

**Minutes of the Mingo Swamp Friends Annual Meeting**

**January 13, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Sharon Tuschhoff the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of the Visitors Center.

**ATTENDANCE**

Eight members and two Mingo Refuge staff were present:

Friends Members:

Bruce Beck, secretary

Gary Beacham, treasurer

Danny Holloway

Doug Holloway

Amanda Mossman

Leroy Romine

Sharon Tuschhoff, president

Brad Watkins, vice president

Refuge Staff:

Lindsey Landowski, Assistant Refuge Manager

Peter Rae, Visitors Services Park Ranger

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The minutes of the October 7, 2014 quarterly meeting were read by secretary Beck. **Motion** by Brad Watkins, second by Leroy Romine to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beacham reported a balance in the checking account of \$13,885.48 as of December 31, 2014.

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b> October 1,<br>2014 | <b>\$11,97.09</b> |
| <b>DEPOSITS</b>                             |                   |

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Book Store sales   | 3,640.80           |
| Grant from National Environment and Education Foundation | 2,00.00            |
| Membership   | 25.00              |
| Sale of three pavestones                                 | 150.00             |
| <b>Total Deposits</b>                                    | <b>5,815.80</b>    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>  |                    |
| Book Store merchandise                                   | 3,305.38           |
| Seymore Monuments, Dexter - engraving of 18 pavestones   | 324.00             |
| Sharon Tuschoff – Open House expenses                    | 63.52              |
| Brad Pendley – Wounded Warriors expenses                 | 150.00             |
| McAfee virus protection – annual subscription            | 19.99              |
| Rebecca Moore - Mingo Swamp Friends banner               | 37.52              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                    | <b>3,900.41</b>    |
| <b>BALANCE</b> October 1, 2014                           | <b>\$13,885.48</b> |
| <b>Swam[p Friends Photo Contest Fund</b>                 | <b>\$385.15</b>    |

Motion by Beck, second by Watkins to approve me financial report as given. Motion passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Environment and Education Grant

Tuschoff reported that a total grant of \$5,000.00 was approved for the Mingo Swamp Friends for the following activities and items:

- Four GPS units for orienteering \$550
- Three digital cameras for photography teaching \$450
- Family Fishing Day \$475

- Eagle Days \$500

The amounts spent on each activity may be modified, without a change in the total amount granted.

Sharon has spent \$780 at Best Buy in Cape for three cameras and four GPS units. A bulk discount was received, making camera cost \$119 apiece. She will buy SD cards and other camera related items with the remaining budgeted money.

The members agreed that insurance for lost items would not be practical due to the insurance cost and high deductibles.

### **Bookstore**

Peter Rea reported that three volunteers are manning the bookstore throughout the week – Nicole Breeden, Gina Scott and Rachel Hember.

Nicole has set up QuickBooks and entered inventory items. She will program QuickBooks to print out the treasurer's quarterly reports.

The average markup on sale items is ~15%.

### **Pavestones**

Watkins reported that eighteen pavestones have been placed in the designated area by the overlook below the Visitors Center.

**Motion** by Beacham, second by Watkins that pavestones recognizing lifetime members be provided by Mingo Swamp Friends only for future lifetime members.

### **Recognition Plaque for Gene Rowland**

Beck ordered and brought an engraved plaque to be presented to Gene Rowland of Stoddard County Seed in recognition of his donating seed for food plots. The \$60 total cost included \$35 set-up fee for the Mingo Swamp Friends logo, which logo will be available for any future engravings done by Spectra One in Poplar Bluff. Beacham will take the plaque to Mr. Rowland.

### **Conservation Fund Tree Planting Audit**

Tuschoff reported that she participated in a phone interview with a representative of the Conservation Fund in an audit of the grant given to Mingo NWR. There was considerable discussion among the members concerning the tree-planting, the main concerns being the loss of habitat diversity and food plots on the refuge, and the dramatic increase in feral hog numbers. Tuschoff said that comments on the tree planting may be made at any time at the "Go Zero" website <http://www.conservationfund.org/our-conservation-strategy/major-programs/go-zero/>.

On Thursday, February 19, there will be a meeting in the Visitors Center for comments on refuge activities, including feral hog control and tree planting, with the Mingo staff.

### **Eagle Days**

Eagle Day activities will include programs in the Visitor Center, live eagle demonstrations in the Maintenance Shop, Eagle viewing on the refuge. Friday, February 6 will be for school children. Saturday will be open to the public. There should be plenty of items available for sale in the Bookstore. Volunteers are need to help both days.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

**Ranger Peter Rae:**

**Hunting on the Refuge**

The archery deer season has gone well on the refuge.

**Swamp Fest**

More than 200 persons participated in the Swamp Fest. It is considered a success.

**Archery Hunt**

Ninety-six deer were harvested in the public hunt area, with additional antlerless deer taken earlier.

**Youth Deer Hunt**

About 30 deer were harvested on November 1-2.

**HOOHA Hunt**

Five disabled soldiers harvested five deer. The hunters and the staff were very pleased with the event.

**Managed Deer Hunt – December 6-7 and 13-14**

On the first weekend 130 hunters (persons who missed last year's hunt because of flooding) harvested 42 deer. On the second weekend only 7 deer were harvested by 70 hunters.

**Duck Hunt**

Pools 7 and 8 had higher numbers of ducks than in the past. A tally of the numbers of ducks harvested is not yet complete.

**Coon Hunt**

Hunters in groups, for three-night periods, have been hunting since early October. Coon numbers are high on the refuge, making hunting with dogs more difficult at first. Three more coon hunts are scheduled for late January.

**Wilderness Waterways Clearing**

A team of volunteers was on the refuge October 20-24. They cleared trees from Mingo River, Kentucky Slough and Ditch 10. The route can now be paddled in a complete loop. A map of the canoe trail has been prepared for the public.

**Assistant Manager Lindsey Landowski:**

**Cooperative Agreement between USFS and Mingo Swamp Friends**

A five-year cooperative agreement between the Mingo Swamp Friends and the Fish and Wildlife Service was signed in October.

**New maintenance worker needed.**

Charlie will be leaving February 8.

**New bio-tech workers needed for the summer.**

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Mingo Swamp Friends will be **Tuesday evening, April 14, at 6:30 pm** in the Visitor Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Beacham, second by Watkins. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Bruce Beck, Secretary