

**Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Tuesday, September 9, 2026; 9:00 A.M.
Northwest Research & Outreach Center
Crookston, MN**

Members Present: John Swanson, Kevin Capistran, Greg Hilgeman, Tom Dowdle, and Tom Smude.
Members Absent: Tom Smude and Tom Dowdle, Guest: Christina Iliev, MN Department of Agriculture
Others Present: Morgan Wrich, Coalition and Outreach Program Manager with Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE); Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken, NSA Staff

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 9:05 a.m.

The minutes of the May 20, 2026, were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Greg Hilgeman and seconded by Kevin Capistran. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for August 2026. The Council collected \$4,491.63 in checkoff funds and \$8.28 in interest. We paid \$4,250.00 in expenses in August. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$62,958.92 as of August 31, 2026.

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

Audit Report:

Haga Kommer, Ltd. finished the 2025-26 audit. A copy was emailed to all council members along with the board communication letter. Tina has sent the audit to the MN Department of Agriculture along with the checklist and signed management letter.

Audit/Review Fees:

Christina stated they are in the final stages of the making the rule changes. Small councils would not need a full audit, and it would not need to be done by a CPA. They are hoping to get it out to the councils for review by as soon as they can.

Election of Officers:

Motion by Greg Hilgeman to keep the Vice-chair, Kevin Capistran; Chairman, John Swanson, and Tom Dowdle as Secretary/Treasurer and seconded by Kevin Capistran. Motion Carried.

Other Business:

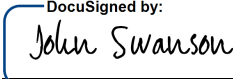
John Swanson and Kevin Capistran will be up for re-election in 2027. Both are willing to run for re-election.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 12, 2027 – Holiday Inn – Fargo, ND – 6:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Chairman: 
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Secretary: 
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