

# Prior planning and prudent preparation

**We are in** the middle of the summer season, but fall is just around the corner. As with many parks and recreation departments, our summer baseball and softball are very popular programs. As sports turf managers, we believe that proper playing conditions and maintaining fields is extremely important and we seek to provide the best and safest sports fields to our customers. Sometimes, the unpredictability of spring weather may not allow us sufficient time to complete the extensive work to get our fields into the best playable condition.

I personally have been faced with many challenges from this summer season: an infield that I've had to cancel after a rain because of the inability to remove excess water, a field with worn turf areas, and another with lip build-up. I am preparing a plan now to correct these in the fall.

Fall is prime time for turf cultural practices and for field renovations. Fall renovations are planned at season's end to repair or improve those nightmares from the summer season. Now, during mid-summer, is the time to prepare and communicate your intentions and expectations to coaches, athletic directors, your employer, and your staff. Develop a checklist of items with projected start and completion dates of field renovations and/or improvements you need to undertake. Communicate what the results will be after you complete these fall field renovation projects.

Your STMA Board of Directors is meeting this month and is also planning for many fall and winter projects. We have a full slate of items to discuss so our prior planning and prudent preparation will result in a successful association.

Dr. Dave Minner will be outlining the education topics and speakers for the 2006 Conference. Addressing the overall organization of the conference will be Mike Andresen, CSFM, and together with Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, they will present the Conference budget. Five subcommittees and the Finance and Audit Committee assisted the Conference planning.

George Trivett, CSFM, will be leading discussion on our STMA scholarship philosophy and Lance Tibbetts, CSFM, will report on several recommended changes to the certification process from the Certification Committee.

The Nominations Committee Chair Bob Campbell, CSFM, will report progress on the STMA Board Nominations process. The Membership Committee and its three subcommittees, led by Lynda Wightman with board liaison Vickie Wallace, have been strategizing on membership growth and retention. Vickie will be bringing those committees' recommendations to the meeting for further discussion and action. The Board plans to look at our mission to be certain it is still on target, and we will review our strategic plan to look at progress and set additional milestones.

These are a few of the items that we will be discussing. This continual planning and preparation is very important to our association so that we can build strong programs and services that will help our members achieve success.

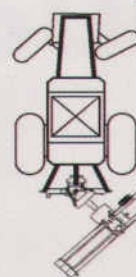


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