

Rural Revival Minutes – December 7, 2015 - Draft

Members Present: Louis Atsma (guest), Larry Eisenbeis, **Tim Eisenbeis, Loraine Ensz**, Richard Ensz, **Dennis Jurkovich, John Koch, Dennis Lehmann**, Dee Millar, Paul Ortman, **Lyle Preheim**, Nate Preheim, Glen Wollman

Minutes of the November 2 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. Approval moved by Lyle Preheim, second by Glen Wollman & passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. \$616.90.

Turner County Zoning – There was continuing discussion of proposed changes to Turner County zoning. The next public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 1 pm in the Turner County Courthouse.

Letter to Courier – It was noted that the *Courier* published (11/28/15) Dennis Lehmann's letter on the visit by Dordt College faculty/students to Nate Preheim's and Tim Eisenbeis' farms.

Letter of Appreciation – Orville Waltner Estate – It was noted that Lana Beshoi had made a special effort to structure the sale of land from the Orville Waltner estate in such a manner that local and new farmers could provide competitive bids and that land might then remain in local ownership. It was decided that Lyle Preheim and Dennis Lehmann would express appreciation and see if she was open to sharing this with the broader public.

Farmer's Market Funding – It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously that Rural Revival receive from the Freeman Community Development Corporation funds held by them for support of the Farmers Market and that those funds be moved into the Rural Revival checking account.

Nate Preheim Notes – Nate reported that he felt his initial year was positive and he hopes to expand to 40 head by next year. He found it interesting that most of his sales were through farmer's markets and local contacts rather than driven by an internet presence.

Rural Revival Mission/Vision – The major focus of the evening was discussing what vision we have for Rural Revival by the years 2020 and 2030. Topic areas were brought forward and placed on a planning chart (below). Further definition and discussion of these topics will continue at future meetings.

Rural Revival - Vision 2020

Areas of Interest

- Young People Farming (perhaps drawn from outside the community)
- Abandoned Farmyards Repopulated

- Planning for Land Transfer
- Mentor Young People
- Raise Funds for Grants or Low-Interest Loans
- Develop Fundraisers
- How to Share Information
- Attract Young People to Rural Revival Meetings
- Ask Farmers to Mentor
- Mentees Pay Forward What They Learn

Rural Revival – Vision 2030

Areas of Interest

- Educate People in the Community About Successes in Organic Farming
- Freeman as Service Center for 20+ mile area
- Farmers Market Increases to 10 Vendors and Adds Number of Weeks/Days
- Cooperatives for Bulk Selling
- Research on Cooperatives
- Support Services for Non-Traditional Agriculture
- Churches Working Together to Re-Vitalize the Community
- School Courses on Alternative Agriculture
- Sustainable Community (self-contained)

Adjournment – Moved by Dee Millar, Second by Glen Wollman, accepted.

Respectfully Submitted – John Koch, Secretary