

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
6:00 pm - Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND
Club III

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt, John Sandbakken, Tom Kirkmeyer and Rhea Messmer

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 6:00 pm.

The minutes of the September 13, 2022, were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for December 2022. The Council collected \$4,377.79 in check-off funds and \$11.56 in interest. We paid \$632.00 in expenses for the insurance. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$57,530.44 as of December 31, 2022.

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

Candidates Update:

Tom Dowdle and Tom Smude have agreed to run for re-election. Candidate forms and bios have been submitted to the MN Department of Ag along with the grower lists for Region 1 and 2. Their current term will expire June 30, 2023. The election process should be completed in April.

Crookston Trials Update – Phomopsis and Sclerotinia

Megan McCaghey provided the group an update on Crookston trials funded by the NSA. The plots were planted June 3, 2022, with a Nuseed variety. Chemical applications were made July 5th through August 22nd. One application of Headline at R1 followed by a single application of Luna experience at R6 (T5) showed 23% greater yield compared to the control (T1). Sunflowers developed at an uneven rate and treatment was applied when most plants reached the intended growth stage. They will need to avoid misting in the Phomopsis trials to prevent Sclerotinia infection in future trials. Spray from tractor with a boom and fewer passes. Some harvest problems they experienced were stems wrapping in equipment, a lot of stop/starting with tangled equipment, and shattering of floral head. Potential need for an all-crop header.

Megan has another research project for soybeans that may be beneficial for sunflowers as well pertaining to white mold field trials. Field sites with reliable, uniform inoculum will be needed to conduct Sclerotinia experiments. High disease pressure is required to observe the impact of experimental treatments. Sclerotia need to undergo a period of cold conditioning for about 8 weeks.

Crop Reports

Tom Smude reported sunflower yields were around a ton. Their sunflower crush for high and mid oleic oils continue to increase.

Tom Dowdle stated yields were 1,500 -3,300 pounds per acre. The earlier harvested the better the yields. Tom stated they had some Phomopsis in his fields too.

Greg reported rotating grass to sunflower is a good crop rotation. Yields were over 3,000 pounds.

Kevin Capistran reported they had a good year. They did have some bear issues. His fields averaged 2,900 pounds.

John Swanson stated they had a good sunflower crop this year. He did have weed pressure due to the amount of moisture they received.

Other Business:

Kevin Capistran mentioned to the committee that the NSA has received a research project from a MN group that may be worth partially funding if the NSA board of directors funds the project.

Motion by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Tom Dowdle to fund Research Project 23-001 up to \$10,000 contingent upon funding from the NSA board of directors.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 28th 8:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Hilgeman and seconded by Tom Smude. Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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