

**Minutes of the Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting
April 9, 2013**

On April 9, 2013, following a 1-1/2 hour tour of the Visitors Center directed by Lindsey Landowski and Peter Rae, the Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting was called to order at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge at Puxico, MO, in the Administration Building conference room by President Sharon Tuschoff at 6:35 pm

ATTENDANCE

Nine members and two staff were in attendance:

Sharon Tuschoff	Aaron Horrell
Bruce Beck	LeRoy Romine
Gary Beacham	Brad Watkins
Bill Brennan	George Vail
Ray Greenlee	Lindsey Landowski, Assistant Refuge Manager
Danny Holloway	Peter Rea, Visitors Services Park Ranger

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of January board meeting were read by Bruce Beck. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Brad Watkins. Second by Aaron Horrell. Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Beacham read the following treasurer's report.

**Financial Report 1/13 through 3/13
Mingo Swamp Friends**

Balance January 1, 2013	\$9,926.39
Deposits	
Pavers	200.00
Scrap sales	543.90
Membership	40.00
Eagle Day sales	793.00
Everyday grant – for bookstore	5,000.00
Total Deposits	\$6,576.90
Debits	
McCain Screen Printing (t-shirts and caps)	1,389.28
Bill's Market (Eagle Days)	84.73
Scrap sales refund (to FWS)	543.90
Total Debits	\$2,017.91
Balance March 31, 2013	\$13,821.38

Submitted by Gary Beacham, Treasurer
April 9, 2013

Motion to approve made by LeRoy Romine. Second by Bill Brennan. Passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Photo Club Report** –Aaron Horrell stated that he closed the Mingo Swamp Friends Photo Club bank account today and wrote a check for the account balance of \$162.15 to the Mingo Swamp Friends account. It was agreed that funds for the Mingo Photo Contest will be handled by the

Mingo Swamp Friends treasurer. Income and expenses from the photo contest will in the future come from the Mingo Swamp Friends general fund, but will be accounted for as a separate line item.

After seven years there will no longer be a Mingo Swamp Friends Photo Club, however Aaron Horrell and Bill Brennan volunteered to be chairman and member respectively of the Photo Contest Committee and were appointed to the committee by Sharon.

Aaron has volunteered to continue to direct the photo contest, and to mount the photos and ship them to the various venues for display. The photos of last year's contest are presently at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. They will be sent from there to Bass Pro in Springfield, MO. Aaron will ask Bass Pro to be a financial sponsor of the contest.

Mingo Swamp Friends members are encouraged to seek more donors of money and prizes for the photo contest. Aaron estimated that over the years the income and expenses for the photo contest have been about \$1,100 per year. About \$700 has come from donors, and about \$400 from entry fees.

- 2) **Pavestones** – Beacham reported that ten pave stones have been etched by Seymore Memorials in Dexter, out of twenty-five submitted. He understands that Seymore Memorials may buy four pavestones for the Mingo display. There was discussion about how the stones will be laid. Members will look into media suitable for setting the stones.
- 3) **Mingo Swamp Friends Website and Facebook Page** – Brad Watkins gave a report on changes to the Mingo Swamp Friends website that he is working on with Lindsey Landowski. To the Mingo Swamp Friends web page two tabs have been added. “Friends Members” has got the minutes of the meetings, plus the original and the proposed by-laws. The “Getting Involved” tab lists volunteer activities at Mingo.
- 4) **Bookstore** – Peter Rae reported that the committee, in order to avoid storage and security concerns, will order bookstore items after the Grand Opening date has been set. The \$5,000 Everyday Grant request from Toyota was approved for Mingo Swamp Friends. The \$5,000 must be used only for resale items for the bookstore, and must be spent by March, 2014.

The Bookstore Committee will need to decide on the necessary computer software to keep track of inventory, and the hardware necessary. This proposal will need to be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

It was agreed that a quality “donation box” needs to be placed in the new bookstore.

OLD BUSINESS

Beck reviewed the proposed changes in the by-laws.

Motion by Watkins, second by Horrell that the Mingo Swamp Friends Board will consist of four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) plus two additional board members). These persons will be elected at the annual meeting of the members. All terms will be for one year from the time of the annual meeting. There will be quarterly meetings open to all members, where business will be presented and voted on by all the members present, with a minimum quorum of four. Any pressing business between the scheduled quarterly meetings will be handled by the board members, with a minimum quorum of four. Motion passed.

Tuschoff asked the officers present if they would agree to run for the position this coming year. All agreed. Prior to the annual meeting Tuschoff will nominate two additional persons who will agree to be nominated and if approved by the membership, accept the responsibilities of the office of board member.

Beck will write these changes into the proposed by-laws. He will notify all of the Swamp Friends members of the proposed by-laws changes, and that they are posted on the Mingo Swamp Friends website, and that the change in by-laws will be voted on at the upcoming annual meeting. The vote on the proposed changes will be presented to the members at the beginning of the annual meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

Lindsey Landowski reported.

- 1) The earliest that the new Visitors Center could be open would be October 1. But there are many variables yet to consider, and the date could well be later.
- 2) The Ozark Highland Auto Tour Route will be closed most if not all of 2013. Closure will be necessary for safety as repaving of the hills and replacement of culverts is done. The road on Ditch 6 will be closed permanently to public motorized vehicular traffic.
- 3) There was discussion on the need and means of algae control in May Pond.

Peter Rea reported on three upcoming Saturday activities:

- 1) Wildflower Walk this coming Saturday, March 13.
- 2) Hike up Pilot Knob on May 4. This is a Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, home to listed Indiana bats. No more than 25 persons allowed. Advance sign-up required. Mingo Swamp Friends members are most encouraged to participate.
- 3) Free Fishing Day on June 8.

Volunteer Hour Reporting. Peter reminded members to keep their volunteer hours up-to-date. A timesheet was provided to members last year.

NEXT MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Members will be Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 6:30 pm. Watkins will look for a suitable location for the meeting. Beck will send meeting notices at least a week before the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Watkins to adjourn. Second by Horrell. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Bruce Beck, Secretary