

Rural Revival Minutes – December 12, 2017

Members Present: Andre Eisenbeis, **Tim Eisenbeis**, Larry Eisenbeis, **S. Roy Kaufman**, **John Koch**, Dee Millar, **Paul Ortman**, **Lyle Preheim**, Ardon Wek.

Minutes of the November 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved. Approval moved by Dee Millar, second by Ardon Wek & passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Paul Ortman reports that our current balance is \$655.94

Land Trusts: There was general discussion of the value of land trusts and, while no formal action was taken, there is a continuing interest in learning how such mechanisms might serve in support of Rural Revival's Mission. Members were encouraged to visit SILT.org for more information.

Freeman Butcher: Virtually the entirety of the remainder of the meeting was spent discussing this topic. Josh Hofer had forwarded to the membership a model of a business plan used to set up such an operation. This details the elements which would need to be in place to create such a project. There was lengthy discussion about the factors which contributed to the failure of a similar effort by Rural Revival several years ago. One major stumbling block was that there was no ability to identify someone willing to be a butcher. As to financing such a project, it was noted that there has been no word from Cheri Rath at the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture program about timing for a meeting but there is a continuing desire to have her join us for a discussion. It was decided that Cheri should receive a 3-page +/- outline of what we have in mind rather than simply being asked to come before the group "cold". Paul Ortman (along with Josh Hofer) will draft this. Also, a quick survey of those in attendance did not immediately reveal any potential investors. John Koch was asked (as President of the Freeman Community Development Corporation) if there might be financial support from them. He indicated that he would be willing to share this interest with the FCDC Economic Development Committee, but not until the project is better defined. There continues to be significant interest in this topic/project and it is accepted that there is a true need for such a facility.

Adjournment: Moved by Lyle Preheim, seconded by Phil Eisenbeis and passed unanimously.