

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 7:30 am
Conference Call**

Members Present: John Swanson, Kevin Capistran, Greg Hilgeman, Steven Schmidt and Tom Dowdle.
Members Absent:

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 7:30 am.

The minutes of January 7, 2020 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Dowdle and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for March 2020. The Council collected \$4,881.15 in check-off funds and \$7.32 in interest. There were no expenses paid out in March. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$37,239.73 as of March 31, 2020.

Kevin Capistran made a motion to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion passed.

Washington DC Update

Kevin Capistran along with John Sandbakken, Karl Esping, Lance Hourigan and Clark Coleman traveled to DC March 1 – 3, 2020. Kevin stated they met with RMA and thanked them for the policies they put in place such as Master Yields and hulling quality loss adjustments. They are still working on enterprise unit issues, but this may be a legislative issue and would need to be dealt with in the next Farm Bill.

Met with ARS and discussed the needs for the Fargo unit. USDA Fargo facility needs some facility upgrades. They had some severe damage to a greenhouse this winter and lost a lot of valuable work. They asked for a million dollar increase for the Sclerotinia Initiative from 1.4 to 2.4 million. They also discussed the genetic research for work being done at USDA and how they could be brought to the U.S. market. Work being done in Argentina or other countries may not necessarily work in the U.S.

Visited with Wildlife Services and the damage blackbirds are doing in Minnesota. Discussion was that ND Wildlife Services could potentially cross over into Minnesota to help deal with the problems.

Met with various legislature to discuss USDA programs, WIP, quality adjustment and how they are implemented. They also discussed the need for some Federal legislation to deal with State rules such as California's Proposition 65.

John stated he is on the WIP Plus Quality Issue committee and have had some favorable meeting with RMA and Crop Insurance and modeling them after the sunflower program currently in place.

AGRETT Update

John Swanson provided an update on AGRETT. They have had 14 applicants so far. The deadline for applications was April 10th (not sure if this will be extended now). The President of the University of Minnesota has put a hold on all new hires.

Crop Reports

Tom Dowdle stated they ran out of sunflower seed about a month ago. He has 1,300 bags coming in this year. The demand for sunflower in his area has been high. Last year he sold 800 bags for comparison.

Kevin stated he is seeing an increase in his area too. The drop in recent sunflower price has caused some frustration with those considering growing sunflower.

Greg reported they finished up harvesting sunflower a week ago. The sunflowers went directly from the field to the delivery plant. His sunflowers did not have any damage or quality losses from being left in the field over winter. There was slight deer damage on the edge of the field. Sunflowers were at 8 to 9 percent moisture at harvest. He did take a lot of dockage for dark roast upon delivery.

John mentioned is working on an experiment for Sclerotinia this year. This would be a seed treatment. He might have to soak the seed first and then apply the seed treatment. It will be time sensitive process.

Work on Phomopsis for ND and SD will be done this summer. Febina Mathew will be the lead for the work being done and is working on acquiring the funding. John has been asked to be on the review committee.

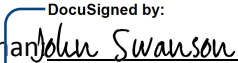
Other Business

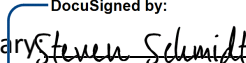
Prairie Grains Conference – Kevin stated we would be in favor of having a spot on the program if they have a conference. This is on hold until we have more details.

Next meeting Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 7:00 am.

Motion to adjourn by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am

Chairman 
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Secretary 
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