

Mingo Swamp Friends

MINUTES

October 13, 2015

Present:

Members: Sharon Tuschhoff, president; Bruce Beck, secretary; Amanda Mossman, vice-president, Leroy Romine, member, Rachael Hember, member

Mingo Staff: Peter Rea, Ranger

Call to Order: President Tuschhoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes: Minutes of the July 28 Annual Meeting were read by Secretary Beck. Motion by Amanda Mossman, second by Leroy Romine to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Summary prepared by Rachael Hember. Income since June is \$502.00. Expenses were \$254.34, leaving a balance of \$247.66. See the attached report for details.

Motion by Beck, second by Leroy Romine to accept the treasurer's report as printed. Motion passed.

Committees Reports:

Facebook and Website Management: Amanda Mossman has been posting activities to the Friends' Facebook page. She will add the minutes of the past meetings to the webpage.

Bookstore Management: Bookstore sales and expenses report by Rachael Hember is attached to the treasurer's report. Sales since June are \$2,479.59. Expenses were \$1,581.64, leaving a balance of \$897.59.

Correspondence:

Tuschhoff read and passed around a Christmas greeting card and membership application form from the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Old Business:

Pavestones - Peter will call to see when the new pavestones will be available to pick up. He and Bruce will set a time to pick them up. We will plan on a ceremony to install the new pavestones on October 24 at the Mingo SwampFest.

Membership Promotion –

- Membership income report is included in the treasurer's report. With one addition tonight, the total membership dues income since the July annual meeting is \$535.

- At **SwampFest** on **October 24** Swamp Friends will set up and man a table with fliers to invite membership. Individual members will bring snacks such as chips or cookies. Refuge staff will provide punch and some snacks.

- Beck will send membership recognition letters to all new members. To the members at the "Heron" (\$75) level he will include a Mingo pin and a certificate of recognition.

- Refuge staff are seeking ideas on how to promote membership in the Friends group.

- Beck will e-mail the Mingo Swamp News newsletter prepared by Peter to all persons on the Swamp Friends mail list.

- Beck will add the names and e-mail addresses of the photo contest entrants to the Swamp Friends mail list.

- We will see about adding members of the Swamp Candle birders to our mail list.

- Rea may share copies of the Mingo Swamp News and Swamp Friends membership applications with the Mingo Bowhunters and with the Coon Hunters. If provided, Beck may add their names and e-mail addresses to the extended Swamp Friends e-mail list.

- The **Agriculture and Natural Resources Expo** will be **January 15-16** in Poplar Bluff. Mingo Refuge staff and Swamp Friends together may co-man a booth to promote the Refuge and membership in Mingo Swamp Friends. Beck will contact the University of Missouri Extension Center and Extension Council to ask that Mingo and Mingo Swamp Friends have a joint booth at Ag Expo

- Rea brought a grant application form to be used for membership promotion. Tuschhoff and Mossman will study the report and contact the members for approval if they deem the application to be apt for Swamp Friends.

New Business:

Treasurer's position –

- Nicole Breeden has resigned her position as treasurer in order to care for her mother, who has terminal cancer. Swamp Friends will send her a card expressing our concern for her and her mother.

- Swamp Friends will also send a card to Gary Beacham expressing our gratitude for his service and our concern for him.

No nominations were made for a new treasurer. We will ask Rachael to continue to receive and deposit funds and to make the treasurer's report.

Mingo SwampFest –

Motion by Tuschhoff, second by Mossman, that Swamp Friends donate \$100 to Watkins Rehabilitation to cover their expenses for coming to SwampFest. Motion passed.

National Wildlife Refuge Association -

Motion by Beck, second by Romine that Mingo Swamp Friends give \$50.00 for membership in the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Motion passed.

HOOAH Hunt –

Motion by Beck, second by Romine, that Swamp Friends make up to \$120 available to the Mingo staff for food for the wounded veterans hunt on November 9 and 10. Motion passed.

Staff Report:

Ranger Peter Rae:

- **Cory Kudrna** has accepted the position of **Assistant Refuge Manager** at Mingo. He is transferring here from the Squaw Creek Refuge.
- **Ramsay Houze**, the new **Maintenance Worker** has moved here from Indiana and has been busy ever since.
- **Diana Douglas** has begun work as **part-time park ranger**. She has experience at Laguna Atascosa NWR in Texas, Lassen National Volcanic Park in California, Acadia National Park in Maine and Everglades National Park in Florida. She is working Fridays and Saturdays.
- Mingo **SwampFest** will be at Mingo on **Saturday, October 24** to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Day. Several activities are planned, including a paddle ride, boardwalk hikes, and programs on owls and monarch butterflies, and a wildlife rehabilitation program. Friends have been asked to volunteer to assist with several events.
- The **Youth Deer Hunt** will be **November 7 & 8**. The Refuge roads will be closed west of the Boardwalk. Red Mill Road will be open.

- The **HOOAH Hunt** will be **November 9 & 10**. The Ozark Highlands Road will be closed.
- The **Muzzleloader Hunt** will be **December 5 & 6**.
- The **Ozark Highlands Road** will be closed December through February.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, at 6:00 pm at the Mingo Visitors Center.

Adjournment: Motion by Romine, second by Beck, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm