

Minutes of the Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting

November 12, 2013

President Sharon Tuschoff called to order the Quarterly Meeting of Mingo Swamp Friends at 6:40 pm in the basement of the Mingo Refuge administration building.

ATTENDANCE

In attendance were four Friends members, two Mingo Refuge staff

Bruce Beck

Gary Beacham

Leroy Romine

Sharon Tuschoff

Lindsey Landowski, Assistant Refuge Manager

Peter Rea, Visitors Services Park Ranger

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to approve the minutes of July 23 Annual Meeting was made by Gary Beacham. Second by Leroy Romine. Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Beacham read the following treasurer's report.

Mingo Swamp Friends	
FINANCIAL REPORT	
July 1 through September 30, 2013	
Balance July 1, 2013	\$14,136.75
Deposits	
Memberships	320.00
Photo Contest	355.00
Pavers	300.00
Total Deposits	\$975.00
Expenses	
Missouri9 Department of Conservation – Mingo Basin Initiative	500.00

Photo Contest winners	110.00
Photo Contest judge lunches	75.00
Total Debits	\$685.00
Balance September 30, 2013	\$14,426.75

Photo Contest Account	
Beginning Balance	*\$182.15
<i>* \$20 added to last month's incorrect amount.</i>	
Deposits	
Entry fees	355.00
Total Deposits	\$355.00
Expenses	
Prize money	260.00
Lunches for judges	75.00
Total Expenses	\$335.00
Ending Balance	\$182.15

Beacham reported that he arranged for an increase in daily limit on the Mingo Swamp Friends debit card with the First National Bank of Puxico from \$500 to \$1500. This will facilitate purchases by Mingo staff authorized by the Mingo Swamp Friends board.

Submitted by Gary Beacham, Treasurer
November 12, 2013

Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Bruce Beck. Second by Leroy Romine.
Passed.

REPORTS

Visitors Center Bookstore

Rea and Beck reported on actions of the Bookstore Committee. A number of books and sale items have already been purchased and received and are on display for sale in the headquarters office. Money for these purchases comes from the Every Day grant from Toyota Corporation of \$5,000, and must be spent and accounted for by March 1.

The committee has yet to purchase a computer and software for accounting and inventory, and a credit card reader. Fund for this hardware and software should be covered by the \$5,000 previously designated for such by the board. The committee must soon decide on what to get and submit a funding request to the Board. This request can be voted on by the Board by e-mail and/or phone.

Rea explained that refuge staff can make sales in the Visitors Center, but cannot deposit monies in the bank. A Friends officer or member will be required to monitor the sales, make bank deposits and provide reports to the Board.

There was lengthy discussion of the need to price sale items carefully in order to assure a profit, especially if a bookstore discount should be offered to Mingo Swamp Friends members.

BUSINESS

HOOAH Hunt/Wounded Warriors Hunt

President Tuschoff reported that on November 1 the officers and board members approved by e-mail an e-mailed request from Peter Rea on October 29 to give \$120.00 to the refuge to provide for hunting licenses and meals for three days for three wounded veterans from Fort Campbell, KY. Rea reported that John Stanard sent a check for \$60 to cover the cost of the licenses.

The hunt was conducted last week, and all three veterans were successful in bagging a deer. The hunters and the staff were well pleased with the event and the outcome. The bill for the meals has yet to be submitted to the treasurer.

Mingo Swamp Friends Photo Contest

Motion by Beacham, second by Romine that the Mingo Refuge staff be given responsibility for the 2014 Mingo Photo Contest. The refuge staff may request assistance from the Mingo Swamp Friends for expenses and for promotion. The display of entries will be intended for exhibit in the Mingo Refuge Visitors Center and in nearby communities. The Friends treasurer will maintain separate accounting for income and expenses for the photo contest. Passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Refuge Assistant Manager Lindsey Landowski reported.

- 1) Construction of the new Visitors Center and installation of the displays are expected to be completed in January. It is hoped that the Open House/Grand Opening can be held in February.
- 2) Improvements to the Bluff Trail below the Visitors Center have been on-going, with the assistance of youth from the Youth Conservation Corps and the Mingo Job Corps.
- 3) It is expected that the Ozark Highlands Route may be open late next spring. The route will be closed again when construction begins on the new spillway structure.
- 4) Replaced of the old spillway structure is expected to begin in the summer of 2014. The construction period means that the Ozark Highland route will be closed at least 4 to 6 weeks after construction begins.
- 5) A ramp from the bridge across Ditch 11 to the boardwalk extension into Rock House Marsh should be completed soon.

Refuge Ranger Peter Rea reported.

The Youth Hunt on the Refuge the weekend before last was a success. Special thanks to eroy Romine for his assistance

Upcoming activities:

- 1) Wonderful Waterfowl, Saturday, November 23. Part of the "Swamp Saturdays" events.
- 2) The Muzzleloader Deer Hunt will be on the Refuge December 7 and 8.
- 3) The Mingo Christmas Bird Count will be Saturday, December 14, instead of the previously reported December 21.

NEXT MEETING

The next Quarterly Meeting of Mingo Swamp Friends will be in January, 2014. Time and location will be announced as soon as the Visitors Center opening will be definite. The Friends will be invited to tour the new building. Plans must be finalized then for the Open House activities.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Beck to adjourn. Second by Beachan. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Bruce Beck, Secretary