

**Mingo Swamp Friends Quarterly Meeting**  
**April 9, 2019**

**Present:** Amanda Mossman, President; Leroy Romine, Vice President; Bruce Beck, Secretary; Herman Wilfong, member; Steven Shelton, member; Debbie Koenigs, Refuge Ranger

**Call to Order:** President Amanda Mossman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., in the Mingo NWR Visitor Center.

**Minutes:** No quarterly meeting was held in January due to the partial government shutdown. An update report on refuge activities and issues was sent to members via email. Minutes of the October 10, 2018 Quarterly Meeting were read by secretary Bruce Beck. Approved as read.

**Financial report:** A summary of the income and expenses of the last quarter of 2018 and first quarter of 2019 was given by Beck. The printed report is attached.

**Committee Reports**

**Facebook and Website Report** by Amanda Mossman.

**Bookstore Report** by Amanda Mossman.

**Photo Contest Report** by Bruce Beck.

2018				2019				
Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Mingo Visitor Center	Cape Girardeau MDC Conservation Nature Center	Sikeston Depot Museum	Dexter Public Library	Poplar Bluff Public Library	Commerce Bank, Poplar Bluff	Puxico Public Library	Powder Valley MDC Conservation Nature Center	<i>Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting</i>

**Pavestones Report** by Debbie Koenigs. The pavestones setting has been improved, and all pavestones have been placed.

**Old Business**

There was no Mingo booth at Ag Expo due to the partial government shutdown. No old business was pending.

**New Business**

**Membership Payments**

March 1 Family memberships for Regina Hink, Advance, and Brandi Juden, Dexter

April 9 Individual memberships for Steve Shelton, Jackson, and Herman Wilfong, Wappapello.

Discussion affirmed that membership dues extend until the next annual meeting in July.

**Bookstore Liability Insurance**

**Motion** by Wilfong, second by Shelton to renew liability insurance of \$170 for the bookstore. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Pavestones**

**Motion** by Shelton, second by Beck to buy a pavestone at \$18 in memory of former refuge manager John Toll. Motion passed. Steven Shelton and Steve Sutter will propose the wording on the pavestone.

## **Mingo Swamp Friends Flora and Fauna Photo Contest**

**Motion** by Beck, second by Shelton (1) that there will be no limit on the number of entries per person, and (2) no entry fee will be charged to youth. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Staff Reports** presented by Ranger Debbie Koenigs

### **Refuge manager Ben Mense's report:**

- The staff is working without a current budget from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Spending assumes budget cut of 11 percent from the last fiscal year, October through September. A new budget is expected in May.
- A Management Pathways position is not expected for Mingo this year.
- A USFWS North Central Region biological technician position is being advertised for now. The position will emphasize feral hog trapping.
- To assist Debbie, a part-time ranger is being sought in place of a Student Conservation Associate (SCA) intern.
- Feral hog trapping is the major focus of refuge activity this year. More than 500 hogs have been trapped in this quarter, surpassing last year's total. Herman Wilfong reported on the actions of the feral hog control committee.
- The east side of the swamp boardwalk replacement has been completed.
- Roofing shakes have been acquired for Sweet's cabin. It has yet to be determined how and who will complete the roofing work.
- John Hagedorn is working on maintenance of the Visitor Center and surrounding grounds.

### **Ranger Debbie Koenigs's report:**

- School field trip season is in full swing and may continue into summer school season.
- Sarah Bradshaw, Missouri Department of Conservation Education Consultant, has been holding teacher training sessions at Mingo.
- Gina Scott and another individual have volunteered at the Visitor Center desk and with clean-up around and in the Visitor Center.
- Debbie will try to schedule photography workshops before the coming Swamp Friends Photo Contest.
- The Mingo NWR Facebook page has been unpublished due to a current refuge system initiative. The refuge plans to partner with the Swamp Friends page to post news. The regional Facebook page remains active.

**Next Meeting:** The annual meeting will be Tuesday evening July 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mingo NWR Visitor Center.

**Motion to adjourn:** Motion by Beck. Second by Shelton. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.