

Rural Revival Minutes – May 27, 2024

Freeman City Library

Directors Present: Brent Brockmueller, S. Roy Kaufman, Dennis Lehmann, Dee Millar, Lillie Eisenbeis, Dennis Jurkovich

Directors Absent: Philip Eisenbeis, Beth Kaufman

Members Present: Lyle Preheim, Tim Eisenbeis, Spencer Bradford

Members Present via Zoom: Megan EisenVos

Minutes: The Minutes of the April 22, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve with two corrections by Dee, seconded by Roy, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance \$8,085.53

Committees:

Land Trust/Access

Tim and Roy have been invited to speak at Hutterthal Mennonite Church Sunday school about land access.

Roy will be among those speaking at Heritage Hall Museum on the history of the German – Russian migration to South Dakota in the 1800's. There will be three presentations starting on June 2nd.

Local Foods:

The Farmer's Market will open June 5 and continue through September 25. Hours will be 5:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be 11 returning vendors and 12 new vendors. There will be more arts and crafts vendors and a CSA specializing in honey. Planning to have live music the first Wednesday of each month.

Some ideas for promoting the Farmer's Market: Send out fliers through the post office, use Norm's Pharmacy marquee, spread fliers through local businesses.

Education:

The Courier published a well written article by Megan about Rural Revival.

Other Discussion:

Community Visioning:

Think of questions rather than answers.

How do we encourage young and older people to become farmers? How do we make it appealing?

How do we explain what it looks like to be a farmer today?

What is the significance of farming?

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How do we connect young children to farming? Farm tours, expose them to animals, take children to sale barns

What are options for combining different niche markets?

What are motivations to farm? Care for earth, feed people vs make money?

What is the responsibility of land ownership in agriculture?

How do we connect city schools to farming? Farm tours

The next meeting will be on June 24 at 7:30 pm for annual meeting, board annual reorganization and election of officers

Adjournment:

Dennis L moved and seconded by Dee, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Jurkovich, Secretary