

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:00 pm
Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND
Club I & II

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Capistran at 5:58 pm.

The minutes of the September 12, 2023, were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Dowdle and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for December 2023. The Council collected \$2,694.80 in check-off funds and \$10.34 in interest. We had no expenses in December. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$53,564.57 as of December 31, 2023.

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

Candidates Update:

John Swanson and Kevin Capistran 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. Their current term will expire June 30, 2024. The election process should be completed in April.

MN Department of Agriculture – Service Fee Reduced and Audit Update:

Tina Mittelsteadt reported that John Swanson informed her the reduction in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture service fee was due to discussion from an AGRETT meeting.

The MN Department of Agriculture has decided not to pursue a legislative change during the upcoming legislative session. They will continue to explore other options in hopes of addressing the situation. One option they are exploring is the potential for the MDA to contract with a CPA firm that would conduct the audits for several councils.

Crop Reports:

Tom Dowdle reported they finished his last sunflower field on December 3, 2023. They lost a few sunflower heads, were able to pick most of them up. Most of his sunflowers have been delivered. He has two bins left on the farm. Yields averaged 2,700 – 2,800 pounds with very little foreign matter. Most went for bird food.

Greg Hilgeman stated his sunflower crop was the best it has ever been. Yields were over 3,000 with some over 3,500 pounds. Populations were 22,000 to 23,000 with no disease. Only four guys grew sunflowers in his area and feels that only two will continue to grow next year. All his sunflowers are still in the bin.

Kevin reported sunflowers were good this year with yields at 3,200 to 3,300 pounds. Growers that grew this year are having issues with where to deliver them. Prices are a factor that will prevent them from growing next year.


Other Business:


The header has been delivered to Crookston. John Swanson recommends it be tested prior to the U of MN using it to make sure it works properly.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman: DocuSigned by:

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Secretary: DocuSigned by:

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