

**Minutes  
Minnesota Sunflower Council  
Wednesday, March 20, 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 January 9, 2019 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Dowdle and seconded by Kevin Capistran. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for February 2019. The Council collected \$2,671.82 in check-off funds and \$4.81 in interest. Expenses paid were \$850 to the MN Department of Ag and \$235.38 in board member expenses. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$33,104.12 as of February 28, 2019.

**Jerry Hasnedl made a motion to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion passed.**

**Prairie Grains Conference:**

Kevin presented the option of doing a “Purchaser’s Round Table” and break it into two sessions (morning and afternoon). Suggestion to get 5 or 6 companies to participate and present.

**Crop Insurance**

Kevin Capistran reported they met with RMA while in DC to discuss quality loss provision for con oils and hullers for sunflowers. RMA is willing and ready to move forward with a quality loss provision but for this to happen FSA needs to have the same provision. T-Yields were discussed, and Kevin had provided data on his farm and how his T-Yields are too low. He looked at his data as if he were in North Dakota and his T-Yields would have increased by over 800 pounds. Master Yields was an option that was offered up as an option. Discussion on double-crop insurance was another topic brought up.

**Washington DC Update**

Kevin Capistran along with John Sandbakken, Karl Esping, Lance Hourigan and Clark Coleman traveled to DC March 3 – 6, 2019. In addition to the crop insurance meeting, the group met with APHIS and the blackbird problems. The North Dakota field staff will be willing to help neighboring MN growers with blackbird control.

USDA ARS Research Center does not have any of their own growing land. The land around NDSU is too close to the Fargo airport. Looking at options for land for them. They also discussed USDA being able to take inbred lines and take them to full finished hybrids for release. Brent Hulke has some short stature lines that would benefit for double-cropping in the high plains and possibly up into South Dakota.

CSP pollinator to be included in Conservation Steward Program and Equip Program was discussed.

Accurate labeling laws (ex. Proposition 65 in California) was discussed and what can be done to prevent all the lawsuits being brought forward. In order to move forward with any legislation, they will need a democratic co-sponsor on board to move it forward.

**AGRETT Update**

Dean Barr suggested getting a coalition for funding a position in Crookston, MN. John stated canola, dry edible beans are on board and he thought soybean was on board until they took a step back and may be looking for a chemist instead. John stated potato may be another option. We are pushing for a pathologist. Sclerotinia and Phomopsis would be the main focus for research.

**Crop Reports**

None

**Other Business**

Kevin mentioned the third strain of Phomopsis needs to be investigated further but after visiting with Febina they are focusing on the first two strains and getting resistance for them first. John has a meeting in South Dakota and will meet with Febina and see what can be done about Stewartii research. Kevin is wondering if she would be willing to take samples this year and see which variety of Phomopsis disease is showing up in Minnesota.

Next meeting Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7:30 am.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am

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Chairman John Swanson  
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DocuSigned by:  
Secretary Steven Schmidt  
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