

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Monday, January 6, 2025, 8:30 a.m.
Zoom

Members Present: John Swanson, Kevin Capistran, Tom Dowdle, Tom Smude, and Greg Hilgeman.
Members Absent: None

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt, John Sandbakken, and Chuck Todd

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 8:34 a.m.

The minutes of the September 10, 2024, were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Dowdle and seconded by Tom Smude. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for December 2024. The Council collected \$2,665.58 in check-off funds and \$9.97 in interest. We had no expenses in December. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$57,863.00 as of December 31, 2024.

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

Candidates Update:

Greg Hilgeman has agreed to run for re-election. The candidate form and bio were submitted to the MN Department of Ag along with the grower lists for region 1. Greg's term will expire June 30, 2025. The election process should be completed in April.

Reappoint Tom Dowdle to NSA Board:

Tom Dowdle's term on the NSA board of directors is up for re-appointment. Tom is eligible to serve three additional terms.

Kevin Capistran moved to reappoint Tom Dowdle to the NSA Board of Directors for an additional term and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion Carries.

Header Update:

John Swanson reported the header worked great at Crookston; however, the crop itself had some issues due to spraying.

Crop Reports:

Kevin Capistran reported that he feels sunflowers will see a bounce back in his area. Kevin stated that the Mentor location may be reopening as a bird food and possibly dehull receiving plant.

Tom Dowdle reported his sales are minimal now but does expect them to increase shortly. He does feel they acres will increase in his area.

Tom Smude reported they get a lot of their sunflowers out of South Dakota. They use mainly con oils since they can extract more oil out of them. They will need more seeds this year since they are putting in a new press and will be crushing more oil.

Greg Hilgeman stated he doesn't think there will be a big increase in his area. He does think the growers that grow them will continue to grow. There are still sunflowers in the field to be harvested in his area in the spring. Producers in his area want to grow corn. Greg's son will increase his sunflower production next year.

John Swanson reported there were a few new growers in the Fertile area, and they had good sunflower crops and yields.

Other Business:

None

Next Meeting: Monday, March 17th 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion Carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

DocuSigned by:
John Swanson
Chairman: _____
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Signed by:
Tom Dowdle
Secretary: _____
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