

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Wednesday, June 12, 2019 7:30 am
Conference Call**

Members Present: John Swanson, Kevin Capistran, Jerry Hasnedl, Steven Schmidt and Tom Dowdle.
Members Absent:

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken

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

The minutes of March 20, 2019 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Steven Schmidt and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for May 2019. The Council collected \$3,052.28 in check-off funds and \$7.73 in interest. Expenses paid were \$850 to the MN Department of Ag and \$34.32 in check-off refunds to Loren Elken. Loren's total check-off refund request for the year has been \$108.74. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$40,327.57 as of May 31, 2019.

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

FY 2020 Budget and NSA 2019-20 Contract

Tina presented the 2020 Budget and the NSA 2019-20 contract amount. Proposed assessment income will be \$40,000 based off the USDA March Planting Intentions. The assessment refund will remain at \$200 and interest is estimated to be around \$30. Total revenue is expected to be \$39,830. Expenses will have the NSA contract at \$24,000, MN Dept. of Ag administrative fee will be \$3,400, the remaining expenses are estimated to be \$9,100 and include audit fees, insurance/bond, council member expenses, council expenses and miscellaneous expenses.

The NSA uses the USDA March planting intentions and a 5-year yield average to determine an amount. The 2019-20 NSA contract amount will be \$24,000.

Motion to approve the 2020 Budget and NSA Contract and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion Approved.

Crop Reports/Acreage Update:

John Swanson indicated his sunflower acres will be up this year. John's sunflowers are just starting to emerge.

Kevin Capistran reported sunflower acres will increase in his area mostly from current sunflower growers. Overall crops are looking good in his area.

Steven Schmidt stated the sunflowers in his area are looking good but there are not a lot of acres planted. Acres that are planted will mainly be conoils.

Tom Dowdle reported acres are up in his area. Both oils and conoils will see an increase. He sold 738 bags of sunflowers for planting for Pioneer. Tom said the crop is looking good. He hauled in over 3 million pounds of sunflower this year.

Jerry Hasnedl reported there are very few sunflowers in his area. Red Lake County will have a few fields of sunflowers. Corn and canola were heavily planted in his area. Grain crops are looking good.

AGREET Update/Appoint Representative

John Swanson provided the group with an AGREET update. He is hopeful that Crookston will have a pathologist position fill within a year. They will be working on other crops besides sunflower. John said he is willing to stay on as the AGREET representative for sunflowers unless someone else wants to be the representative.

Tom Dowdle motioned to reappoint John Swanson as the AGREET representative and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion Carries

Bee Vector Grant – Sclerotinia Head Rot

John Sandbakken provided the group on the Bee Vector Grant. Michael Wunch applied for a Specialty Crop Block Grant and was awarded full funds. He will continue the work with honey bees. The grant is about \$74,000. John Swanson will be participating on this project by having the bees in his fields. Tom stated he is also willing to participate on this project and has a field for the bees.

Other Business

John Swanson reported that Jerry Hasnedl can stay on the board per the MN Department of Agriculture if his farm operation will potentially grow sunflowers in the next year or two.

Prairie Grains

Kevin stated that we should contact Prairie Grains and let them know the MN Sunflower Council is interested in a spot on the program again this year. John Swanson will visit with them today as they will be at the same meeting he is attending. Kevin Capistran will visit with the industry groups about presenting during the NSA Summer Seminar in Medora the end of June.

Next meeting Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 7:30 am.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 am

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Chairman John Swanson
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Secretary Steven Schmidt
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