

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chairman, Alethea Kenney  
In attendance were: Kathy Belt, Kelly Bellefy, Robin Bellefy, Dennis Engebretson, Trudy Delich, Sheena Black, Margo Hanson, Cherish Duerst, Heather Schmidke, and Stacy Dresow.

### **Secretary's Report**

After reading the minutes from the April 17th meeting, it was decided to modify the Minutes to remove indications of size of flocks. Kelly motioned and Alethea seconded that the minutes be so modified. Motion passed.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Beginning Checkbook Balance	\$3256.60
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$2,623.44*

Details are on an attached sheet. There was a small discrepancy in the document handed out. Numbers recorded above reflect the actual numbers. No motion was made.

### **Old Business**

Breakfast on the Farm went well. Del Stubbs, James Cook and son, and Alethea represented the SSFC.

Dawn Wans. She is trying to establish a Farmers Market at her business. To that end, she is allowing vendors to set up for free. She is open from May thru June. Contact Alethea if you have questions.

Farm to Fiber Festival. We had a good showing. Kathy brought the actual Park Rapids Enterprise article. Much discussion ensued concerning booth usage. (Some of this discussion happened during New Business). Because there was a last minute glitch this year, there were 2 vendors in the SSFC booth. Kelly & Robin offered to loan their 10x10 pop up so we can have one dedicated booth just for SSFC.

Trudy talked about how Anoka Fiber Works used to set up a booth for their members. She has volunteered to be the coordinator if there are vendors who have only a few things to sell and want to share space with other vendors.

The Fashion Show needs to move back to "center stage" but to that end we

need someone to volunteer to sit in a booth while vendors display any creation they may have. All volunteers welcomed.

Instagram accounts Stacy coordinates the instagram accounts of our members. If you wish to be added to the list, she needs your information. It can be sent to [DresowFamilyFarm@lonstel.com](mailto:DresowFamilyFarm@lonstel.com). To ensure all members know about this and are able to take advantage of tis - there will be a sign-up sheet at our annual meeting.

## **New Business**

### Speakers for the 2026 Annual Meeting

An invitation has been sent to the owner of Fiddlesticks, a Bemidji yarn shop.; Alethea will speak about minerals and other nutrition for your flock; Charlie's parents will be asked to speak on their new processing plant in Wilmar, Happy Hallal. Note: Cherish toured the facility and was very impressed, and it was suggested we have a panel on "You can't fix stupid." Problems that folks have had on their farm and how they dealt with it. Q&A to follow with plenty of time to allow for discussion. Leslie Shroeder from the Midwest Linen Revival has been tabled.

When discussing networking, it was suggested that an "Alert system" be set up so when processors (such as Happy Hallal) has a cancellation, others who may have animals ready to be processed can step in. It would also be a system to let the producers know if there are particular times of the year (for example) to have animals ready for the "rush."

A discussion ensued on advertising your animals on Facebook and other platforms. Verbage is very important.

### Elder Wisdom and Potluck

It was noticed that many people we turn to as sources of information are advanced in age. It was decided to have another program where we invite elders to speak. Suggestions include Byron Johnson, shearer, Bob Paulson, weaver and others. Some of the suggestions included setting some of them up as a Zoom meeting (so the elders wouldn't have to travel); using the Legion Hall in Bagley and holding it in the Fall (late August perhaps). Alethea is spearheading.

At the upcoming (February 14, 2026) annual meeting, the food providers will be: Margo and Charlie, lamb; Dennis & Trudy, elk; Kathy, bread; Alethea, salad and fruit; Dennis, apple cider; Beliefys, dessert; Cherish, cheese.

Last year in Park Rapids there was a “holiday market” where local vendors set up tables in the Park Rapids Armory. Alethea contacted the Bagley Area Arts Cooperative and they are interested in collaborating on a market in Bagley next year. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Gathering Under the Pines in Gonveck has had such a good success, we will do it again in 2026. Trudy will coordinate. The dates will be the 2nd Friday of January, February and March.

A motion was made by Robin and 2nd by Aletha to adjourn at 2:40. Motion passed.

Yarn Cabin in Bemidji is looking for textile teachers and sources of local wool as she dyes her own line.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Belt, Secretary