

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board MINUTES

July 14, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernie Kneeland, Chairperson; Tom Eicholtz, Terry Black, Jerry Ostrowski, Sean Ritchie

R&P STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Dugan, WSGC General Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board (WSGCAB) was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course by the Board Chair, Bernie Kneeland

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 15 April, 2025 meeting were approved by email prior to the July meeting.

GOLF COURSE/RESTAURANT UPDATES

Patrick Dugan provided copies of the following documents/ information to the board

- Year-to-Date Rounds of Golf, Revenue and Expense Comparison FY25 Compared to FY24
- Annual Comparison FY17-FY25 Financial Statement which included FY25 Approved Budget
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course Revenue Comparison FY2025 & FY2024
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course Expense Comparison FY2025 & FY2024
- Capital Improvement Projects, Project #: RP2503
- Capital Improvement Projects, Project #: RP 2403

In summary of the above documents, Patrick reported that overall golf operations and restaurant were doing well. Rounds of golf in FY25 exceeded 30,000 (31,036). Operating Revenues and Expenses exceeded the approved FY25 estimates. Net operating costs was a positive \$16,886.

Pat reported that Golf shop revenues have been impacted by a loss in revenue from golf lesson in FY25. In previous years the former Golf Pro/ Club Manager had conducted golf lessons at the course under a separate contract arrangement. This effort has fallen off in FY25. Pat is pursuing a new golf instructor to restore some level of golf lessons at the course particularly for younger golfers.

Pat reported that Restaurant operations are doing ok. Restaurant revenues and expenditures are increased compared to FY24 but net operations are positive. (Restaurant revenues in FY25 were \$19,562 over FY24). Pat reported that restaurant operations are still challenging due to cost increases in supplies. He is working to control costs by managing menu items as well as hours of operation.

- Status of Capital Improvement/ Equipment Purchases in FY25
 - FY25 Plan include purchases of a second greens mower, a sand rake machine, a small utility tractor, a green's sprayer, a Range Cart, and a Rough Bat Deck Wing Deck. Pat reported that all equipment for FY25 has been received.

OLD BUSINESS

- Patrick discussed his priorities for the remaining CIP funds identified in FY25/ FY26
 - Funding was spent on replacing the netting on the driving range
 - Funding has been spent on chemicals, Bentgrass, Topdressing, and some SOD for course maintenance.
 - Pat reported that based on the initial study by Dewberry Engineering, they are pursuing the possibility of installing a well on the course to support irrigation improvements. The County has signed off on everything for the well approval. The final approval is now at the Maryland Environmental (MDE) Office for their approval. The approval is for a test well. If the test well is satisfactory than a new well to support the irrigation of the course will be pursued. The test well will cost approximately \$140K.
 - Pat again stated that he is continue to hold back back the balance of his FY25/26 CIP funding until

a resolution to the irrigation path ahead is determined. He saved approximately \$40K from FY25 and has approximately \$100K in FY26 funds,

- Pat that the MSGA had completed their reevaluation of the course with the new tee placements(Black, Blue, White, Gold, Red, Purple). The report of results is still in-work. The course and slope ratings for the tees has been updated in GHIN for this season using a DeskTOP evaluation process.
- Pat reported that the County was working of acquiring some grant funding for possible use to support CIP projects. Possible increase of \$60.000. ‘

New Business

- Pat reported that the FY26 Budget was approved as requested.
- FY26 Budget included Capital Improvement Projects and equipment purchase (e.g. sand rake machine, sprayer, and a shop lift). Pat reported that all FY26 items have been received.
- FY27 Plan is to pursue additional items (e.g. walk behind aerator, walk behind mower for collars around greens, and possible a sprayer vehicle)
- Terry Black asked about cart maintenance. Pat responded that there are specific provisions in the lease agreement. In general, the maintenance crew provides the majority of maintenance on the carts. Any specific maintenance efforts that cannot be handled by the maintenance staff will be handled as specified in the lease agreement. Cart cleanup after use has ben questioned. Pat is working with his staff to improve cart cleanliness’ issues.
- Tom Eicholtz suggested that Pat work with Jim to see if a rope system might be acceptable to try and better control access around the greens. Tom reported that he had seen a rope system at another course and thought it might be useful and require simpler maintenance effort than physical signs/ stakes (e.g. .less intrusive on mowing efforts).

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse.

ADJOURNMENT

- Terry Black made a motion to adjourn and Jerry Ostrowski 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 P.M.

Bernie Kneeland

Minutes approved by the WSGC Advisory Board on