

## Rural Revival Minutes – September 7, 2015

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

**Minutes** of the August 3 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. Approval moved by Dee Millar, seconded by Glenn Wollman and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report.** No Report. July Balance was \$685.94.

**Farmer's Market.** Dennis Lehmann reported that the Market continues to the end of September. Todd Koerner noted that his income from the Market was OK. John Koch has shared with the Executive Board of the Freeman Community Development Corporation (FCDC) on the possibility of Rural Revival formally taking over the Farmer's Market and they were receptive to this. It was moved by S. Roy Kaufman, seconded by Dee Millar, that, with formal approval by Freeman Community Development Corporation, Rural Revival assume responsibility for the Farmer's Market and that the monies from use fees and funds currently held in a separate checking account for this purpose be transferred to the Rural Revival books as a separate budget category. The motion was approved unanimously. In other business, Lorraine Ensz has added our Farmer's Market to several relevant web sites.

**Butcher Shop/Buffalo Enterprise.** Nate Preheim was not present, but the group continues to anticipate an interaction with Gary Block relative to our talk about a butchering operation. Mondays are a problem for Gary because our meetings conflict with the City Council meetings.

**Pasture Walk** – A pasture walk was held Saturday, August 15 and received positive comment. Three locations were a part of the tour (Kyle Waltner, Chris Eisenbeis, Stan Ortman). The event attracted a dozen participants and was coordinated by Tim Eisenbeis.

**Courier Coverage** – There was again discussion of the levels of coverage offered in the Freeman *Courier* relative to stories dealing with atypical agricultural practices. Dennis Lehmann and Tim Eisenbeis will meet with the paper to see if there are ways we might get even more coverage.

**Community Garden** - Todd Koerner reported that the gardens are now winding down for the season and he is anticipating one more week of production. This year's effort was well received by both local and area food banks with 270 served by through the Yankton Area Banquet. A highlight was 1st-4<sup>th</sup> graders making salsa for their school auction.

**Cover Crops Tour** – Planning continues for a late September/early October event.

**Preheim Feedlot, LLC** – There was a lively and respectful discussion of the relative merits/demerits of the feedlot project. Those with concerns argued that it would have negative consequences for the environment and the future of smaller scale, family-based enterprises. There was also concern expressed relative to some of the actions taken by the principal as he attempted to meet required conditions (which turned out to not be required) to secure a loan. It was, however, also pointed out that the ability of landowners to use their land to best effect to secure a livelihood for themselves and their families also needed to be considered. The realities of farming have changed and such adjustments need to be made. It was noted that this is a family with local ties rather than an external party. There was also frustration expressed with some of the more aggressive statements of some of the opponents and there was general concern that all of this has created a schism in that area's agricultural community which will not be easily breached.

**Arts/Earth Center** - John Koch reported that John Peterson, head of the Amana Society (Amana Colonies), was well received at his two presentations in Freeman where he shared on the history and structure of the Amana Colonies and their strategies for using heritage to leverage economic development and community/heritage preservation. He was particularly concerned that any product-based effort needed to have rigorous controls in place to guarantee quality and customer satisfaction. He was encouraging about the capacity of Freeman to adopt some of these strategies and benefit from them.

**Potential Freeman Relocation** – Larry Eisenbeis reported that Phillip is in Chicago driving a cab but finds the location to be bad. He may be returning to Freeman to explore the practices identified in the Shepard book on Silvapasture.

**Adjournment** – Moved by S. Roy Kaufman, Second by Glenn Wollman, accepted.

Respectfully Submitted – John Koch, Secretary