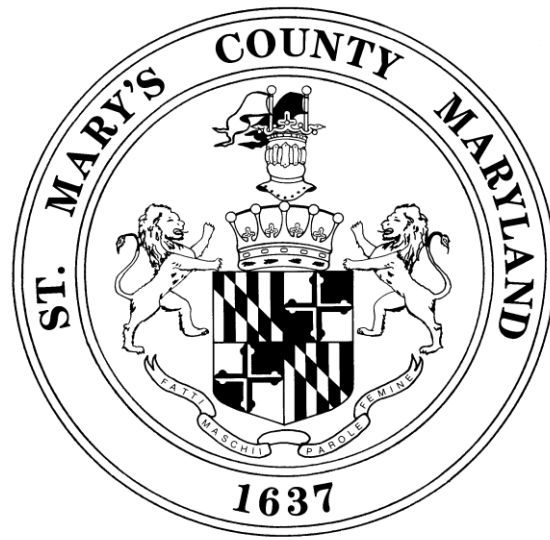


# Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board



## 2021 Annual Report

Bernard Kneeland, Chair  
Dave Phalen, Vice-Chair  
Jim Hodges  
Peter Delman  
Terry Black  
Thomas Eicholtz  
Greg Weaver

Arthur Shepherd, Director, Department of Recreation

**January 31, 2022**

## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose of the Board

The Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board (WSGCAB) is comprised of seven (7) community members (one of whom is a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board) appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to provide "advice and assistance concerning the Wicomico Shores Golf Course and on issues, fees and policies relating to the Golf Course."

Calendar year 2021 Board members: Bernie Kneeland, Chair; Pat Dugan, Vice-Chair (Pat resigned his position on the Board to accept the position as Course General Manager); David Phalen (was elected as Vice Chair to replace Pat Dugan in April); Jim Hodges; Terry Black (Terry was appointed in January to replace Tom Dixon); Peter Delman; Thomas Eicholtz (was appointed in July to replace Pat Dugan who resigned to accept the position as Course General Manager); and Greg Weaver (Recreation and Parks Board member).

### Meeting Attendance

Members	Jan 27	April 21	Jul 21	Oct 20	Dec 08	Total
B. Kneeland	present	present	present	present	present	5
J. Hodges	Via phone	present	present	present	present	5
T. Black <sup>(1)</sup>	present	present	Absent	present	Absent	3
P. Delman	present	present	present	present	present	5
P. Dugan <sup>(2)</sup>	present	See Note (2)	See Note (2)	See Note (2)	See Note (2)	1
T. Eicholtz <sup>(3)</sup>	See Note (3)	See Note (3)	present	present	present	3
D. Phalen	present	present	present	present	present	5
G. Weaver	present	present	present	present	present	5

Notes: (1) Terry Black was appointed to fill out the term of Tom Dixon who was removed for lack of attendance  
(2) Pat became the interim Course General Manager in March 2021 and Full time Manager in July 2021  
(3) Tom Eicholtz replaced Pat Dugan in July 2021 as Pat was hired as the Course General Manager.

### SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021

- The Board had a quorum for all five meetings held in calendar year 2021
- The Board would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Director of Parks and Recreation and the County Commissioners for their continued support particularly with respect to the level of CIP funding provided to the course. These funds have supported the completion of several projects that have improved and enhanced the condition of the golf course.
- Pandemic safety policies continued to evolve during 2021. A return to the policy of two riders per cart was reestablished in May of 2021. The Riverview restaurant

increased capacity to 8 people per table. The Course General Manager and his staff continue to ensure the golf course and restaurant are in compliance with County directives and policy with respect to pandemic response and safety.

- Based on review of budget performance exhibits (revenue and expense summary reports) during our quarterly meetings the financial performance of the golf course and restaurant was positive. Golf course financial performance was positive despite the impacts of the pandemic.
- The following CIP projects were completed in 2021:
  - Completed the pavement of all of the cart paths (Completion of this effort was impacted by adverse weather and was delayed due to contractual changes).
  - Bunker renovation project
  - Fairway drainage improvements on Hole #11,15 and 16. (These improvements have made a noticeable improvement to the course)
  - Irrigation improvements
  - Scheduled equipment purchases were completed to include:
    - Greens Roller
    - Fairway Mower
    - (2) Small Fairway Mowers
    - Kitchen Equipment
- Additional FY 22 acquisitions included:
  - Clubhouse Step Rails
  - PA system
  - Refrigerator Freezer for kitchen
  - ADA accessible golf cart

## **PROBLEMS, CONCERNS & CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED**

- The former Course manager Nick Isom's decision to step down from that position at the end of 2020 created a transition period as a new manager was hired first on an interim basis and then as a permanent replacement. The new manager has done an admirable job getting up to speed with course and restaurant operations while assuring the facilities continue to provide high-level services and enjoyable recreational activities.
- Maintaining the course in optimal condition to allow for a positive experience for golfers (particularly during peak seasons of play) remains a continuing challenge. Several greens maintenance concerns will require course management to remain as

proactive as possible. Two green improvement efforts are at the top of the FY23 improvement recommendations.

- Providing staff of both the course and the restaurant with the tools needed for successful operations and upkeep remains an ongoing challenge. The Board has expressed a desire to increase restaurant hours. The Course General Manager is working the issue and is challenged with staffing issues.
- As county businesses and recreational facilities expand offerings in the expected wind-down of the pandemic, maintaining fees and prices for the course and restaurant at levels that meet current and anticipated future budgetary needs without discouraging community use of the available facilities will require ongoing oversight and discussion.
- Both the course and the restaurant will need to continue exploring new options for making the facility a more inviting destination for families and other groups seeking a wide variety of recreational and entertainment opportunities in St. Mary's County

## **PLANS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

- A priority for additional CIP funding (if available) will include repairs and updates to maintenance facilities (to ensure the condition of the course remains a top option for recreational activities for citizens of the county. FY 22 CIP funds have already been allocated for maintenance shop renovation and maintenance road improvement.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

- The board will continue to discuss and make recommendations for the future regarding the CIP plan of action for the golf course and restaurant. FY23 recommendations include:
  - Renovation of #8 green
  - Dredge #15 pond
  - Replacement of pipe in #2 fairway (this is related to dredge efforts on #15)
  - Renovation of #7 green
- Staff and management will continue to work with the board as needed to promote community interest and usage of the facility and its programs.

- The course general manager will work to assure adequate, qualified grounds crew staffing is provided to maintain and continually work to improve the physical environment of the course.
- The board and staff of the course and restaurant will continue to work with the Recreation and Parks division to seek out appropriate opportunities for Wicomico Shores to help serve the public need for diverse healthy and sustainable recreational activities in St. Mary's County to enhance the health and economic well-being of the community.