

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, September 14, 2021; 9:00 A.M.
Expressway Suites; Fargo, ND

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken, NSA Staff
Guest: Megan McCaghey, Plant Pathologist, University of MN

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 9:10 a.m.

The minutes of the June 8, 2021 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Steven Schmidt and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for August 2021. The Council collected \$5,243.00 in check-off funds and \$3.10 in interest. We paid \$4,140.00 in expenses. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$48,041.12 as of August 31, 2021. Haga Kommer, Ltd. finished the 2020-21 review. The total cost of the audit review was \$3,415.00 which included filing the tax return. There were no findings and all documents from the review have been sent to the MN Department of Agriculture.

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

Election of Officers:

Tom Dowdle moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. John Swanson will remain as Chairman, Kevin Capistran will remain Vice-Chairman and Steven Schmidt will remain Secretary/Treasurer. Motion Carries.

NSA Board Seat Rep:

Kevin Capistran's term on the National Sunflower Association's (NSA) board will expire January 31, 2022. Tom Dowdle was asked if he would be interested in taking on this role and representing the MN Sunflower Council on the NSA board. Tom has indicated he would.

Motion by Greg Hilgeman to appoint Tom Dowdle to represent MN Sunflower Council and serve on the NSA board of directors beginning February 1, 2022 and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion Carries.

Introduction of Megan McCaghey:

John Swanson introduced Megan McCaghey the new plant pathologist hired through AGREET. Megan McCaghey has started with the University of Minnesota and has been on board for three weeks. In the past her focus has been on Sclerotinia headrot in soybeans. She is willing to work on Sclerotinia and Phomopsis in sunflower. She was a post-doc at UC Davis before coming to the U of MN, where she was working some with sunflowers. Megan has worked with a lot of disease management strategies in the past and feels some of these can be used to benefit sunflowers.

Prairie Grains Update:

Kevin Capistran suggested Janet Knodel, but John Sandbakken didn't think she would be ready to give a talk by December. John Swanson suggested Megan McCaghey present for sunflowers. Set it up as a Q & A session for sunflowers and dry beans. Kevin suggested one morning session instead of two sessions. Tina will contact Charlie to see if there are any breakout spots available and John Swanson will contact dry beans and canola to see if they would like to split the costs if a spot is available.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – Dinner Meeting

Motion to adjourn by Steven Schmidt and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Chairman: DocuSigned by:
John Swanson
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Secretary: DocuSigned by:
Steven Schmidt
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