

Rural Revival Minutes - October 9, 2017

Members Present (directors in bold): Tim Eisenbeis, Larry Eisenbeis, Phillip Eisenbeis, Dennis Jurkovich, S. Roy Kaufman, Lyle Preheim, John Koch, Dee Millar, Josh Hofer, Lillie Eisenbeis, Will Ortman.

Minutes of the August 14, 2017 meeting were reviewed, approval pending.

Treasurer's Report. No Report

Courier Articles: S. Roy Kaufman is preparing an article for September about Ann Waltner. Tim has a list of other possible topics. We are looking for a volunteer to write up the Young Farmer event held on September 9.

USDA Organic Farming: Will Ortman talked about meetings he has attended that were hosted by the USDA with the intent of encouraging farmers to transition to organic. Fifty percent of organic grain sold in the U.S.A. comes from foreign sources. Meetings are being well attended. The USDA believes a farm crisis similar to the 1980's is coming soon but without the high interest rates. Will shared a report from Minnesota saying that 2017 will be the fifth year in a row that conventional corn farmers in Minnesota have lost money but organic corn farmers have made money. This is the link to generate reports:

<https://finbin.umn.edu/CpSummOpts/CpSummIndex>

The link below is to an article talking about the move to electric vehicles which will lessen the use of internal combustion engines. This will decrease the need for ethanol.

<https://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21726071-it-had-good-run-end-sight-machine-changed-world-death>

Community Land Trusts: Larry brought to the attention of the group an article about CLTs in the September 2017 ACRES magazine. We discussed the advantages of creating CLTs and the options for creating them. We know of one successful farm land CLT in Canada. More research is needed. We will discuss CLTs again in future meetings.

Adjournment: Moved by Lyle Preheim, seconded by Dee Millar and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted - Dennis Jurkovich