

**Golf Committee  
Cottonwood Palo Verde  
Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2013**

Members present: Pat Anderson, Lee Brechtel, Gwen Curtis, Jim Gillespie, Richard Hair, and Judy Onken.

Members absent: Joseph Ficek, Nancy Howell, Dick Johnson

Board Liaison: Don Hicks

Staff Present: Bill Todd, Greg Tokash, Desmond Dakin

Visitors Present: Dick Howell, Dan Gerblich

Prior to the committee meeting Brian Whitlark, USGA Agronomist, and Jim Fox of Evergreen Turf made presentations to the committee regarding replacement of grass on Cottonwood greens.

Brian reviewed the Cottonwood course this week in light of its being one of five valley courses considering re-grassing greens. His evaluation is that four Cottonwood greens (Nos. 2, 11, 15, and 16) have problems that re-grassing does not solve and would recommend architectural changes to these greens. He also reiterated the course "challenges" including the lack of soil and water quality that dictate the type of overseeding we do. Some of the newer grass hybrids will not require overseeding the greens; instead they would be made artificially green in the winter. There is little, if any, economic advantage to NOT overseed, but it would reduce the problem with rapid blight and with transition from season to season. He was pleasantly surprised with the soil quality in the core samples he took.

Jim shared many pictures of the 30 or so courses his firm has re-grassed in recent years. He outlined the reasons courses re-grass their greens including: unacceptable turf quality, water quality, poor agronomics, changing member/player expectations, improved new varieties of grasses and contamination of grasses on existing greens. He outlined the four methods of green preparation for re-grassing: 1)no-till, 2)modified till, 3)till, and 4) excavate and start over in order of expense. The type of preparation necessary is determined by "perc tests" to determine how well the greens drain and how much organic matter is involved.

These presentations were very educational and informative. We are fortunate that Bill Todd has a good relationship with these men and that they were willing to give freely of their time and expertise.

Since these presentations took most of our meeting time, staff reports were abbreviated. Richard Hair reported that Hal Davis, representative for the CWMGA, has resigned from the committee. Another

representative will be named after officer elections. Additional discussion of the next steps to add re-grassing Cottonwood greens to the Five-Year Plan ensued. Don Hicks encouraged a two-year approach as having the greatest chance of success. Some committee members expressed the desire to minimize the length of course closure and possibly the economic impact of doing it all at once. Others reported that their constituencies were more concerned with the fairways (particularly #12 and the approach on #17). Bill Todd pointed out that the time of year certainly influences this particular feedback. Bill was tasked to determine the cost of getting "perc tests" on five or six greens so that we might have a better idea of the costs involved for a submission of this project to the Five-Year Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Onken  
Secretary