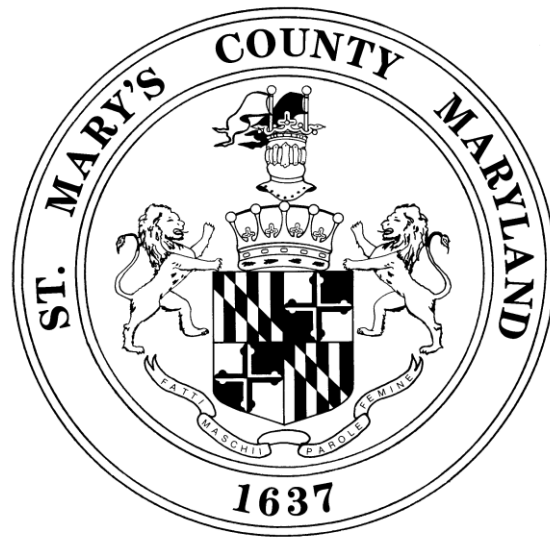


# Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board



## 2022 Annual Report

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

Arthur Shepherd, Director, Department of Recreation

**January 31, 2023**

## 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 2022 Board members: Bernie Kneeland, Chair; David Phalen; Jim Hodges; Terry Black; Peter Delman (Peter Delman resigned and was replaced by Brian Hammett; Thomas Eicholtz; and Greg Weaver (Recreation and Parks Board member).

### Meeting Attendance in 2022

Members	Jan 19	April 27	Jul 20	Oct 26	Total
B. Kneeland	present	present	present	present	4
J. Hodges	absent	present	present	present	3
T. Black	present	present	absent	present	3
P. Delman <sup>(1)</sup>	present	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Brian Hammett <sup>(1)</sup>		present as guest	present	absent	1
T. Eicholtz	present	present	present	present	4
D. Phalen	present	present	present	present	4
G. Weaver	present	present	absent	present	3

Notes: (1) Pete Delman resigned after the January meeting. Brian Hammett was appointed to replace Pete Delman. His term is from July 1 2022- Dec 31 2024.

### SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2022

- The Board elected the following officers for 2022: Bernie Kneeland, Chairman, Dave Phelan, Vice Chairman, Jim Hodges, Secretary.
- Annual Report for Calendar 2021 was prepared and submitted.
- The Board had a quorum for all four meetings held in calendar year 2022
- 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.
- Based on review of budget performance exhibits (revenue and expense summary reports) during our quarterly meetings the financial performance of the golf course

was positive. Financial performance of the restaurant has been impacted by supply chain issues and supply cost increases.

- Restaurant hours were expanded to include breakfast on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- The following CIP projects were completed in Calendar 2022:
  - Fairway drainage improvements on Hole #2 (drainage pipe replacement) and dredging and repair of the ponds on #15.
  - Green Improvements (#7, #8)
  - Scheduled equipment purchases were completed to include:
    - (2) Small Fairway Mowers
    - Kitchen Equipment
    - Rakes for greens
    - Fan for #7 and #8 greens
- Additional Calendar 22 Maintenance and facility improvements included:
  - Clubhouse Step Hand Rails
  - PA system
  - Walk-In-Cooler for kitchen
  - Rest Room Renovations

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

- The Course Manager has continued to do an admirable job managing course and restaurant operations while assuring the facilities continue to provide high-level services and enjoyable recreational activities despite some supply chain and supply cost issues.
- Maintaining the course in optimal condition to allow for a positive experience for golfers (particularly during peak seasons of play) remains a continuing challenge. Green maintenance concerns will require course management to remain as proactive as possible and continue to pursue required funding to facilitate and support green maintenance efforts (E.g., special green mowers).
- The Course Manager needs the assistance of Parks and Recreation to support a sound business approach to negotiating an economically sound transition plan to provide golf cart services in FY24 and beyond (E.g., Extend current lease, establish new lease).

- Providing staff for both the course and the restaurant with the tools needed for successful operations and upkeep remains an ongoing challenge. 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 CALENDAR YEAR (2023)**

- A priority for additional CIP funding (if available) will include repairs and updates to maintenance facilities and equipment (to ensure the condition of the course remains a top option for recreational activities for citizens of the county). Obtaining adequate funding to continue to maintain and improve green conditions is critical. The Board understands that FY24 CIP funds have been included in the FY24 budget request.

### **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. FY24 recommendations include:
  - Installation of permanent tee markers
  - Tee Box improvements
  - Incorporation of a practice area (practice bunker, chipping green)
- The Board will work with the Course Manager and Staff as needed to promote community interest and usage of the facility and its programs.
- The Board will continue to work with the Course General Manager and grounds crew staffing to provide advice and input to help maintain and continually work to improve the physical environment of the course.
- The Board will continue to provide advice and input to the Course Manager on restaurant operations.

- The Board will continue to provide advice and recommendations to 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.
- The Board encourages the Club Manager to work with the Parks and Recreation Director and Parks and Recreation Department to stay abreast of County Green Initiatives to ensure the Golf course is included in any potential Green Initiative funding for improvements to the Golf Club infrastructure.