

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 7:30 am
VIA ZOOM

Members Present: John Swanson, Kevin Capistran, Tom Dowdle, and Greg Hilgeman.
Members Absent: Steven Schmidt.

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken
Guest: None

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

The minutes of the January 11, 2021 were reviewed.

Motion to accept the minutes from January 11, 2021 was made by Tom Dowdle and seconded by Kevin Capistran. Motion passed.

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for March 2021. The Council collected \$3,655.94 in check-off funds and \$3.36 in interest. Year to date we have collected \$31,953.52 in check-off and paid out one refund in the amount of \$38.91. We had no expenses in March. Year to date expenses paid are \$36,113.58. We have one more payment to the MN Department of Ag to make this fiscal year. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$38,621.44 as of March 31, 2021.

Motion by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Greg Hilgeman to accept the financials as presented.

MN Election Update:

A total of 690 ballots were mailed. 63 ballots were returned. There were three invalid ballots. Kevin Capistran received 53 votes and John Swanson received 50 votes. Both have secured another three-year term on the MN Sunflower Council.

Washington Update:

Kevin Capistran provided the Council an update on this year's Washington DC visits. Sclerotinia funding and blackbird funding were on the agenda along with crop insurance and pollinators. Sclerotinia funds were increased last year as were blackbird funds. Funding levels for both items is adequate and the group did not ask for additional increases this year. Most of the increase in the blackbird funding went to North Dakota where the main problem with blackbirds happens. Infrastructure was discussed, regulation relief for fair packaging and labeling act was also brought up and a statement was made asking EPA to use science-based data and consider the fact that you need alternative if you are going to ban everything, we have in the toolbox.

Kevin suggested having our fall meeting at Brent's plot and inviting some of the MN delegates, MN Department of Agriculture, Megan and possibly some of the ND delegates as well. An invite list will be discussed at the June 2021 meeting.

John Sandbakken reported that he and a group of seed company people met via Zoom with NDSU and SDSU to come up with guidelines for yield plots. This will ensure that everyone is running the plots the

same way so data will have consistency. Both NDSU and SDSU were appreciative and welcomed the guidelines. They will be implemented for the 2021 yield plots.

Crop Reports:

Tom Dowdle reported sunflower acres will be up in his area. They are waiting on product to arrive by the first part of May. Minimal planting happening in his area.

Kevin Capistran stated acres will be reduced in his area this year. He feels a lot of planting decisions were made before sunflower prices were increased.

Greg Hilgeman reported acres will be increased in his area. There are a few new guys who will give sunflowers a try. The acres will be on grass seed. Soybeans will be down due to wet weather in the fall and the difficulty of getting them harvested. Corn and wheat will be down in his area as well.

John Swanson stated acres will be down in his area due to corn and soybean prices being up. He stated wheat will be down too. Sunflower prices being released so late is hurting sunflower acres. Industry needs to have their new crop prices out sooner.


Other Business:

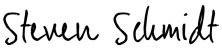
None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman: DocuSigned by:

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Secretary: DocuSigned by:

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