

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 9:30 am
USDA ARS Plot
Moorhead, MN

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt
Guest: Dr. Brent Hulke, Research Geneticist, USDA-ARS

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 10:00 am.

Crop Tour

Dr. Brent Hulke provided the MN Sunflower Council a tour of his 2020 Sunflower Plots. Brent provided information to the group on the beginning to end process of developing parent lines with disease resistance and how they can be introduced into hybrid lines for seed production and eventually making their way to the producer for planting seed.

The minutes of the June 10, 2020 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Greg Hilgeman and seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for August 2020. The Council collected \$1,886.91 in check-off funds and \$4.65 in interest. We paid \$3,311.54 in expenses. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$45,605.99 as of August 31, 2020. Haga Kommer, Ltd. finished the 2019-20 review. The total cost of the audit review was \$3,310.00 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 Greg Hilgeman. Motion passed.

AGREET Update:

John Swanson provided the council an update on the status of hiring a pathologist for the University of Minnesota. They are in the final process of hiring and have narrowed it down to four candidates. Three of them have experience in dealing with Sclerotinia in other crops. Hoping final decision will be made soon.

Crop Update

Kevin reported his sunflowers are nearing maturity and has about 90% Phomopsis in his sunflowers. He is also starting to see Sclerotinia. He is hoping to get them off before too much damage and yield loss occurs.

Greg Hilgeman stated his sunflowers are still green and look good. He is very little disease on his sunflowers.

Tom Dowdle reported he has about 1,500 acres of sunflowers at various stages from green to blooming. They have had over 20 inches of rain since the beginning of June. They have had a couple of hailstorms this summer too so waiting for harvest to have fields adjusted for loss. He is seeing some Phomopsis in his sunflowers. His sunflowers are looking pretty good and the heads seem to be filling to the center. John Swanson said his sunflowers are as good as ever this year. They were sprayed with Headline and was desiccating 600 acres today to get them off the field within a week.

Steven Schmidt reported there are no sunflower in his area with the closest field being in Wahpeton. This growing season has been dry, in his area.

Prairie Grains Update

Kevin Capistran reported he has not heard anything regarding the Prairie Grains Conference being a go or cancelled. Suggested we hang tight and if they have a program be ready to reach out to some chemical companies and put a panel discussion together.

Election of Officers:

Greg Hilgeman moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers and seconded by Kevin Capistran. John Swanson will remain as Chairman, Kevin Capistran will remain Vice-Chairman and Steven Schmidt will remain Secretary/Treasurer*. Motion Carries. *The highlighted change was an amendment made at the Monday, January 11, 2021 council meeting.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: Date and Time to be determined for the second week of January (week of January 12, 2021). Depending on what the NSA's does with the Research Forum which is to be held in Fargo January 13 & 14, 2021.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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