

Rural Revival Minutes - April 22, 2024

Freeman City Library

Directors Present: Brent Brockmueller, S. Roy Kaufman, Dennis Lehmann, Dennis Jurkovich

Directors Absent: Philip Eisenbeis, Lillie Eisenbeis, Beth Kaufman, Dee Millar

Members Present: Lyle Preheim, Tim Eisenbeis

Members Present via Zoom: Megan EisenVos, Spencer Bradford

Minutes: The Minutes of the April 1, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve with one correction by Roy, seconded by Dennis L, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Committees:

Land Trust/Access

No report

Local Foods:

No report

Education:

No report

Other Discussion:

SE Electric Monthly magazine: Article about Wall Meat Processors including meat cutter training in cooperation with Western Dakota Tech

Swan Lake Wind Farm on Turkey Ridge: Proposed by Florida Power and Light. Strong feelings from local people on both sides of argument. There was a poorly organized opposition meeting recently held in Yankton. Construction is scheduled to start in 2026.

Community Visioning Event Evaluation: There were 11 non-Rural Revival people in attendance. Thanks to Angie for documenting results.

Good discussion that always had to be cut off to move to next phase. Lots of deep, perceptive input with respectful talk. How to grow more farmers – farms with animals seemed to promote more interest. Few colleges have helped with agriculture programs. Perhaps it is lack of opportunity rather than lack of education that keeps young people away. Many do not want to farm and have an off-farm job. Question: are established farm families making room for the next generation? Could Rural Revival do more to educate people here and now about what life was like in this community at the prime time in the past for farming? Can new farmers be recruited by working with high schools and colleges? We should value and promote tech schools. These professions also contribute

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to a rural community and can yield a good salary. Should we strengthen cooperation with Dakota Rural Action in their Beginning Farmer Program?

Brent suggested we digest the results more by writing out some questions.

Megan will prepare an article for the Freeman Courier

Thanks were voiced to Brent for coordinating / organizing this visioning event and to Tim for insisting that we pressed ahead with it.

The next meeting will be on May 27

Adjournment:

Dennis L moved and seconded by Roy, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Jurkovich, Secretary