

## **Rural Revival Minutes**

March 4, 2015

**Members Present:** Dennis Jurkovich, Todd Koerner, Lyle Preheim, Glen Wollman, Tim Eisenbeis, Larry Eisenbeis, Paul Ortman, John Koch, Dee Miller, Lorraine Ensz (teleconference), Richard Ensz (teleconference)

**Minutes** of February 2 meeting were reviewed and approved. Approval moved by Lyle Preheim seconded by Glenn Wollman, and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report.** The Rural Revival account has \$824.95 in it.

**Education Report.** The presentation by Lyle Perman was judged to be excellent with the only negative being the small attendance (12-15). This limited number in attendance was likely the result of the short notice Rural Revival had to promote the event. Paul Ortman reported that his father had attended and the presentation had really made a difference to him and their family's discussion on future directions.

It was moved by Paul Ortman, seconded by Roy Kaufman and passed unanimously that the Perlman's be sent an honorarium of \$150.

**Map of My Kingdom** – an original drama dealing with agricultural issues was suggested as a possible educational program. This production has minimal space and set up requirements. It was written, produced and performed by a single individual. More information will be sought.

**Community Kitchen.** No report.

**Butcher Shop.** No report

**Raw Milk.** No report.

**Arts/Earth Center.** John Koch shared progress on the project including an indication that there was consideration being given to moving ahead with a Research and Demonstration Center.

**Schmeckfest Table** – Rural Revival, the Community Garden, and Freeman Education and Research will share series of tables and Josh Hofer and John Koch will man this area. John will develop a general table display featuring the activities and intents of the organization. We will ask Dennis Lehman to arrange for copies of an updated RR brochure which will list (with his agreement) Tim Eisenbeis as a contact point (taking the place of Nathan Schrag).

**Press Coverage of Rural Revival Activities.** Strategies to expand local coverage of Rural Revival activities or items of interest to RR were discussed. A meeting with the *Courier* as originally suggested last month has not taken place. The group felt that we need to do a better job of helping them do their job. We should be identifying a series of topics which we think merit consideration in the press and local people/organizations

which might have an interest or perspectives on those so the *Courier* can efficiently evaluate what they might like to pursue as feature articles. Roy Kaufman noted that he would be willing to do additional features/stories if that was desirable but would assuredly be open to others taking on a role in this.

**Education in the Schools** – John Koch provided a list of Educational Options which might be explored with the schools (below). “Scholarships” was added to the original list. Koch will continue to develop this.

**Trademark** – John Koch expressed concern about the name “Rural Revival” and wondered if we should get that trademarked so no one can take it away from us. This concern was stimulated by the liberal use of the general term “rural revival” the new *Dakotafire* magazine. He will check this out and if the cost of filing a trademark is nominal will go ahead.

**Parker Chicken Facility** – concern was expressed over the large-scale chicken operation proposed for Parker and members considered whether RR should be pro-active in some way relative to what is perceived to be a real threat to rural society. After considerable discussion, it was decided that RR should not take a position in opposition to this since the group has always tried to serve as a way of sharing on concerns and informing its membership but has left action up to the individual members.

**Adjournment** – Moved by Tim Eisenbeis, Second by Paul Ortman, accepted.

Respectfully submitted, John Koch, Secretary

## **Addendum**

### **Draft - Rural Revival Educational Options**

1. Educational Curriculum Donation – Aquaponics (grade/high school)
2. Ambassadors to Rural Revival (or from RR) – (high school)
3. Future Farming Options – Interactions with Leaders – here or at their home sites (high school, public)
4. Capstone Project (seniors at FHS)
5. Internship at Demonstration Project (high school or summer college)
6. Revive “Operation Germination” – (adult/family)
7. Participation on FAEC Task Forces (high school, college)
8. Scholarships for Attendance at Conferences (high school students)