

**MINGO SWAMP FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING
July 12, 2016**

At 6:00 pm hot dogs, hamburgers and chips were served, thanks to the Mingo staff. Refuge Manager Ben Mense and Ranger Peter Rea gave a PowerPoint presentation on the feral hog situation at the refuge.

Attendance: Five Swamp Friends members and four refuge staff were present.

- Sharon Tuschhoff, President
- Amanda Mossman, Vice President
- Bruce Beck, Secretary
- Rachael Hember, Treasurer
- Leroy Romine, member
- Ben Mense, Refuge Manager
- Corey Kudrna, Assistant Refuge Manager
- Peter Rea, Park Ranger
- Natalie Badolatolarrin, Summer Intern

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm by President Sharon Tuschhoff.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Bruce Beck read the minutes of the April 12, 2016 quarterly meeting. Motion by Mossman, second by Beck to accept the report as read. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rachael Hember read the Treasurer's Report for April 12 through July 12, 2016.

TREASURER'S REPORT SUMMARY			
April 12 through July 12, 2016			
Balance April 12			\$14,745.44
	Deposits	Expenditures	Balance
Photo Contest Balance			\$385.15
Bookstore Activity	\$2,160.14	\$1,354.99	\$805.15
Membership Activity	None	None	None
Friends Operations		\$170.00	
Balance July 12			\$15,380.59

Motion by Beck, second by Mossman to accept the report as printed. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Bookstore Committee: Hember reported on the activities of the bookstore. Tuschhoff appointed Mossman, Beck and Badolatolarrin to the committee.

Website Development and Maintenance: Mossman will remain the chairperson.

Facebook Maintenance: Mossman will remain the chairperson.

Election of Officers for August 2016 through July 2017

Nominees:

President: Amanda Mossman
Vice President: Leroy Romine
Secretary: Bruce Beck
Treasurer: none

Motion by Mossman, second by Beck to elect the presented list of officers by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously.

The newly-elected officers will need to seek new members and find a local volunteer to serve as treasurer. Mossman and Beck will have their signatures added to the bank account.

The secretary will mail membership letters and forms to past members and photo contest participants as soon as possible.

Motion by Tuschhoff, second by Romine to remove Rachael Hember and Nicole Breeden from Mingo Swamp Friends Bank account and to add Amanda Mossman and Bruce Beck to the account. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Canoe Rental: Beck reported that his discovery of the high costs of liability insurance for the Friends would be prohibitive for the rental of canoes. Following the report on the high cost of liability insurance it was agreed to not buy and rent kayaks or canoes on the refuge. The feasibility of a local business renting kayaks or canoes to be used on the refuge was discussed.

Engraved Pavestones: Two broken pavestones will have to be replaced. Rea said that he will check into it. It was discussed how we could sell more as a money and awareness raiser. A Swamp Friends booth for at least one evening at the Puxico Homecoming Celebration in the second week of August was proposed.

New Business

Credit Card Reader for the Bookstore: Mossman presented details on the feasibility and costs of acquiring a credit card reader for the bookstore. After discussion it was decided to table the proposal until more information is available for additional sources.

Staff Updates

Reported by Refuge Manager Ben Mense

Staffing: Mense reported that Park Ranger Peter Rea will be leaving Mingo for DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in a week. With a regional hiring freeze through July, the earliest to post the opening will be in August. This is a high priority position, but filling the position will probably take at least until January or February 2017. A total of nine staff positions are approved for the refuge, including administration, education and maintenance. With the departure of Rea there will be three vacancies to be filled. A second park ranger position is on the approved staffing list for the refuge, but the priority is much lower.

Spillway Replacement: Work should commence on the spillway in the next week or so, depending on rainfall and water levels in the ditches. This is a high priority project for which \$1 million has been allocated. It is expected that the spillway work, and the closure of the Ozark Highlands Route, will take at least two months.

Landscape Plant Care: Kudrna requested help to care for the native plant landscape plantings surrounding the Visitor Center. Some plantings are becoming overgrown, while other spaces are in need of planting. Beck said he would ask the Poplar Bluff Master Gardeners for assistance.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mingo Visitor Center.

Adjournment: Motion by Mossman, second by Beck to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Bruce Beck, Secretary
July 14, 2016