

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Monday, January 11, 2021 8:00 am
VIA ZOOM**

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken
Guest: None

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

The minutes of the September 15, 2020 were reviewed. It was noted the minutes of September 15, 2020 should include the names of the officers re-elected and the minutes should be amended to include John Swanson as Chairman, Kevin Capistran as Vice Chairman and Steven Schmidt as Secretary/Treasurer. Tina will amend the minutes as indicated and resend for signatures.

Motion to amend the minutes from September 15, 2020 to include the names of the elected officials by Greg Hilgeman and seconded by Tom Hilgeman. Motion passed.

A motion to accept the September 15, 2020 minutes with corrections was made by Greg Hilgeman and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion passed.

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for December 2020. The Council collected \$3,014.16 in check-off funds and \$5.00 in interest. We had no expenses in December. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$59,606.49 as of December 31, 2020.

The financial report stands approved as presented.

Candidate Update:

Tina Mittelsteadt stated that John Swanson and Kevin Capistran are up for re-election. Both candidates are from Region 1. Their term expires June 30, 2021. Tina has submitted the required ballot information for both John Swanson and Kevin Capistra's election to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Ballots will be mailed in March and results should be available in April.

Crop Update:

John Swanson indicated that sunflower acres could be increasing in his area; but price will determine how much of an increase. Corn and Soybean prices are the main competitors for sunflower.

Greg Hilgeman stated Pioneer has sold out of all their planting seed. Tom stated Pioneer's new high oleic varieties are sold out, but the old standby variety is still available.

Tom Dowdle stated about 98% of his seed sales are NuSun for 2021. Tom stated Pioneer is pushing to switch to high oleic sunflower.

John Swanson stated he has noticed the markets have narrowed between high oleic and NuSun and asked John Sandbakken if that trend is staying. John Sandbakken replied it depends on the crusher. Cargill currently offers a premium on NuSun and ADM has a premium on high oleic for old crop sunflower. For new crop high oleic has a slight premium for both Cargill and ADM. John Sandbakken stated this will be the trend for a while as there is still demand for NuSun. ADM is pushing to convert to high oleic and Cargill still has a lot of mid oleic customers and will continue to meet their demands.

Greg Hilgeman asked John Sandbakken where sunflower prices need to be to stay competitive with corn and soybean acres. John Sandbakken indicated we are above last year's prices but feels the prices are too low compared to soybean. We should be around \$.23 or \$.24. John Sandbakken stated seed sales are ahead of last year from what he is hearing from seed companies. Confection contracts are not out for 2021. Domestic demand is down due to Covid so the confection companies are trying to determine what they will need for 2021. John Sandbakken stated the Argentine crop will also come into play with the sunflower crop. John Swanson stated Argentina is experiencing drought in their sunflower growing region.

AGREET Update:

John Swanson updated the council on the hiring of Megan McCaghey for the pathology position at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. Megan is currently working at the University of California, Davis. Megan has done a considerable amount of work on Sclerotinia. Megan will not be able to start her position until August 2021 due to her current work commitments. She is not afraid of travel as she currently does a lot with her current position. John Sandbakken stated Megan was head and shoulders above the other applicants. John Swanson stated she will fit in and work well with Sam Markell and Febina Mathew. Megan has already reached out to Febina Mathew. Megan has done well with acquiring grant funding and has received about a half a million in grant funds.

Record Retention Policy

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the council a record retention policy for the MN Sunflower Council. Tina reviewed the MN retention policy from the MN State Historical website and based the MN Sunflower Council's policy off their recommendations and the National Sunflower Association's policy.

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| 1. Audited Financial Statements - Including Federal 990 | Permanent |
| 2. Accounting Reports
Trial Balance
Financial Statements
Check Register
Accounts Payable Register
General Ledger Transaction Register | Current year plus 5 fiscal years |
| 3. Bank Statements | 7 Years |
| 4. Paid Invoices | Current year plus 5 fiscal years |
| 5. Paid Accounts Receivable | Current year plus 3 fiscal years |
| 6. Manual Receipts | Current year plus 3 fiscal years |
| 7. Voided Checks | 3 Years |
| 8. Contracts | 7 Years |

Motion by Tom Dowdle to accept the Record Retention Policy as presented and seconded by Greg Hilgeman.

Other Business:

None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

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