

Rural Revival Minutes – March 7, 2016

Members Present: Larry Eisenbeis, **Tim Eisenbeis**, **Loraine Ensz**, Richard Ensz, **Dennis Jurkovich**, **John Koch**, **Todd Koerner**, **Dennis Lehmann**, Dee Millar, **Paul Ortman**, Glen Wollman

Minutes of the February 1, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Approval moved by Dee Millar, second by Dennis Jurkovich & passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Paul did not have numbers with him, but noted that the only bill paid since the last report was for \$15 to the SD Treasurer for sales tax.

Conditional Use Permit – Sonstegard Foods – It was reported by Dennis Jurkovich that the February 9 meeting of the Turner County Zoning Commission had advanced the approval of the facility in spite of an inch thick notebook identifying violations by the company at other sites presented to the Commission by Katy Overvaag. Lyle Preheim and S. Roy Kaufman had also attended the hearing in support of those opposing the facility.

Land Transfer. No further action reported.

Ag-Tourism/Education – John Koch reported that he has had interest expressed in on-farm ag-tourism activities by Nate Preheim, Todd Koerner, Tim Eisenbeis, and Will Ortman. These to be conducted during coming summer. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled to better define the nature, coordination and charges for such activities. John also reported that he has secured Nick Brandner (Freeman Regional Health System), Wade Lager (Cortrust), Colleen Schultz-Herman (Vintage Vault) and Vernetta Waltner (Freeman Academy) to serve on an Education/Training Committee. If it is possible to add a non-FCDC member he wondered if there was anyone who might be interested. Dee Millar indicated that she would.

Schmeckfest – It was noted that last year Rural Revival shared a table with community gardens and Freeman Arts/Earth Center. John will bring the RR table display to the next meeting so that it can be reviewed and updated. Dennis Lehmann noted that the morning of Saturday, April 2 will be whole wheat noodle-making day. Everyone is invited.

Web site – Dennis Jurkovich noted that the RR website is now up to date.

HB 1140 – There was a short sharing on the implications of this legislation. It was noted that the legislation would restrict the public's ability to contest and would require the payment of a fee to even submit a petition.

Visioning – A continuation of idea-sharing and discussion as to the Mission/Purposes of Rural Revival. The core question to be considered was what do believe Rural Revival is and should be. Summary comments are below:

- There should be room for all models of agriculture.
- While we celebrate all models of agriculture, we recognize that less-traditional modes need support to be adopted/integrated.
- Local ownership of land/production capability is critical.
- Viability of full-time, family farming.
- Viability of the community as a whole.
- The importance of decision-making strategies which recognize that we are all (town and rural) interdependent and the values which drive us need to reflect that.
- Local foods are best – for a number of reasons.
- The reality that there simply have to be sufficient revenue streams if we hope to see “jobs” created.

Adjournment – Moved by Paul Ortman, seconded by Glen Wollman and passed unanimously.