

Rural Revival Minutes – January 8, 2018

Members Present (directors in bold): Tim Eisenbeis, Todd Koerner, Larry Eisenbeis, Phillip Eisenbeis, Lillie Eisenbeis, **Dennis Jurkovich, John Koch, S. Roy Kaufman, Lyle Preheim, Dee Millar, Paul Ortman**, Josh Hofer, Arden Wek, Delmer Hofer.

Guest: Cheri Rath from South Dakota Value Added Agriculture Development Center

Tim opened the meeting by welcoming Cheri Rath. We went around the table and introduced ourselves to Cheri.

Minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved. Approval moved by S. Roy Kaufman, second by Paul Ortman, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. No Report

Meeting Schedule: Tim has a schedule conflict on some second Mondays of the month. We agreed to change the meeting dates to the fourth Monday of the month starting in February. Moved by S. Roy Kaufman, second by Dee Millar, passed unanimously.

Freeman Butcher: The remainder of the meeting was focused on discussing this topic with Cheri. Cheri said there is a statewide need for meat processing facilities. A USDA approved facility has the advantage of being able to sell outside South Dakota. We have no intention of selling branded products at this time but it may be an option for the future.

Josh sees two main challenges for us at this time:

- Finding an entrepreneur to lead the effort
- Creating a business plan

Cheri suggested using the Dakota Rural Action local foods directory as a source of possible customers. The web site is:

<http://www.dakotarural.org/>

Cheri said SDSU has a meat science program. We may find an intern there to work with us.

Cheri's organization can help with feasibility studies and business plans. The cost of a feasibility study can vary widely in the range \$30,000 to \$100,000.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture has a Value-Added Ag Subfund that provides no interest loans to help with projects such as this one.

The USDA funding programs have been changing and their future is uncertain. We should conduct a survey of the Freeman area to look for people who might be interested in using a Freeman butcher shop. We will discuss survey question in the February meeting.

Josh Hofer was asked to serve as the focal point regarding questions and comments on this project. Send your comments and question to Josh.

Adjournment: Moved by Paul Ortman, seconded by Dee Millar and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Jurkovich