

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 7:30 am
Conference Call

Members Present: John Swanson, Kevin Capistran, Steven Schmidt and Jerry Hasnedl. Members Absent: Danny Payment.

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken

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

The minutes of the January 10, 2017 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 March, 2017. The Council has collected \$29,132.22 in check-off funds and \$16.32 in interest to date. We have paid out \$40,790.68 in expenses as of March 31, 2017. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$30,330.55 as of March 31, 2017. Acres for 2017 are expected to decrease about 25% which will affect the income for the coming year.

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

Crop Updates:

Kevin Capistran stated there are some of the older growers in his area will not be growing sunflowers this year. The newer growers who grew sunflowers last year will plant sunflowers again this year as they had a good experience. A new strain of Phomopsis was found in Minnesota this past year. Kevin has offered to help with spore trapping and getting the samples to Fargo to Sam Markell and forward on to Febina Mathew in Brookings for testing.

John Swanson is going to try spraying earlier this year to see if that will help with Phomopsis this year. He is going to visit with Febina and express how the problem is growing in Minnesota. John stated there is a product that work on blueberries and would like to see some testing done on sunflowers to see if it might work. He will follow up with Febina regarding this as well.

Summer Seminar:

Tina and John provided the layout for the 2017 Summer Seminar. John Baize will present in the morning along with a Food Safety Modernization Update and Farm Bill Update. There will be breakout sessions in the afternoon.

Other Business:

Kevin updated the board with the recent NSA DC trip. They met with Senator Franken. They discussed personal T yields and trend adjustment. Another topic discussed was the pollinator friendly crop. Crops which provide habitat for pollinators may qualify for incentives. Overall, they had good meetings during their trip.

John Swanson and other leaders from NW Minnesota met with Senator Franken in Moorhead regarding GMO and how it has benefited Minnesota. There were FFA students at this meeting and Senator Franken asked them to put an entertaining video together on how GMO crops have improved agriculture in Minnesota which can be used to educate others in DC. Also discussed were concerns for the new Farm Bill.

Website:

If anyone has anything, please let Tina know and she will have Grant Kaste, who is assigned to our account, do the updating.

Next Meeting: June 6th 7:30 am via conference call.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 am.

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____