

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, September 11, 2023; 9:00 A.M.
Candlewood Suites; Fargo, ND

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt, NSA Staff

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 9:00 a.m.

The minutes of the May 2, 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 August 2023. The Council collected \$4,922.35 in check-off funds and \$11.63 in interest. We paid out \$9,226.00 in expenses in August. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$48,512.38 as of August 31, 2023.

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

Audit Report:

Haga Kommer, Ltd. finished the 2022-23 review and has been sent to the MN Department of Agriculture along with the checklist and signed management letter. A copy of the review is in the council's packets and will be emailed out to those attending via zoom.

Election of Officers:

Motion by Tom Dowdle to keep the Vice-chair, Kevin Capistran and Chairman, John Swanson, and Tom Dowdle as Secretary/Treasurer and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion Carried.

Sunflower Equipment Update and Crookston Plot:

John Swanson reported Hamilton Systems completed the 3-row header and being shipped to the University of Minnesota. It has been invoiced by Hamilton Systems to both the U of MN and MN Sunflower Council for the remainder.

Peter Aspholm provided a midseason report on the project Megan McGahey is working on at the Crookston location. Plots were planted on May 26, 2023, at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center in Crookston, MN. The variety used was an early, Phomopsis-susceptible Nuseed variety named N4HM354. The trial is a randomized complete block design. Each of the 10 treatments are repeated four times. The trial was planted on 22" row spacing. Rows are 20 feet long and each treatment plot contained six rows. Five-foot buffers were left on the front and back of rows and the sides of trials are buffered with four rows of buffer sunflowers to prevent edge effects. The plots were misted starting after V8 fungicide application and misting ended before R6 applications.

All fungicide applications were made at the appropriate growth stages, described below. Fungicides were applied to the center two rows of plots in a liter of solution per 4 plots of a treatment.

Phomopsis assessments took place on September 7th conducted by Peter Aspholm, Researcher 2 from the McCaghey Lab Every plant was at R8 growth stage. Anecdotally, there was significant disease pressure in the field, however data have not been analyzed as of yet. There were other diseases present in the field, including Phoma, sclerotinia stem rot and some unidentified bacterial infections. Additionally, several plants sustained mechanical damage from either hail or insect pests.

Midseason observations:

We made fungicide applications for each intended growth stage. Growth stages progressed similar to last year. Planting date was just over a week earlier in 2023 than in 2022. Mike Leiseth regularly checks plots and sends photo updates. We observed a low incidence (3 plants) of basal and mid stalk rot caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* during our visit on the day of disease ratings, September 7th.

Prairie Grains 2023:

Kevin Capistran suggested a talk on markets for sunflowers. Birdfood market is in high demand.

Other Business:

John Swanson and Kevin Capistran will be up for re-election in 2024.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – Dinner Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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