

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 7:30 am
Zoom Meeting**

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

Others Present: John Sandbakken and Tina Mittelsteadt

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 7:40 am.

The minutes of the March 17, 2025, were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made Kevin Capistran and seconded by Greg Hilgeman. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for April 2025. The Council collected \$3,598.11 in check-off funds and \$6.01 in interest. We had no expenses for April. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$50,672.73 as of April 30, 2025.

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

Crop/Acreage Update:

Greg Hilgeman reported that sunflower acres are up in his area this year. With the Mentor plant reopening and the price going up there was a lot more interest with producers.

Tom Smude reported everything is planted in his area. They have about 3,500 acres planted which is up from 1,500 acres last year.

John Swanson stated they are behind in planting in his area.

Kevin Capistran reported sunflower acres might not be as high in his area as he first thought. He estimates two-thirds of the sunflowers are planted.

John Sandbakken reported acres will be up in North and South Dakota this year as well. He doesn't feel the market will be saturated, but we will build some stocks.

NSA 2025-26 Contract:

In the past NSA has used the March intended acres report and the five-year average to calculate total production. From this total the \$.04 cwt is calculated and then 60% of that total is used to calculate the contract amount.

This year we based the contract on what we think the assessment check-off amount collection will be in 2025-26. Based on 2025-26 check-off the NSA contract calculates out to \$34,500. This contract would continue to include the administrative services, research and promotional programs provided by the National Sunflower Association.

Motion by Greg Hilgeman and seconded by Kevin Capistran to accept the 2025-26 NSA contract amount. Motion Carries.

FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget

Tina Mittelsteadt presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-26. Income is budgeted at \$57,500 and expenses are budgeted at \$49,650 for the fiscal year. This is a full audit year, estimating \$5,500 for Haga Kommer to do the full audit.

Motion by Greg Hilgeman to accept the budget as presented and seconded by Kevin Capistran. Motion Carries.

Other Business:

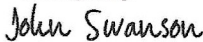
Election results were returned; Greg Hilgeman was re-elected to another 3-year term.

MN Department of Ag asked if groups would be willing to be invoiced once per year instead of quarterly. They are thinking January would be the month of billing. John Sandbakken and I are in favor of this, and John responded back indicating our position.

Next Meeting: We will have a meeting in September, date, time and place to be determined once John Swanson or John Sandbakken can line up a group tour either in Crookston, MN or Fargo, ND.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman: DocuSigned by:

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Secretary: Signed by:

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