

**Minutes**  
**Minnesota Sunflower Council**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2022 8:00 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt, John Sandbakken

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 8:00 a.m.

The minutes of the January 11, 2022 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for March 2022. The Council collected \$2,766.87 in check-off funds and \$2.50 in interest. We paid \$8.50 in expenses for postage in March. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$42,609.38 as of March 31, 2022.

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

**Washington DC/NSA Update:**

Tom Dowdle reported the MN/DC meetings were good with Smith and Fishback's offices. Klobuchar's staff didn't seem to be interested in agriculture or know much about it. Crop insurance was discussed and asked to make sure it remains intact and protected at all costs. Blackbird issues in MN and ND were discussed. Insecticide issues were also brought up. John Sandbakken stated the breeding program was discussed with all the offices.

Kevin Capistran asked John Sandbakken about the breeding initiative and John Sandbakken stated NSA has received a proposal from ARS. The cost is about 2 million per year. Kevin asked if other locations were included in the program. John stated the Fort Collins office was included in the proposal from USDA. They would be adding an entomologist, a breeder, and support staff.

**Header Funding:**

John Swanson reported on funding for a header for Megan McCaghey's field work. Megan reported there will be field plots in Crookston, MN. John Swanson has a six-row header that can be downsized to a two-row header. Megan has agreed to pay for half of it. John does not feel it should be too expensive but doesn't have firm numbers yet. Kevin asked if the plots would be on station. John Swanson stated it will be on station. John also suggested that they also put some plots at his or Kevin's farm too. Megan is working out the details and hopes to have them firmed up this week. When John has the final costs, we will set up a conference call or email vote on the funding.

**MN Election Update:**

We received the election results on March 28, 2022. A total of 828 ballots were mailed, and 47 ballots were returned. There were 3 invalid ballots. Greg Hilgeman received 44 votes and was re-elected for an additional term.

**Crop Reports:**

Kevin reported he thought the Phomopsis article in *The Sunflower* magazine was good. He is suggesting reprints be made and have the processors include it with contracts in MN. John Sandbakken indicated we can put the article on NSA letterhead and send it out to the processors.

Tom Dowdle indicated they still have Pioneer planting seed available for sunflowers. Tom stated the Eptam/Sonalan mix for preplant works well and will take care of the weeds until you are able to apply the Express. Eptam needs to be incorporated into the ground as soon as applied.

Steven Schmidt reported they don't see many sunflowers in his area due to Sclerotinia issues. Suggestion was made for Steven to look at some of the oil hybrids with Sclerotinia resistance in them. Proven yields are so low that sunflowers cannot compete with soybeans.

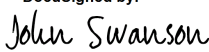
**Other Business:**

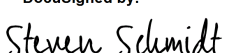
John Swanson reported that the NDAWN project will be put into the budget with the Clean Waters from Commissioner Peterson. It is looking like it could get funded. NDAWN stations would be put in about ever 20 miles or so. This means there would need to be about a hundred more stations added. The cost is about 5 million dollars plus some upkeep costs in the future. This project would work with NDSU's NDAWN.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. via Zoom.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Chairman: DocuSigned by:  
  
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Secretary: DocuSigned by:  
  
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