

GREAT NEWS! – NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM

If you have been to the golf course lately you may have noticed a massive pile of pipe that is stacked next to the driving range. This pipe has been delivered as we prepare to install a completely new irrigation system. We have wanted to give details on this project for quite a while, however, we had to wait until everything was in place to make sure that it happened.

Two weeks ago we completed a refinancing with **Portage County Bank** that included funds for this project. Our first mortgage was previously held by a bank in Delavan, Wisconsin. We are very happy to be doing business with a Portage County community lender.

Three years ago we completed the first phase of the new system by installing a new pump station and main line. The pump station and main line were installed with the idea that eventually we would be able to replace all pipe, heads, and hydraulic controls with a fully automatic system that is CPU controlled.

In the past two weeks we have completed the final touches on the plan that will be installed over the next 8 – 10 weeks. A copy of this plan is on display in the restaurant at the clubhouse. There are two separate plans on display, one that shows pipe sizing and routing and the other that shows coverage areas. You will notice by looking at these plans that the entire road nine will be covered with a double row system. This essentially means that there will be two rows of irrigation heads on each hole running on the sides of the fairways. By running double row on this nine we will expand the area that we are able to water considerably and should stand up to drought conditions much better. The river nine will be covered with some single row and some double row coverage. With the different soil types on the river nine we will be using double row in the widest coverage areas and single row where playing areas are narrower.

We have selected **Hunter Golf** as our supplier of irrigation heads and controls. **Shulfer's Sprinklers and Landscaping** will be installing the entire system along with the layout assistance of **John Deere Landscapes** designer John Markstead.

During the installation period, all 18 holes will remain open. The installation crew will be working on one hole at a time Monday – Friday. As they are working on a given hole, that hole will be shortened to a par three for the day playing at approximately 100 yards. Notice will be provided in the clubhouse daily to let you know which hole has been shortened. We are anticipating that once work begins on a hole it should be completed within two days. Therefore, the disruption to play should be minimal.

There will be trenching of pipe done on the golf course. This will leave evidence of recent work, however in the main play areas (tees, fairways, approaches, and greens) the pipe used will be mainly 2 and 2 ½ inch, which should show very little damage. The most noticeable trenches will be in the roughs where the main lines run. This piping will run anywhere from 3 to 10 inches in diameter, of course requiring a larger trench. These trenches will be seeded and recover in the fall and early spring 2011.

I over heard a customer comment that “the golf course is going to get all torn up”. Please understand business decisions like this do not happen overnight and are not made lightly. What we are doing will substantially improve the golf course product that we have for all to enjoy. Any short term inconveniences that this process produces will be very worth it once the project is completed.

This is a very exciting time for Wisconsin River Golf Club. The new system will expand coverage and give us much better control over how we maintain our playing turf. It will also free up hours on the grounds crew that are currently being used for watering and irrigation repair that can now be used in other ways to help improve the facility. The system that is currently in use has components dating back to 1959. A complete overhaul has never been done... Until now. So, please, we ask for your patience as the new system is installed.

As we move towards the completion of our tenth season owning the “Wisconsin River Golf Club” we look forward to continuing to provide an ever improving golf facility.

Thanks for your time – we will see you here soon.

Bill & Jen Stupar
Wisconsin River Golf Club