**GCSAA Best Management Practices Grant Program Guidelines**

**2015**

Organization qualifications:

* Golf Course Superintendent Associations, Turfgrass Foundations, universities, and other not-for-profit organizations working with golf course associations.
* GCSAA affiliated chapters will be engaged in the approval process for any and all submissions to ensure their acceptance and coordination of any non-chapter organization’s application.

Acceptable activities:

* The development of new or the review and update of existing agronomic and environmental best management practices for golf course development, operations, and maintenance.
* Projects that provide for the significant demonstration, comparison, and/or effectiveness of golf course best management practices.
* Development of validation or verification programs for proposed or existing best management practices programs for golf courses.
* Marketing and incentive packages for chapter BMP programs.

Requirements:

* The best management practices must be developed in conjunction with a plan and timeline for implementation across the state/regional or appropriately defined geographic region.
* The process should incorporate the appropriate state authorities and at least one local watershed group, conservation organization, etc. who will endorse the BMPs products / results.
* Best management practices shall incorporate water conservation, water quality protection, nutrient management, and integrated pest management practices without exception. BMPs can be unique to the specific region/environment for which they are intended and should be in alignment with golf’s generally recognized BMPs.
* GCSAA and EIFG encourage applicants to develop BMPs that incorporate energy, pollution prevention, and other environmental/agronomic best management practices that correspond to an environmental management program for the golf course.
* GCSAA will be engaged in the development of the best management programs providing technical and strategic consulting.
* GCSAA has the ability to share/utilize BMPs in the development of future BMPs for other chapters or state level golf centric organizations.
* GCAA and EIFG encourage applicants to incorporate the BMP planning guide with template of BMPs within their program and grant application. This new tool will be launched in mid- to late-2016.

Grant prioritization:

* Priority will be given to applications for water conservation or water quality (nutrient management/pest management) projects in areas responding to regulatory requirements, facing regulations, or other similar circumstances. Especially, new programs being developed.
* Applications from GCSAA affiliated chapters and/or those incorporating stakeholders from government, watershed, and conservation organizations will rank higher in effectiveness and effort.
* Applications that incorporate validation/verification as part of the proposal will rank higher than those that don’t.

Timeline:

Sept. 15, 2015:  Applications open
Oct. 15, 2015:  Applications due to GCSAA
Nov. 18, 2015:  Application review and task group final approval complete
Dec. 1, 2015:  Grant recipients announced
Dec. 15, 2015:  Payments initiated

Application process:

* Applications must be submitted using the BMP Grants Application form available on GCSAA.org or by contacting GCSAA
* Applications from non-golf course superintendents associations must have letters of support from the supporting golf course superintendents associations accompanying complete application forms
* email with attachments are acceptable by the deadline with original signature copies mailed to GCSAA
* Applications are due by October 15, 2015 at 5 p.m. (Central).

Submit applications to:

Mark Johnson, Associate Director, Environmental Programs

GCSAA

1421 Research Park Drive

Lawrence, KS 66049