**GCSAA Best Management Practices Grant Program Guidelines**

Organization qualifications:

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

Acceptable activities:

* The development of new or 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

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.

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.
* Applications from GCSAA affiliated chapters and/or those incorporating stakeholders from government, watershed, and conservation organizations will rank higher in effectiveness and effort.

Timeline:

Aug. 1 – Announce RFP Closing on August 31

Sept. 15 – complete application review and task group final approval

Sept. 22 – announce grant awardees

Oct. 1 – initiate payments

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
* Fax or email with attachments are acceptable by the deadline with original signature copies mailed to GCSAA
* Applications are due by Aug. 31, 2014, at 5 p.m. (Central).

Submit applications to:

Mark Johnson, Associate Director, Environmental Programs

GCSAA

1421 Research Park Drive

Lawrence, KS 66049