

Rural Revival Minutes – February 1, 2016

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

Guest: Katy Overvaag (Bellaluche Photography – Parker)

Minutes of the January 4, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved. Approval moved by Dee Millar, second by Glen Wollman & passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report. No Report

Conditional Use Permit – Sonstegard Foods – Katy Overvaag (Parker) was in attendance to report on the zoning process for a chicken facility outside of Parker. There was extended discussion on the progress of this zoning request and the implications to people living within the immediate area. There is continuing concerns relative to the impacts of such a facility. Particularly, it was noted that the formula used for calculating unit equivalency was being set higher. Katy asked that any who might be interested in this issue attend the Zoning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 10:30 am in the Turner County Courthouse.

Legislation – There was general discussion of HB 1140, HB 1201 and SB 98 as items of information.

Land Transfer – There was discussion on strategies to better inform people of options for passing land to young farmers/local farmers. Options through press coverage and workshops will be explored. Potential letter from Todd Koerner.

Mission – It was noted that this discussion needed to continue, but at another meeting. This discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

Ag-Tourism – John Koch noted that preparations are underway for Summer Festival 2016 and those plans do include on-farm experiences.

Adjournment - Adjournment was moved by Dee Millar, seconded by Todd Koerner, and passed unanimously.