

Mingo Swamp Friends
MINUTES
July 28, 2015

Prior to the meeting hot dogs, chips and lemonade left over from Family Fishing Day were served. Cookies were brought by Amanda. Thanks to Peter and Rachael for cooking the hot dogs and making the lemonade in the hot evening.

Present:

Members: Sharon Tuschhoff, president; Bruce Beck, secretary; Leroy Romine; Amanda Mossman; Nicole Breeden; Butch Breeden; Rachael Hember

Mingo Staff: Ben Mense, Refuge Manager; Peter Rea, Ranger

Call to Order: President Sharon Tuschhoff called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Minutes of the April 14 Quarterly Meeting: Read by Secretary Beck. Motion by Romine, second by Mossman to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Reported by President Tuschhoff in the absence of Treasurer Gary Beacham, who has retired from the position due to health problems. Rea reported that the expenses for the Family Fishing Day had been paid, subtracting from the balance of funds of \$13,142.49 reported by Beacham on April 14. The new treasurer will need to balance the books and give a report at the next meeting. Motion by Beck, second by Mossman to accept this interim report. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Motion by Romine, second by Beck to elect the following officers for August, 2015 through July, 2016:

President: Sharon Tuschhoff

Vice-President: Amanda Mossman

Secretary: Bruce Beck

Treasurer: Nicole Breeden

Motion passed unanimously.

Committees Appointed: President Tuschhoff nominated the following committee chairs. . .

Website and Facebook Management: Amanda Mossman

Bookstore Management: Rachael Hember

Motion by Beck, second by Romine to accept these appointments. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Tuschhoff reported that in February she e-Card filed the tax statement for Mingo Swamp Friends to IRS. She has also sent IRS the annual report due every two years. This maintains Mingo Swamp Friends' status as a tax-exempt organization.

Beck said that he would talk soon with Gary Beacham and Danny Holloway about planting food plots on the refuge in August.

The group proposed creating a position promote membership in Mingo Swamp Friends. This will be discussed in the October meeting.

Amanda Mossman will see about creating promotional articles in the local newspapers and radio stations.

Beck will design an updated membership form/flyer for Mingo Swamp Friends.

Staff Reports:

Ranger Peter Rea:

- Mingo Refuge has applied for an RV Volunteer position. This person would be provided RV hook-up facilities in return for 24 hours per week volunteer service on the Refuge with a 3 to 6-month commitment. The intent is for the person to work the front desk of the Visitors Center.
- Refuge Fest will be at Mingo on Saturday, October 24 to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Day. There will be several activities, including a paddle ride and a wildlife rehabilitation program. We will discuss support for this activity at our October meeting.
- Coming Swamp Saturday programs will include GPS orienteering and gathering milkweed seed.

Refuge Manager Ben Mense:

- Refuge assistant manager Lindsey Landowski left Mingo in June and is now serving as refuge manager at Squaw Creek Refuge in northwest Missouri.
- Applications for a new assistant manager for Mingo has been advertised with a closing date of July 31. It is hoped that a new assistant manager may arrive in October.
- A new maintenance worker, from Indiana, will start work at Mingo on August 9.

- A temporary park ranger to replace the Kaitlin is expected to start work on September 6.
- Plans for a new spillway structure are being prepared and reviewed by FWS with expectations of construction in 2016.
- The Ozark Highlands road is a success since its renovation last year. Now the route is open nine months of the year instead of the previous 3-month period.
- The deer population of the refuge is currently estimated at 1,600 to 1,800. The healthy, sustainable population level for Mingo as determined by FWS and MDC biologists is 1,200 to 1,300. This would keep healthy browse levels and good nutrition for the deer and decrease the risk of diseases in the herd.
- Hunt dates on the refuge are determined by FWS in consultation with MDC.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, at 6:00 pm at the Mingo Visitors Center.

Adjournment: Motion by Beck, second by Romine that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm