

**Minutes**  
**Minnesota Sunflower Council**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2023 8:00 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken

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

The minutes of the March 27, 2023 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made Kevin Capistran and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for April 2023. The Council collected \$3,729.63 in check-off funds and \$8.55 in interest. We paid \$50.00 in expenses for our 2022-23 website maintenance. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$46,963.80 as of April 30, 2023.

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

**DC Update:**

Tom Dowdle reported that the group traveled to DC for 3 days and had full days of meetings. Continued funding for the National Sclerotinia and blackbird will continue for 2024. They also discussed the breeding initiative and are hoping to get an authorization for it in the Farm Bill or get an appropriation in FY 2024. If they get the appropriation in FY 2024 it will not be needed in the Farm Bill and will be for sunflowers and either go to Fargo or Fort Collins.

**Crop/Acreage Update:**

John Sandbakken reported on the March acreage report and reported sunflower acreage to be down in all states except Kansas.

Tom Dowdle reported acres will be down in his area, around 10 percent.

Kevin Capistran stated his area will be down too.

Greg Hilgeman reported acres will be down due to prices in his area. His farm will have more sunflowers.

John Swanson reported sunflowers will also be down.

Tom Smude acres will be about the same this year.

**Header for Crookston Update:**

John Swanson reported that we will go with the Fantini 4-row header. Fantini will build the header. Megan will have \$10,000 to contribute towards the header.

**Motion by Kevin Capistran to spend up to \$10,000 on the Fantini Header for the University of Minnesota and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion Carries.**

**2023-24 NSA Contract**

John Sandbakken stated he uses the March intended acres report and the five-year average to calculate total production. From this total the \$.04 cwt is calculated and then 60% of that total is used to calculate the contract amount. The 2023-24 contract total calculates out to \$28,000 based on this formula. This contract would continue to include the administrative services, research and promotional programs provided by the National Sunflower Association.

**Motion by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Tom Dowdle to accept the 2023-24 NSA contract amount. Motion Carries.**

**FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget**

Tina Mittelsteadt presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-24. Income is budgeted at \$46,500 and expenses are budgeted at \$43,350 for the fiscal year. This is a review year, and the estimate received was \$3,900 from Haga Kommer. Tina is going to reach out to Gale Schmitz again and see if he might be interested this year since it is only a review and not a full audit.

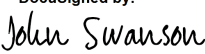
**Motion by Kevin Capistran to accept the budget as presented and add a line item for the header and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion Carries.**


**Other Business:**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. in Fargo at the Candlewood Suites. Tina will set up a block of rooms.

**Motion to adjourn by Tom Smude and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion Carries.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Chairman:   
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Secretary:   
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