

Cast your vote on STMA Bylaws

STMA voting members will be provided the opportunity to approve or reject the proposed Bylaws changes this month via a special ballot sent through the U.S. mail. The proposed changes primarily affect three main components of the Bylaws: formalizing the ascension process to the Presidency, reducing the Officers' terms, and increasing the size of the Board.

The proposed changes were formulated during 2007 and early 2008 by the Governance Task Group, chaired by Mike Trigg, CSFM, STMA Immediate Past President. The Bylaws language was subsequently written by the Bylaws Committee, chaired by Ken Mrock. The Board approved the new Bylaws language at its summer Board Meeting.

Two Officers' positions, the Secretary and the Treasurer positions, are proposed to be combined into one position, Secretary/Treasurer. This new position will have two candidates placed on the ballot, and the candidate who is elected will be on the track to the Presidency. The Secretary/Treasurer will move unopposed to the President-Elect, then to the Presidency and to the Immediate Past President, as he/she concludes Board service. Formalizing the ascension process is extremely important for a strong governance system. The Secretary/Treasurer position becomes the pivotal position that allows you to vote on the candidate who ultimately will become your association's President.

Additionally, the terms of all of the Officer positions, except the Commercial Vice President, are proposed to be reduced to one year. Currently, the Officers serve two years in each Office. STMA has matured to the point that it no longer needs to rely on a smaller group of committed volunteers for leadership. Rather, the expanded committee involvement and the strong chapter network are preparing more and more members for leadership positions at the national level.

This shortening of the terms will reduce the maximum amount of time that a board member serves from 14 to 8 years, which is still a considerable commitment. The Commercial Vice President position is ineligible to ascend to the Presidency, and a two-year term is proposed as the amount of time that is needed to gain perspective from this important segment of the membership. Director terms, except for the proposed At-Large Directors, will continue to be two-years, not to exceed a total of four years.

The proposed changes also expand the Board of Directors by two At-Large Director positions. Currently there are 12 Board members: six Officers and six Directors. The proposed combination of Secretary and Treasurer reduces the Officers to five members, and the two new At-Large Director positions bring the Board size to 13 members. Candidates from any segment of the membership are eligible to serve as an At-Large Director. Candidates running for one of the At-Large Director position will appear on the ballot. Members will cast their vote for this Director as they do for the current director positions. This position, however, does not

have to represent a specific category of membership—it can be from any category. Thus, a parks and recreation sports turf manager may be slated against an academic, or a sports turf member representing higher education may be slated against a commercial member. Any candidate slated must be a voting member of STMA. The second At-Large Director position will be appointed by the STMA President. The Governance Task Group realizes that there will be a tremendous loss to the Board of one quality board member from the Secretary/Treasurer election. Thus, they recommend that the President be given the flexibility to appoint the person who does not win to this At-Large Director position. Both At-Large Directors will serve a one-year term.

The ballot will have specific instructions on when and how to return it through the US mail, fax or electronically, so that your voting status can be verified, yet how you cast your vote is kept anonymous.

In addition to Chairman Trigg, the members of the Governance Task Group include Bob Campbell, CSFM, Richard Moffitt, Tim Moore, CSFM, Mary Owen, Scott Pippen, Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, Bob Studholme, Jay Warnick, CSFM, and Steve Wightman.

Members of the Bylaws Committee include Chairman Mrock, Carol Baker, CSFM, Mike Boekholder, Richard Miller, Mary Owen, Scott Pippen, Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, David Rulli, David Schlotthauer, Mike Trigg, CSFM (Board Liaison), Jay Warnick, CSFM, and Steve Wightman.

The proposed changes affect Sections V, VI, VII, and XI. To review a comparative version, please go on-line to the Members Only section of www.stma.org and click on STMA Bylaws. You can also review the SOP: STMA Officer Vacancy Ascension Process, which is referred to in the Bylaws.

Once the outcome of the vote on these proposed Bylaws is known, the STMA 2009 Board of Directors slate of candidates will be finalized. The voting members of STMA will be sent that ballot in late November and the new Board of Directors will be presented to the membership during the STMA Annual Meeting on January 15, 2009 in San José. ■

Wisconsin Chapter helps rebuild flooded ball diamonds

By Dan Carmichael

Sports turf managers around the state of Wisconsin convened in the Village of Lake Delton on August 26 to rebuild Kaminski Park. Horrible devastation occurred in mid-June after 15 inches of rain fell in the area over several days. Lake Delton itself breached the dam and overflowed its banks carving a gully 50 yards wide

and 30 feet deep. Trees, homes and dreams washed away into the Wisconsin River. Nearby Kaminski Park did not escape the damage, as several trenches 5-10 feet deep were formed, entire infield mixes were deposited in the outfield, and dugouts slid 30 feet into a ravine. These were just some of the problems the flooding caused.

Baraboo resident and chapter board member Craig Schlender approached me at our late summer meeting and suggested we do an "extreme field makeover" and get sports turf managers and different vendors to try and to this put back together for the Village of Lake Delton.

Piece by piece the association put a plan together. Members Raechal Volkening, Don Probst and Paul Anderson constructed a plan where the association could accomplish this task basically in a day. The village's public works department, directed by Larry Fish, did the necessary prep work before and after.

Through the association, Fish was able to enlist sports turf managers from around the state, including Milwaukee Brewers head turf manager Gary Vandenberg. In total, more than 50 members registered along with about 50 members of the community.

"If we had a contractor, it would cost between \$60,000 to about \$80,000 to do, probably closer to \$80,000," Schlender said

A good portion of the material cost was donated by STMA member Waupaca Sands and Solutions. After crews laid down the necessary base layers, the top 4 inches

Thanks to these fine folks

Here are some of the people and companies that donated time, effort, and supplies to the Kaminski Park rebuilding project:

Ball Diamond Fine Turf and Craig Schlender, for organizing the event and use of all his tools

Reinders, for use of Pro Core 864; Kubota tractor; Workman 3200 and 2110; SpeedZone herbicide; Turface infield mix; grass seed; and Starter fertilizer

Wisconsin Turf, for use of First Products' Aeravator, Cushman, Turfco Edger Right, Turfco Topdresser, and Smithco Superstar Infield Groomer

Spring Valley, for use of bulk spreader truck and Pro's Choice infield conditioner

Central Wisconsin Sod, for use of laser grader

Midwest Athletic Fields, for use of laser grader

Waupaca Sands and Solution, for donation of 400-plus tons of Sur-Hop Monk's Bar & Grill, for catering lunch

Original Wisconsin Ducks, for boat tours of the devastation

Village of Lake Delton, Public Works Department, for preparing the site

Sports Impression, for free Lake Delton Extreme Makeover t-shirts

Dan Carmichael from Spring Valley is the president of the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association, www.wstma.org.



were added with a mix of clay and infield dirt called Sur-Hop—more than 400 tons, thanks to Waupaca Sands and Solutions. In addition, Turface Athletics and Pro's Choice donated nearly a truckload of infield conditioners to use as topdressing.

After the materials were dumped, Central Wisconsin Sod and Landscapes and Midwest Athletic Fields took over. With their state of the art laser graders, the fields were sloped at one degree within a 1/16 of an inch. To finish off, crews used a Turfco topdresser, Smithco infield groomer and infield ProGroomer to apply and drag the donated infield conditioner mix.

Spreading the infield mixes was just a part of what went on. Wisconsin Turf Equipment donated a Turfco edger to clean up the infield edges, while Reinders Inc. awed the crowd with the performance of the Toro ProCore 864 three point Toro aerator. Then Spring Valley showed just how quick and accurate fertilizing can be with our bulk spreader truck.

To top off the event, the Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort and Great Wolf Lodge offered bargain rates to volunteers for those who needed to stay overnight. Monk's Bar & Grill catered an unbelievable lunch at no cost. "That's the best event lunch we ever had," said volunteer Todd Kagelman. And the Original Wisconsin Ducks provided rides for any volunteers who wanted to see the washout from the Wisconsin River.

"When a community like this has a problem, a disaster, this is the last place money's going to be channeled to. Yet it's probably one of the first places where people recover," Schlender said.

Thanks to all the volunteers for their time and efforts. A special thanks to those vendors for the use of the items listed. Without the generosity of the many people and companies who participated in this event, we would not have seen the great progress toward healing from this disaster in Lake Delton. ■



Wisconsin STMA member and project spearhead Craig Schlender is interviewed on the restoration at Lake Delton.

New STMA Industry Sourcebook launched!

As an enhancement to our member benefits, STMA has launched the STMA Industry Sourcebook as a replacement for Power Links. While Power Links was a useful resource for STMA members and commercial companies, the new Industry Sourcebook will provide a more robust and convenient solution for STMA members seeking information. STMA Commercial Members will also benefit from the Industry Sourcebook through increased exposure, as well as providing another avenue for customers to access their products or services.

Located on the homepage of the STMA website, www.stma.org, the Industry Sourcebook is an online buyer's guide that sports turf managers worldwide can use to find the equipment, products, and services they need. Every STMA Commercial Member's company is listed in the Industry Sourcebook, and they are noted as STMA Members. Exhibitors at the STMA Conference and Exhibition and Association Sponsors are recognized as well.

Links to hundreds of companies, that list thousands of products, make the new STMA Industry Sourcebook the online resource for sports turf managers in their buying cycle. Members can search by keyword, zip code, member-only, and many other user-defined criteria. Also, the Industry Sourcebook allows users to submit a Request for Information (RFI) to many companies at once with the simple click of a button.

"STMA clearly recognizes the benefits of aligning our members and decision makers with suppliers", said Dale Getz, CSE, CSFM, and STMA Commercial Vice President. "The Industry Sourcebook saves professionals who specialize in the industry an incredible amount of time as they seek the resources they need."

STMA has partnered with Multiview, Inc. of Irving, TX to develop this new online resource.

If you have any questions about STMA Industry Sourcebook, please contact Patrick Allen at 800.323.3875, or via email at pallen@stma.org. ■