

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
7:30 A.M. Zoom Meeting**

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

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and Chuck Todd, NSA Board President

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 7:33 a.m.

The minutes of the March 18, 2026, were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Dowdle and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion carries.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for April 2026. The Council collected \$9,327.33 in check-off funds and \$5.47 in interest. We had no expenses in April. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$47,353.45 as of April 30, 2026. We have paid \$378.09 for check-off refunds, most of it going to Kuznia family from Greenbush. They will have two additional payments in May totaling \$176.18.

Greg Hilgeman made a motion to approve the financial report; it was seconded by Kevin Capistran. Motion carries.

MN Sunflower Trial

John Swanson reported we have 20 entries into the MN Sunflower trials. Some of the companies were CHS, Dyna-Gro, WinField, Proseed, Sunrich Products, Pioneer, Nufarm did not enter as they had no budget. There were more companies than they could accommodate entries. UMC will plant the trial in six rows, twenty feet long.

Crop/Acreage Reports:

Kevin Capistran reported that everyone who intended on planting sunflowers is planting them. He does not feel they will pick up acres and may lose a few.

John Swanson stated he doesn't think acres will increase in his area.

Tom Smude reported sunflowers will be the same to up slightly. Corn has been planted and sunflowers will be next. They received about 8/10" rain.

Greg Hilgeman reported acres will increase in his area again this year. Less soybeans will be planted in his area.

Tom Dowdle stated that acres will be slightly higher than last year with a couple of new growers in his area as well.

NSA 2026-27 Contract:

Tina Mittelsteadt presented the 2026-27 NSA contract. This is based off a 5-year average from the March USDA planting intentions and yields. Based off this information the 2026-27 NSA contract calculates out to \$29,000. This contract would continue to include the administrative services, research, and promotional programs provided by the National Sunflower Association.

Motion by Kevin Capistran and to approve the NSA 2026-27 NSA contract and seconded Tom Dowdle. Motion carries.

FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget

Tina Mittelsteadt presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27. Income is budgeted at \$48,400 and expenses are budgeted at \$42,650 for the fiscal year. This would be a review year, estimating \$4,000 for Haga Kommer to do the review.

Motion by Kevin Capistran to approve the FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion carries.

Other Business:

Both Tom Dowdle and Tom Smude were re-elected for an additional 3-year term.

D & D is going to be doing a feature on Tom Dowdle's farm this year, from planting to market.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 10th 10:00 a.m. Plot Tour, U of MN Crookston.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

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Chairman: John Swanson
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Signed by:
Secretary: Tom Dowdle
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