

## **Rural Revival Minutes - DRAFT**

June 2, 2015

**Members Present:** Dennis Lehmann, Lyle Preheim, Glen Wollman, Tim Eisenbeis, Roy Kaufman, Larry Eisenbeis, John Koch, Dennis Jurkovich, Lorraine Ensz, Richard Ensz, Dee Millar

**Guests Present:** Andre Eisenbeis, Philip Eisenbeis

**Minutes** of April 6 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. Approval moved by Dee Miller, seconded by Lorraine Ensz, and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report.** No report.

**Website.** No Report

**Farmer's Market.** Dennis Lehmann reported that the first Farmer's Market will be held June 24 and that Gary Block at the Freeman Shopping Center is, again, enthused about having this in his parking lot. John Koch indicated that he felt there should be recognition of the roles of both Rural Revival (coordination) and Freeman Community Development Corporation – FCDC (sponsorship) in promotional materials and advertising. Further that there should be discussion with the FCDC about expansion of the current support so additional advertising/promotion can be done, signage improved and there can be growth of both the number of vendors and the customer base. Dennis and John will look into this.

**Community Kitchen.** No formal report, but it was noted the north church has decided to not go ahead with the modification of their current facility to allow such use. This was based more out of a concern about who would coordinate such a facility in order to guarantee that it is appropriately maintained and controlled. This was generally viewed as a topic which could be brought forward again, but there would need to be more education and structuring to ensure a positive outcome.

**Butcher Shop/Buffalo Enterprise.** Nate Preheim was not available to report as he was preparing for a trip to pick up 20 buffalo from the Santee Sioux. Lyle Preheim shared on progress that he has made in contacting Adam Chedester relative to establishing a butcher shop. He is interested in talking to us, but asked that we prepare a series of questions for him which would help him as he prepared for the meeting. Rural Revival might have of him including those in these minutes. There was considerable energy for carrying forward with the suggested meeting by those around the table noting there is a need for such a local service and their willingness to use someone local should they have that opportunity. The questions identified by the group were:

1. What animals does he currently slaughter?
2. Is he open to processing additional kinds of animals – particularly larger animals such as cattle?

3. Is he open to seeing his business expand? In other words, how much business would he like? (The sense around the table was that there is a very real potential that expansion could happen, if he is willing.)
4. Does he do any specialty meats or products such as jerky?
5. How can we help? (If he is willing to expand there are funding programs we and the City might be able to help with.)
6. What equipment/facilities does he currently have and what would he like to have?
7. Is he willing to move the operation to Freeman (or close to Freeman)?
8. Does he do anything with the hides or other by-products?
9. Could he give us a sense of how long it would take him to slaughter/process a large animal and some estimate of cost recognizing that this is an estimate, not a bid or formal commitment?
10. Is he open to slaughtering/processing individual animals or does he require multiple animals?

**Arts/Earth Center and Other.** John Koch reported that (1) John Peterson, head of the Amana Society (Amana Colonies), will be to Freeman in August. (2) again noted that there have been positive structural changes to the Freeman Community Development Corporation (FCDC). Public and full membership meetings will be the new strategy. The first of these public sessions will be Wednesday, June 3 with a presentation by Jacquie Fuks, head of Southeastern South Dakota Tourism, speaking on Freeman as a tourism destination. It was noted that Agricultural Tourism is an emerging component of tourism and, therefore, Rural Revival members should consider attending. (3) again asserted that progress is being made on the aquaponics-based Research and Demonstration Center but, because of on-goings negotiations, not much can be shared at this point. (4) reviewed a series of local discussions going on around the general topic of “education “ and indicated that RR’s interest in Ag-related programming needs to be shared.

**Informational Item.** A “First-time Farmer” workshop will be offered on Tuesday, June 9 at the Arboretum. This does require pre-registration.

**Adjournment** – Moved by Larry Eisenbeis, Second by Dee Millar, accepted.

Respectfully submitted, John Koch, Secretary