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Board President
Golf Committee
Board Liaison



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Board Director
Green Committee
Board Liaison

We have a relatively new name, “**Project Emerald**” which now names a plan that has been ongoing within the Greens Committee and the Board for the past five years. The plan started with the recognition that, over time, our greens had become heavily infested with an annual grass, Poa Annua.



Poa Annua is an invasive weed that is extremely susceptible to winter and summer kill resulting in spotting and uneven surfaces.

When you may perceive that the greens are nice, that is only due to the constant diligence of your course superintendent. However,

there are weather conditions that could cause complete loss of this grass and some of our greens are now more than fifty percent poa annua grass. The committee looked at what others had done and brought the USGA and UNL Turf Programs to Lochland to suggest how to fight this problem. The obvious solution was to kill all grasses on the greens and replant with a new variety which would have superior characteristics. The new grass requires less water and chemicals. The grass would have a structure which would make it more difficult for poa annua grass to encroach into our greens.

The program was called “gas and grass” and, after much study by the Greens Committee, a recommendation to move forward was made to the board of directors. The committee recommendation was to wait several years

to allow time to get the sub structure of the greens in better shape for drainage and to allow the club to pay off some debt. A consideration in the process was the fact that the course would have to be closed from early August until April of the following year, causing a loss of revenue. After sharing the concept with the membership and getting their thoughts, the board approved this project to be done in 2015.

The golf course has had a “master plan” for many years. The Greens Committee updates the master plan from time to time. During that update process the committee discussed whether this down time on the course would be a good opportunity to implement some of the items in that master plan. One item that

seemed logical was to re-grass our fairways at the same time, especially since the expense of this was not major. The USGA and UNL Turf Programs were again brought to Lochland and they placed test plots on the course to determine what the best grass was for our golf course. As the process continued, several other areas of improvement were suggested, such as improving the bunkers with better drainage and improved consistency. These items, along with the greens project which was already approved, became “**Project Emerald**”

One of the considerations, and a direction to those involved, was that the club would not do this project if we had to assess members. That direction is still firmly in place. With the current low interest rates, it now appears the club would be able to borrow all the funds needed for Project Emerald, and the debt service would be similar to what the club is currently paying. In other

words, the club has the opportunity to improve our golf course, since it will be closed anyway, to improve the greens, fairways and bunkers without an assessment.

When Lochland was built, it was considered one of the premier country clubs in the state, and it still is. To keep that distinction, we have, over the past fifteen years, reinvested in a new club house and a new pool, but not in the golf course itself. Since the course was built, turf grasses have improved and many golf courses in Nebraska have used those new hybrids. This has taken some of the “shine” off of Lochland. **Project Emerald** is an opportunity to put some of that shine back on our facility.

Since it is fall, let’s make a football reference (Go Huskers!!). Like the members of a football team, Team Lochland needs to know what the play is. Team Lochland needs to execute the play with the full support of all

the players to achieve the result we all have a right to expect. The board insisted on membership “Town Hall” meetings to explain Project Emerald. The first “Town Hall” was August 12th, and representatives of the UNL Turf Program were there for a presentation and to answer questions. Unfortunately, this session was not very well attended, however, there will be another opportunity on September 9th. UNL will not be able to attend this session, but the rest of the panel will be there. It would be wonderful to have a packed house. This is your chance to listen, be heard, and participate. The Town Hall will give everyone a chance to understand the project, the process, and to express their ideas and concerns, so we can approach the project of renewing our course in a united and positive way.

PROJECT EMERALD

**Town Hall Informational Meeting
Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00PM**

RSVP by calling 402-462-4151 or by using the online reservation feature at www.lochlandcc.com.

Want to read more about PROJECT EMERALD? Log in to your member account at www.lochlandcc.com and click on “CLICK HERE” under “Golf Course News”.