



Leaders of the Industry Join for TARO's Allied Association Meeting at Ridglea Country Club in Fort Worth

The Texas Alliance of Recreational Organizations (TARO) hosted members of the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Professional Golfers Association (PGA) to discuss the future of Texas water for the golf course industry.

The program featured industry experts, including Bud White, Director of the Mid-Continent Region of the USGA's Green Section. White addressed coping with decreased water availability and quality while balancing player expectations. Additionally, White covered the shared responsibility of club managers, golf professionals and superintendents in educating their members on the fact that reduced aesthetics does not equate to reduced golf course quality.

Dr. Charles Porter, testifying expert on water law, author and professor at St. Edwards University discussed ownership pertaining to various classifications of Texas Water. Dr. Porter summarized the state's regulatory bodies and encouraged the golf industry to engage in the process, warning that recreational organizations will remain targets during times of drought. Professor Porter offered the following recommendations for the golf industry:

- Form a Water Planning Committee and acquire a water rights attorney
- Engage your local Groundwater Conservation District and attend as many meetings as possible
- Tout the industry's conservation measures and best practices
- Use meters to validate historic use in order to maintain access to your fair share of water

Former Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives and current TARO lobbyist, Gib Lewis, shared many of TARO's legislative victories on behalf of the golf course industry. Among them, Lewis discussed the Greenbelt Tax Provision and the most recent attempts to repeal the provision in the 83rd Legislative Session. If repealed, the consequences would be devastating to the industry, resulting in significantly increased property taxes for recreational clubs.

Ken Gorzycki, Director of Agronomy at Horseshoe Bay Resort, spoke on the positive economic and environmental impacts of the game of golf. Gorzycki acknowledged the common misconceptions and urged attendees to promote the proactive conservation and

application measures in place. Mr. Gorzycki is currently working with regulatory agencies to develop best management practices for water application.

About the Texas Alliance of Recreational Organizations, Inc.

The Texas Alliance of Recreational Organizations is a non-profit alliance of clubs, other organizations and individuals interested in recreational activities within the State. Its purpose is to participate effectively in the state's legislative and regulatory processes for the benefit of its supporters and their constituents. This participation involves a high quality lobbying effort with the Legislature, monitoring regulations under existing laws, a continuing communication program with its supporters centering on legislative and regulatory issues affecting them, and maintenance of an action network which is mobilized as necessary to advocate Alliance positions. The further purpose of Texas Alliance of Recreational Organizations is to educate its supporters on issues affecting them and to foster good will among its supporters by preparation and circulation of periodic publications and sponsorship of educational programs.

For more information, visit: www.txaro.org