

Mingo Swamp Friends
Quarterly Meeting
January 12, 2016

Present: Bruce Beck, Vergial Harp, Rachael Hember, Amanda Mossman, Peter Rea, Leroy Romine, Alex West

Call to Order: Vice President Amanda Mossman called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm at the Mingo Refuge Visitor Center. President Sharon Tuschhoff was absent due to illness.

Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Quarterly Meeting: Read by Bruce Beck. Motion by Beck, second by Rachael Hember to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Prepared by Rachel Hember, reported by Peter Rea. Report is attached. Motion by Mossman, second by Beck to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Facebook: Amanda Mossman reported that she has had at least one request a day through Facebook. She is updating photos on the Friends' Facebook page.

Bookstore: Rachael Hember reported in the financial report that there were \$1,593.68 in sales and \$189.01 in expenses, with a balance of \$1,404.67. The old cash register finally gave out. A new register and thermal paper were bought for \$117.78.

Old Business:

Treasurer: Bruce Beck nominated Rachael Hember to be the Mingo Swamp Friends treasurer. She has been acting treasurer as well as the Bookstore manager since before the October quarterly meeting. Vergial Harp seconded the nominations. She was elected treasurer.

Ag Expo: Peter Rea reported that the booth fee of \$200 was paid. He has prepared the display to be set up in the Coliseum on Thursday afternoon, January 14. Corey Kudrna, the new assistant refuge manager, will be at the booth Friday afternoon and evening – 1:00 to 8:00 pm. Peter will be at the booth on Saturday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Swamp Friends members are invited to attend and to spend some time at the booth. Registration slips for a final drawing at Ag Expo will be used to get names and e-mail addresses to add to the Friends' news e-mail list.

New Business:

Motion by Beck that new Friends members be given a season pass to the refuge, to be paid by Mingo Swamp Friends from the paid dues. Second by Harp. Motion passed. Peter will bring membership cards and a cash box in order to sell memberships at Ag Expo.

Staff Report: Ranger Peter Rea reported on the following items:

- **Refuge Manager and Assistant Manager** Ben Mense and Corey Kudrna are in Jefferson City today meeting with the Missouri Department of Conservation to discuss **hunting season dates** for the coming year.
- The **managed deer hunts** went very well.
- The **HOOAH Hunt** had three handicapped soldier participants. Each of the three harvested two deer. The men expressed deep gratitude for the experience. A total of \$159.10 was spent on meals and hunting licenses. This included \$85.00 donated by John Stanard for the permits.
- **Deer population on the Refuge** is down somewhat from recent past years, with essentially the same number of hunters.
- A total of **328 feral hogs** were harvested on Mingo this past year. Biologist Brad Pendley is hunting for feral hogs tonight.
- **Duck harvest** has been less this season. Duck migration has been delayed by the warmer fall and winter and by widespread flooding in the region.
- About 100 **coon hunters** have been on Mingo. Their hunting has gone well in spite of extensive flooding on the refuge.
- A **Public Hunt Meeting** will be held at the Mingo Visitor Center at **6:00 pm on Thursday, January 21**. A review of last year's hunting will be given, and comments from hunters will be heard.
- **Swamp Saturdays** are scheduled for January 30, February 20, March 12, 19 and 26, April 9, 16 and 30, May 14, June 4 and July 16. The Visitor Center will be open those Saturdays.
- **Spillway construction** is anticipated this coming summer.
- **Grants to help promote membership** in the Friends group are being sought.

Next Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting will be at the Visitor Center at **6:00 pm, Tuesday, April 12**.

Motion to Adjourn by Bruce Beck. Second by Amanda Mossman. Adjourned