

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:00 am
Conference Call**

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 7:00 am.

The minutes of April 7, 2020 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 May 2020. The Council collected \$1,518.73 in check-off funds and \$4.96 in interest. Expenses paid were \$725 to the MN Department of Ag. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$41,608.89 as of May 31, 2020.

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

Crop Reports/Acreage Update:

Steven Schmidt reported there are no sunflowers planted in his area this year. Too wet, disease and dark roast issues are the main reasons for the lack of production. Desiccation was a problem for them too, they were “hit and miss”.

Kevin Capistran stated sunflowers will be up in his area. They have a couple new growers in his area. Those that had success will continue to plant sunflowers. Kevin finished planting his sunflowers the last day of May. They have some water issues in the area but not too significant. Kevin feels a few more acres could have been planted but some growers will be claiming prevent plant.

John Swanson reported that he finished planting last Saturday (June 6th). They have had a lot of rain and planting started late due to wet conditions. John stated Brent Hulke brought him 48 new hybrid crosses to plant and test. Planted one row 200 feet replicated twice.

Tom Dowdle stated most of the sunflowers in his area were planted. Very few bags of seed were returned. There is some drown-out, but most are looking good. Acres are up considerably from last year. There are a few new growers too. They have received a lot rain; some areas have received 2 – 7.5 inches of rain since Sunday night (June 7th). There is very little prevent plant this year.

Greg Hilgeman stated there may be only a couple other growers planting sunflower this year. He finished planting the end of May. Seed supply was tight in his area. Water table is high in his area and fields are wet unless they are tiled.

AGREET Update:

John stated there is nothing to report since Minnesota has not reopened due to COVID.

Prairie Grains Update:

Kevin stated we should be on board if they hold the conference via webinars. Kevin suggested weed control might be a good option. John Swanson stated it might be beneficial for newer growers. He suggested a panel discussion would be easy to put together in short notice.

NSA 2020-21 Contract:

The 2020-21 NSA contract amount will be \$30,000. John Sandbakken stated to calculate the amount he took the USDA's March planting intention and a 5-year yield average and backed off 5% to come up with the contract amount.

Kevin Capistran motioned to approve the NSA 2020-21 contract in the amount of \$30,000 and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion Carries.

FY 2021 Budget

Tina presented the 2021 Budget and the NSA 2020-21 contract amount. Proposed assessment income will be \$50,000 based off the USDA March Planting Intentions. The assessment refund will remain at \$200 and interest is estimated to be around \$50. Total revenue is expected to be \$49,850. Expenses will have the NSA contract at \$30,000, MN Dept. of Ag administrative fee will be \$2,900, the remaining expenses are estimated to be \$7,350 and include audit fees, insurance/bond, council member expenses, council expenses and miscellaneous expenses.

Kevin Capistran motioned to approve the 2021 Budget and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion Approved.

Other Business:

None

Next meeting to be scheduled September 15 - 20, 2020. Time and place to be determined. Kevin suggested an outdoor meeting. John Swanson suggested his farm to look at Brent Hulke's trial plots. Tom Dowdle offered his farm as a sunflower field tour and meeting. Glyndon plots might be the best option for the location for the fall meeting and plot tour with Brent Hulke.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 am

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Chairman John Swanson
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Secretary Steven Schmidt
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