

**Minutes**  
**Minnesota Sunflower Council**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2022; 9:00 A.M.**  
**Candlewood Suites; Fargo, ND**

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

Others Present: Allison Beauregard and Christina Iliev, MDA and Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken, NSA Staff

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 9:04 a.m.

The minutes of the June 14, 2022, 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 2022. The Council collected \$3,895.04 in check-off funds and \$3.40 in interest. We had no expenses paid out in August. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$54,747.91 as of August 31, 2022.

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

**Audit Report:**

Haga Kommer, Ltd. finished the 2021-22 audit. The total cost of the full audit was \$5,250.00 which included signing off on the compliance report for the MN Department of Agriculture and filing the 990-N tax document. There were no findings and all documents from the audit have been sent to the Council members and MN Department of Agriculture.

**Election of Officers:**

Tina Mittelsteadt visited with Christina at MN Department of Agriculture. Steven Schmidt is ineligible to serve on the MN Sunflower Council as he has not raised sunflowers the past two years, nor does he have any planted this year. Christina stated the Council could appoint someone to complete Steven's term and then would go through the election process this spring. Tina contacted Tom Smude to see if he would be interested in being a Council member. He asked if he could think it over and get back to her. If he declines the Council can look for another person and call a special meeting to appoint them.

The Council will need to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer. Tom Dowdle has indicated he would be willing to take on this position.

**Motion to appoint Tom Smude to complete Steven Schmidt's term in Region 2 and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion carried.**

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

**Sunflower Equipment Update and Crookston Plot:**

John Swanson has visited the Crookston plots and is impressed with the team Megan has put together. John updated the council on the sunflower header for the Crookston plots. When John visited the plot, he realized the rows were planted in 22 in rows versus 30 in rows. There is a conversion kit is available and the

cost is much less (\$2,000). The Council can either split the cost with Megan or Megan indicated she can cover the entire cost since it is much less than originally thought. It was ordered the end of July and is currently in Crookston at this time.

Megan McCaghey provided a midseason report on the project she is working on at the Crookston location. Plots were planted on June 3, 2022, at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center in Crookston, MN. Growth stages progressed faster than expected and R1 was 1 -2 weeks earlier than expected. Low incidence of basal and mid stalk rot caused by Sclerotinia was observed on their August 22<sup>nd</sup> site visit. John Swanson advised they cut back on misting after visiting the plots the week before. They stopped the misting around the R5 stage. Several plants with potential early stages of Phomopsis were observed and will be closely watched. Final yield data and disease ratings will be provided when available.

**Prairie Grains 2022:**

Kevin Capistran suggested a talk on desiccation of sunflowers. There are a lot of questions out there on when to desiccate and how to check for moisture. Kevin suggested Hans Kandel moderate and then a panel of chemical, seed companies, or even growers who have desiccated.

**Other Business:**

John Sandbakken sent an email to the Council regarding planting date change for MN – the St. Paul Regional Office would be happy to review the sunflower final planting dates for sunflowers. They would request a formal recommendation from the MN Sunflower Council detailing what changes the Council would like to see made for final planting dates. They would need the information within the next couple of months but no later than December 31, 2022.

Kevin Capistran suggested we look at the NDAWN freezing dates and work backwards with heating days and look at when the latest planting date could have occurred.

John Swanson suggested talking to seed companies to see if they could plant plots with current dates and a later date to gain research information.

Discussion was tabled for now. John Swanson will do some research and get back to John Sandbakken and Tina Mittelsteadt.

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – Dinner Meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Chairman: John Swanson  
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Secretary: Tom Dowdle  
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