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Costs Associated with Golf Irrigation Systems

Whether you are constructing a new golf course or interested in renovating your existing irrigation system, Bluegrass Irrigation Consulting aims to provide the most efficient system for your budget. If you already have an irrigation system in place, we consider whether or not the cost of operating and maintaining the system is increasing, and at what rate. In most cases golf course irrigation systems are replaced when they become more expensive to operate and maintain than the cost of replacement. Our irrigation professional can help you evaluate the costs that are directly and indirectly associated with the function and performance of the existing golf course irrigation system. We've outlined the costs below to help you get an understanding of what this involves.

- (1) Maintenance Cost (Variable)
 - Includes the costs of parts and labour to locate, excavate, repair, backfill and re-sod any pipe or wire problems,
 - Includes the cost of parts and labour to repair and replace sprinkler heads or valves.
 - Includes the cost of replacing obsolete, broken or unreliable components of the system. (i.e. pump station or controllers)
- (2) Inadequate Coverage Cost (Variable)
 - Includes the costs of purchasing hoses and the labour required to hand water or manually irrigate those areas of the golf course for which the automatic system doesn't work properly or adequately irrigate. (i.e. #13 Red Tee Box)
- (3) Operating Cost (Fixed and Variable)
 - Includes the cost of senior management to physically go around each and every day to make adjustments to the irrigation schedule on the controllers and check the system for any new problems, diagnose the problem and schedule someone to fix it.
 - Includes the cost of power to pump water for irrigating the golf course.
- (4) Incidental Member Cost
 - Poor quality turf will give a reason for members to compare what other clubs have to offer and become dissatisfied when areas of their golf course are being over watered or under watered, especially when it affects their score or enjoyment of the game.
- (5) Incidental Employee Cost
 - Includes employee dissatisfaction from continually having to deal with an inadequate system and forced to fix the same problem over and over again.

Costs 1-3 can be categorized into either fixed or variable costs. All variable costs are directly linked to the irrigation system that is currently in the ground and any new system would eliminate or significantly reduce these costs for at least the first ten years of operation.

Costs 4-5 can be either tangible or intangible costs associated with membership satisfaction and employee performance that negatively impact the income statement of the golf club. These are difficult to calculate unless you know of someone who has directly left the club or quit their job based on the poor performance of the existing irrigation system.