

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 7:30 am
Expressway Suites, Fargo, ND
Board Meeting Room

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 7:30 am.

The minutes of the June 19, 2019 were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Steven Schmidt and seconded by Jerry Hasnedl. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for August 2019. The Council collected \$2,009.79 in check-off funds and \$8.98 in interest. We paid \$4,545.00 in expenses. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$40,479.80 as of August 31, 2019. Haga Kommer, Ltd. finished the 2018-19 audit.

Jerry Hasnedl made a motion to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Tom Dowdle. Motion passed.

Crop Update

Kevin reported that his sunflowers were looking good but Phomopsis is starting to show up in his fields. His area has been wet. They need some sunshine to dry fields out. Cooler temperatures may have an effect on the high oleic acid percentages.

Steven Schmidt report that 20 to 50 percent of the sunflowers did not get planted in his area due to wet weather. They have had about 20 inches of rain in his area in August and September has been wet too. The tiled ground looks good, but the untilled grounds look tough.

John Swanson stated the sunflowers in his area are looking good, but they are late. They still have fields blooming. John stated he is concerned about Phomopsis in sunflowers and soybeans. He is pushing to get a pathologist at Crookston to work on these issues. There is talk of a soybean crushing plant going up in Crookston.

Tom Dowdle reported that sunflowers look fabulous in his area. His is concerned about Phomopsis setting in before harvest. He is about 4 weeks out for harvest. They do not desiccate on his farm.

Jerry Hasnedl stated the sunflowers in his area look good. One field is still blooming and not sure it is going to make it.

AGREET Update:

John Swanson stated there is a meeting coming up the beginning of October. He is about 50 percent sure there will be a pathologist position in Crookston. John has received letters of support from SDSU and NDSU. The position's focus would mainly be Sclerotinia and Phomopsis on all crops.

AURI Update:

Jerry Hasnedl reported there is an open seat representing a commodity research and promotion council on the AURI Board of Directors. The ideal candidate for the open board seat should demonstrate AURI's values and have experience in agricultural leadership as it relates to AURI's mission. Each Board of Director seat is a three-year term with a time commitment of up to seven meetings per year and some optional activities, which occur at various locations throughout Minnesota.

Election of Officers:

Tom Dowdle moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers and seconded by Jerry Hasnedl. Motion Carries.

Website:

Tina asked the board if there were any updates that need to be done for the website. Tina will send an email to Wendy asking for the new student's name and ask for items to be uploaded. Ask for their ideas on what they can come up with to improve the website such as a photo section, recipes and frequently asked questions. Advertising opportunities for companies.

Prairie Grains Sponsorship

Kevin asked if we want to reach out for sponsors again this year. John Swanson met with Prairie Grains last week and they are looking for our speakers. Kevin suggested keeping the format like last years but giving Cargill one breakout session and ADM the other. Tom Dowdle said he would visit with D & D Commodities to see if they would present at a round table along with Red River Commodities, CHS Sunflower, Scoular, Smude Oil, Giant Snacks and SunOpta.

Other Business:

Kevin stated that the research committee will be having a conference call to discuss 2020 priorities and asked if there are any ideas for him to bring up on the call. John Swanson will also be on the call. Kevin stated Phomopsis, Sclerotinia continue to be a focus.

Jerry Hasnedl has a grower who is willing to serve on the MN Sunflower Council. Greg Hilgeman is interested in serving. Tina will contact MN Department of Ag and ask how to proceed on transitioning from Jerry to Greg.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 7th at the Holiday Inn, time to be determined.

Motion to adjourn by Kevin Capistran and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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Chairman John Swanson
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Secretary Steven Schmidt
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