

Rural Revival Minutes - February 26, 2018

Members Present (directors in bold): Tim Eisenbeis, Todd Koerner, Larry Eisenbeis, Phillip Eisenbeis, Andre Eisenbeis, **Dennis Jurkovich, John Koch, Lyle Preheim, Dee Millar**, Duane Reis, Nathan Torberson.

Minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved. Approval moved by John Koch, second by Todd Koerner, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. No Report

Chautauqua: John Koch reported that another Chautauqua is planned for this summer. They hope to expand on what was done last year with more evening programs and more entertainment. The program may be spread over several days in a month, probably August. The goal is to attract people to Freeman. A committee has been formed. Anyone interested in participating should contact John.

Schmeckfest: We have the Rural Revival display board that was use last year which should be updated. No one volunteered to update the board and sit by the display so it was decided that there will be no Rural Revival display this year. It is our goal what we participate in future years.

New CSA: Andre and Lillie Eisenbeis will be managing a new CSA this year under the name Prairie Roots.

Rural Revival presentation: Tim presented Rural Revival to the north church. It was well received.

Freeman Butcher Shop: Funding this effort is something to be addressed. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture Value-Added Ag Subfund could help with some of the feasibility study cost but we would need to fund the remainder. Someone to champion this effort is needed.

Lyle passed out a letter from Tim Kautz (copy attached) who has land near Olivet and is very interested in working with us on a meat processing facility in Freeman. Tim is an attorney and knows investors who may be interested in financing the project. Tim has experience in creating business descriptions and plans.

Some concern was expressed in the meeting about outside ownership and control of the butcher shop. Part of our motivation for this project is to have local involvement.

We discussed doing a survey of local farmers to get an idea of local interest. Some possible questions are:

1. Would you use a butcher shop located in the Freeman area?
2. What species of animal?
3. How many head per year?
4. Do you need a USDA inspected facility?
5. Would you use the shop for retail sales or personal sales (selling quarters)?
6. Would you be interested in participating in a project to build the butcher shop?
7. Do you know anyone else who might be interested?

A phone survey is preferable to a written survey.

Everyone is asked to bring to the next meeting a list of suggested people to survey along with phone numbers.

Adjournment: Moved by Todd Koerner, seconded by Lyle Preheim and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Jurkovich