conference and Education
    9. Bill Keene – GCSAA voting delegate
    10. Mark Cote, Peter McDonough, Bill Keene – Government Relations
    11. External VPs – Membership
    12. Bill Keene and Mark Cote – Mid-Atlantic Golf Council
    13. Sean Baskette - Nominating
    14. Eric Snelsire - Partner Program/Survey
    15. Bill Keene, Sean Baskette, Mark Cote – VTC Turfgrass Committee
12. Old Business / New Business
    1. Board meeting dates - August 13 board retreat
       1. David Norman suggested Birdwood (new Davis Love design)
          1. Jeff and Bill like the venue and David Norman will scope it out.
    2. November 12 at Hermitage CC
13. Adjourn – 10:55am