

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Sonata 1 Ramada Plaza Suites – 7:00 AM – January 13, 2016

Members Present: John Swanson; Kevin Capistran and Jerry Hasndl. Members Absent: Steven Schmidt and Danny Payment

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 7:00 AM.

The minutes of the October 20, 2015, conference call were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Jerry Hasnedl and seconded by Kevin Capistran. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for December, 2015. The Council collected \$3,774.35 in check-off funds and \$1.69 in interest. Year to date assessment check off collected is \$21,876.93 and interest is \$7.82. Expenses year to date are \$2,230 to MN Ag Department, \$2,640 for the audit review, \$947 for insurance, \$391.43 for miscellaneous which is mainly postage and \$1,001.92 for council members reimbursed expenses for a grand total of \$7,210.35. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$41,289.67 as of December, 2015. **Kevin Capistran made a motion to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Jerry Hasnedl. Motion passed.**

Pathology Position – U of MN Crookston

John Swanson led the discussion for a Pathologist position at University of Minnesota Crookston. There are about 8 million dollars available per year for the next 5 years. Minnesota Statutes Chapter 4 – S.F. No. 5 Article 2 of the Agriculture Policy. \$80,000 per year for administration, \$600,000 for Rapid Response Grant, \$1,000,000 for Avian Influenza Research Grant, \$2,000,000 for MAELC Grant, \$803,000 available for competitive grants leaving 4 – 5 million available for commodity groups to spend on staffing a position with the University of Minnesota along with support staff per year for the next 5 years. After the 5 years the University of MN will continue to support the position and staff. John Swanson has visited with the soybean, canola and dry edible bean and they are supportive of a pathologist position at U of MN Crookston. Kevin suggested we visit with U of MN Crookston to make sure they would be on board with our idea.

Jerry suggested John Swanson and Kevin Capistran schedule a meeting with the University of MN Crookston and see if they would be supportive with our plan. Recommendation to take a representative from a seed company or two to attend the meeting too. Kevin suggested asking Deb Kiel to attend the meeting with them. Deb is a MN legislature. Jerry stated she also sits on the Auri board.

Council Member Term:

Candidates for Council Member – Region 1 – Jerry Hasnedl’s term expires June 30, 2106. Jerry is willing to serve an additional term. Tina will get Jerry the required paperwork to run for an additional term.

NSA Board Seat:

Kevin Capistran’s term on the NSA Board of Director is up for renewal in February 2016. Kevin is eligible to serve an additional 2 terms of three years each.

Motion to appoint Kevin Capistran to serve another term on the NSA Board of Directors by Jerry Hasnedl. John Swanson called for a unanimous vote. Motion Carries.

Next meeting will be via conference call after John and Kevin meet with the University of MN Crookston. Date to be determined.

Motion to adjourn by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Jerry Hasnedl. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 am

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____