

Rural Revival Minutes

February 2, 2015

Members Present: Dennis Lehman, Dennis Jurkovich, Todd Koerner, Lyle Preheim, Glen Wollman, Tim Eisenbeis, Larry Eisenbeis, Paul Ortman, John Koch, Dee Miller

Minutes of December 1 meeting were reviewed and approved. Approval moved by Glenn Wollman, seconded by Dennis Jurkovich, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. The Rural Revival account has \$824.95 in it.

Education Report. Larry Eisenbeis continues to talk to Lyle Perman about a presentation in Freeman, but no confirmation as of yet.

Community Kitchen. No progress on this project. It was noted that Dakota Rural Action had helped with such a project in Deuel County.

Butcher Shop. Discussions continue.

Raw Milk. Tim Eisenbeis provided a quite positive report on raw milk legislation. The recommendations of the working group have been structured into SB 45 which has now passed the State Senate (30-4) and will be voted on yet this week by the House.

Arts/Earth Center. John Koch shared progress on the project including a short report on a recent visit to the Amana Colonies.

Awareness Building – Dennis Jurkovich shared with the Board on the activities of the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society and particularly the role/work of Don Huber and Cody Holmes.

Awareness Building – Glenn Wollman shared on activities relating to the USDA Agriculture Research Focus Groups (open house in summer) and the Bee Action group (beeaction.org).

Schmeckfest Table – It was affirmed that the table last year was beneficial to Rural Revival and that we should go ahead with a table again this year. A theme/focus is yet to be decided and will be considered at the March meeting..

Press Coverage of Rural Revival Activities. Dennis Lehman expressed his concern about the level of press coverage Rural Revival is receiving in the local press and sought input on how we might garner more coverage. It was noted that Roy Kaufman's regular column has been cut back and that it is a valuable tool for both us and the public. It was decided that we should consult with Roy on his interest in seeing the column brought back to its previous publication schedule and whether others on the Board might

somehow help. A group of the Board, led by Dennis Lehman, will seek a time to brainstorm/interact with the *Courier* on this subject.

Education in the Schools – John Koch expressed his continuing interest in somehow seeing Rural Revival activities and agricultural topics more generally included at the schools. He will bring forward some idea on this at the next meeting.

Restoration Agriculture in Practise DVD. The group continued viewing the DVD.

Adjournment – Moved by Dee, Seconded by Lyle, and accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, John Koch, Secretary