

MINGO SWAMP FRIENDS QUARTERLY MEETING
October 11, 2016

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

Amanda Mossman, President
 Leroy Romine, Vice President
 Bruce Beck, Secretary
 John Stanard, Member
 Corey Kudrna, Assistant Refuge Manager
 Mitchell Baalman, Mingo Intern
 Natalie Badolato-Larrin, Student Intern/Member

Presentation: “Moist Soil Management” by Mingo intern Mitchell Baalman. Excellent presentation on the process of moist soil management, including its history, its benefits to waterfowl and other organisms, and the various management practices.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm by President Amanda Mossman.

Minutes of the July 12 Annual Meeting were read by secretary Bruce Beck. Motion by Leroy Romine, second by John Stanard to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: In the absence of a treasurer, a partial report was presented by Beck. The incomplete report is as follows:

TREASURER’S REPORT - July 12 through October 1, 2016			
Balance July 12			\$15,380.59
	Deposits	Expenditures	Balance
Photo Contest – from 2015			\$385.15
Donation Box – October 1			\$142.00
Bookstore Activity			
Purchases			
Sales			
Friends Activity			
Memberships			
Peter Rea	\$40		
Bruce and Sharon Beck	\$25		
Leroy Romine	\$25		
John Karel	\$75		
Amanda Mossman	\$25		
John and Vida Stanard	\$40		
Ray and Betty Greenlee	\$40		
Nicole Breeden	\$25		
Mrs. Robert Wolpers	\$25		
Total	\$320.00		
Operations			
Postage stamps		\$30.08	
Computer and office supplies			

Pavestones			
Ray Greenlee - for Bob and Cathy Davis	\$50		
Raymond Dickerson - for Raymond Dickerson	\$50		
Dickerson	\$50		
Wilson - for Sharron E. Wilson	\$50		
Charles Greer - for Amanda Greer	\$200.00		
Total			
Activities Balance			
Bank Balance September 30, 2016			\$15,361.13

Beck will be working on completing this report as he works on the Refuge on Monday. He'll send an update to members as soon as he can.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Facebook and Website – Amanda reported that Facebook activity has been steady.

Bookstore – Natalie Badolato-Larrin reported that the committee of herself, Beck, and Mossman have compiled a list of items to order that align with current sales and add items of interest to Eagle Days attendees in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer - Motion by Beck, second by Romine that Sharon Beck be the treasurer. Motion passed. She will join Bruce Beck and Amanda Mossman on the bank account. Discussion suggested inviting an accounting student at Three Rivers College or SEMO University to help us use Quickbooks. The Friends could reimburse travel expenses, give a free Friend membership and provide a recommendation to the student.

Puxico Homecoming Booth – Kudrna and Badolato-Larrin reported that if the goal is to get new visitors to the Refuge and new Friends members, it might be more profitable for Friends rather than Mingo staff to participate at the Homecoming only one afternoon and evening, and for the Friends to reach out to communities that are not already so closely tied to the Refuge.

Photo Contest – Lengthy discussion of the process of running the contest. Beck and Stanard volunteered to bring suggestions to the next quarterly meeting. Discussion also of how and where to display the photos in order to promote the refuge, the Friends group, and participation in future photo contests. It was agreed that Beck, Kudrna, and James Graham could research and design a quality portable display system, then submit a cost estimate to the officers for vote of approval so that the display might be available to move to area libraries, banks, and schools by the beginning of 2017.

Credit Card Reader for the Bookstore – Discussion tabled again until more options and income/cost estimates are available.

Membership Promotion – Lengthy discussion of persons to target to join the Friends.

Newsletter – A monthly newsletter was agreed upon, to be done by Mossman and others.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership in the Greater Poplar Bluff Area Chamber of Commerce – Beck reported on the membership cost and the many benefits of membership. **Motion** by Beck, second by Stanard, that the Friends join the Greater Poplar Bluff Area Chamber of Commerce. Motion passed. Beck will take the

application to the Chamber. The officers will further discuss how to use the free advertising provided by joining.

Disabled Military Deer Hunt – Kudrna explained the event and the changes for this November's hunt. Stanard offered to pay the cost of the five hunting permits and wrote a check to the Friends for \$85. **Motion** by Beck, second by Badolato-Larrin, that the Friends reimburse the Refuge for additional expenditures up to \$200. Motion passed.

Participation in Ag Expo in Poplar Bluff, January 20-21, 2017 – Discussion on what and how to display at Ag Expo. Kudrna will be in charge of the display. Friends will volunteer at the booth. **Motion** by Stanard, second by Beck, to pay the booth fee. Motion passed. Beck will fill out the application with the Butler County University Extension Council.

Public Events on the Refuge this Fall – Kudrna said that the Refuge managers will wait on the arrival of the new ranger in January to begin public events on the Refuge. If the Friends want an activity to promote Friends membership, the activities should be off the Refuge.

Eagle Days, February 3-4, 2017 – Kudrna reported on the preparations for Eagle Days. The group discussed how Friends might participate. More of the plans and needs will be known by the January Friends quarterly meeting. Financial support of Eagle Days will be decided then. Meanwhile, the Friends will order sale merchandise suitable for Eagle Days. It was agreed that sales will be done at the Bookstore, with merchandise displayed possibly at the maintenance shop where the presentations will be held.

Educational Presentations at the Friends Quarterly Meetings – Beck and Kudrna agreed to plan and advertise educational presentations that might draw new persons to the business meetings.

STAFF REPORT

Assistant Refuge Manager Kudrna updated the Friends on the following:

Spillway Construction – Unanticipated difficulty in demolishing the old spillway structure and sand boils are delaying construction. Construction of the new spillway and reopening of the Ozark Highlands Road will likely be delayed quite a long time.

Youth Deer Hunt at Mingo will be November 5-6. The staff would like volunteers to help and to take photos.

Managed Deer Hunt will be December 3-4. Kudrna hopes to recruit college students to assist.

NEXT MEETING – January 10, 2017, at the Mingo Visitor Center at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn by Beck, second by Romine. Motion passed. Adjourned at 9:09 pm

*Bruce Beck, Secretary
October 12, 2016*