

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
7:30 AM - April 9, 2014
Conference Call

Members Present: John Swanson, Steven Schmidt , Kevin Capistran and Jerry Hasnedl

Others: Lerrene Kroh and John Sandbakken, NSA

Chairman John Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

The minutes from the February 5, 2014, conference call were reviewed.

Jerry Hasnedl moved to approve the minutes as written and Kevin Capistran seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Swanson mentioned that he talked to Danny Payment about running for Minnesota Sunflower election in Region 1. Payment is very interested in running and is excited about serving on the board. Andrew Quam is not running for re-election. In Region 2, Steven Schmidt is also up for re-election and is running. Bios have been sent to MN Dept of Ag for Payment and Schmidt. Ballots will be sent out to producers on May 6, ballots must be postmarked by May 22 and the results will be available on June 12th.

Lerrene Kroh gave the financial report for March 2014 – a total of \$2,990.47 in check-off and interest was collected and we had \$46.00 for expenses. As of the end of March, we had a balance of \$22,436.05. Schmidt mentioned that sunflower acres will increase in his area this year. **Hasnedl moved and Schmidt seconded that the financial report be approved. Motion passed**

Swanson discussed the Evaluation Report on the Agricultural Commodity Councils from the Office the Legislative Auditor in MN. It was mentioned in the report that the Sunflower Council had a high number of errors on the list of sunflower producers. Lerrene contacted the first purchasers of sunflower in MN requesting they provide a recent grower list (last three years) to the Council to update the information on our list for the upcoming election. Names of growers were received from all first purchasers except for a few that either refused to give us their list or said that they would give their list but never did. There was a lot of discussion on how to requalify the list. There were a few suggestions: (1) Send the current grower list to Board members and County Extension Agents to review and/or (2) Send out the “Your Check-off dollars at Work” article that John Sandbakken did that ran in the magazine along with a return postcard to ask them if they are a sunflower grower, etc.

Lerrene also mentioned that another comment that was made in the Evaluation Report was to require all commodity groups to have a website. After the report came out, Lerrene made a call to the MN Dept of Ag to find out which of the recommendations would be mandatory. The response was “none at this time, but be ready for next year”.

Lerrene mentioned that she had contacted Odney regarding the cost of a website and the least expensive option would be like a “giant business card” on line or a “static” home page. We could not admin this site. The website would link back to the NSA for more information. After discussion, John Swanson mentioned that he would approach FFA in his area regarding hosting of the website.

The council discussed their next meeting. Members were in agreement that the MSC will meet during the NSA Summer Seminar in Deadwood on Tuesday, June 24 at 3 pm (MDT) and we will do a conference call for those that are not able to attend.

There being no further agenda items, Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Capistran. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM.

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____