

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 7:30 am
Conference Call**

Members Present: John Swanson, Kevin Capistran, Tom Dowdle, Steven Schmidt and Jerry Hasnedl.
Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt

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

The minutes of January 9, 2018 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Steven Schmidt and seconded by Jerry Hasnedl. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for February 2018. The Council collected \$1,603.78 in check-off funds and \$2.53 in interest. We had \$23,115.00 in expenses paid out in February, the 2018 NSA contract and the third installment for the MN Department of Agriculture service agreement. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$28,335.50 as of February 28, 2018.

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

Service Agreement Reduction

The MN Department of Agriculture has agreed to reduce the annual service agreement from \$4,460 down to \$3,400 beginning October 2018. This is a \$1,060 reduction per year.

Election Date Change

In February 2018 the MN Department of Agriculture agreed to change the MN Sunflower Council election date from June to March beginning with the 2018 election. The ballots have already been sent and should be hearing soon on the results.

Prairie Grains Sponsorship

John Sandbakken visited with Dave Torgerson on March 23, 2018. They agreed to have the Minnesota Sunflower Council sponsor a breakout session at the next conference (December 12-13, 2018). The sponsorship cost is \$2,500. For this we will receive one breakout session topic in the morning that is repeated in the afternoon. We will also have our logo in the program and in related promotion materials mentioning that we are a sponsor. Kevin has talked to Sam Markell and he is open to doing a session on Phomopsis.

Motion by Kevin Capistran to solicit sponsorship to go towards the Prairie Grains Conference for December 2018. Motion Carries.

Motion by to sponsor the 2018 Prairie Grains Conference for \$2,500 by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Jerry Hasnedl. Motion Carries.

Washington DC Update

Kevin Capistran along with John Sandbakken, Karl Esping, Lance Hourigan and Art Ridl traveled to DC March 11 – 14, 2018. Kevin reported the met with USDA ARS they currently have 1,500 open positions and are hoping to fill 750 of the positions. Some positions may be able to be filled through a “critically needs position” basis. Wildlife Services has all new staff. Farm Bill probably will not get done any time soon. Kevin stated they were hoping the pollinator issue would be resolved for sunflower and canola and when the language came out it was only for CSP incentives. No spraying would be allowed post emergence. We will continue to work on this issue.

Crop Reports

John Swanson stated that growers should be paying attention to stored sunflowers. With the increasing temperatures damage can occur quickly if sunflower is not at 10 % or less.

Other Business

None

Next meeting Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:30 am via conference call.

Motion to adjourn by Steven Schmidt and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am

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Chairman John Swanson
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Secretary Steven Schmidt
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