

Rural Revival Minutes – October 5, 2015

Members Present: Tim Eisenbeis, Larry Eisenbeis, Dennis Jurkovich, S. Roy Kaufmen, John Koch, Todd Koerner, Dennis Lehmann, Dee Millar, Lyle Preheim, Glen Wollman

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. Approval moved by Todd Koerner, seconded by Dee Millar and approved unanimously.

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

Farmer's Market. Dennis Lehmann reported that the Market is now closed for the season. Gary Block continues to be supportive of this endeavor.

Butcher Shop/Buffalo Enterprise. No report.

Courier Coverage – There was a brief discussion of the coverage offered in the Freeman *Courier* relative to stories focusing on atypical agricultural practices. There has been no direct contact with the *Courier* since our last gathering. John Koch encouraged us to consider us authoring articles and sending them to the *Courier*.

Community Garden - Todd Koerner reported that the garden were still open through the end of last month. They have now cleaned out the gardens. The sale of 14 jars of salsa generated through the garden's production by 1st-4th graders at the Academy brought in \$1,800.

Cover Crops Tour – There was extensive sharing on the results of the recent Cover Crops Tour at the farms of Todd Koerner, Lee Brockmueller, and Paul Ortman. Todd brought with him impressive examples of turnips, field peas, and radishes as which had 60 days of growth as cover crops. Conversation ensued on potential plants to be used and the strengths/weaknesses of various planting strategies. It was noted that there was grant money available through Turner County to encourage such utilization.

Preheim Feedlot, LLC – The next hearing on this is anticipated on October 12th, but there is no movement at this point.

Arts/Earth Center - John Koch did an in-depth update on the project sharing on difficulties which have played into delays (tied to the work of the University of Arkansas Community Design Center), reporting on progress with the aquaponics component (small group likely to move ahead, ties to a senior research leader), recounting activities of the FA/EC task force on tourism which has gone over to the Freeman Community Development Committee (re-branding the community, festival around Christmas, new signage), and quick updates on product development ties to Amana Colonies and summer arts programming.

Chicken Farm – Glen Wollman reported that any progress on the large-scale chicken farm in Turner County is delayed because there were not hearings to gather public comment.

Rural Revival Mission – Tim Eisenbeis brought forward the idea of spending some time at one of our coming meetings to consider our Mission. There was general support for this idea and such time will be set aside once harvest is over.

Adjournment – Moved by Tim Eisenbeis, Second by Todd Koerner, accepted.

Respectfully Submitted – John Koch, Secretary