

Mingo Swamp Friends Annual Meeting

July 9, 2019

Present: Amanda Mossman, President; Leroy Romine, Vice President; Bruce Beck, Secretary; June Romine, guest; Herman Wilfong, member; Stephen Sutter, member; Ben Mense, Refuge Manager; Debbie Koenigs, Visitor Services Refuge Ranger

Call to Order: President Amanda Mossman called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

Financial Report: Bruce Beck presented the second quarter report for treasurer Sharon Beck. The report was declared approved as printed by President Mossman.

Committee Reports

Facebook and Website by President Mossman.

Bookstore Report by President Mossman. Suggestions for new items include additional t-shirt designs and colors, decals, and water bottles/travel mugs.

Photo Contest Report by Bruce Beck. There will be no fee for youth entries. Prospective judges include Ben Mense, Brad Pendley, John Stanard, and Steve Whitworth. Debbie Koenigs will contact Steve Whitworth. There was discussion concerning getting information out to teachers before the end of the school year.

Pavestone Report

Membership: Reminder that annual dues are payable at the July meeting and are effective until the next year's July meeting. Renewing members are Amanda Mossman, Leroy Romine, Bruce Beck, Herman Wilfong, and Stephen Sutter.

Old Business

There was continued discussion on how to better spend the accumulated funds in the checking account. It was proposed that a budget be created. President Mossman will present one at the next meeting. Members asked about the addition of an observation tower at the end of the boardwalk. Herman Wilfong asked about spending money on hog hunting.

New Business

Annual nomination and election of officers:

President: Amanda Mossman

Vice President: Leroy Romine

Treasurer: Bruce Beck

Secretary: Stephen Sutter

Stephen Sutter agreed to be the acting secretary for now. The position will be open to others at future meetings.

Staff Reports

Refuge Manager Ben Mense:

- Report given on feral hog control. Ben Lambert works traps on Mingo NWR, Duck Creek Conservation Area, and surrounding private land. 1,064 hogs have been trapped so far this year, 813 on Mingo NWR (450 last year). There was an aerial flight earlier in the year that yielded 127 hogs during a 5-6 hour span.
- It has been a wet year so far. Soybeans have been planted in the uplands. Only about half of the crop is in the lower areas. Three fields have sunflowers planted. Staff have been mowing and disking.
- Two maintenance workers have been completing construction on Sweets Cabin. Shakes are being replaced now and should finish within a week.
- The budget for October 1-September 30, 2019 was received in June.
- Hope to add a biotech to help Ben Lambert and Brad Pendley.

Refuge Ranger Debbie Koenigs:

- There have been summer school field trips and presentations at the Poplar Bluff Municipal Library.
- No intern to help Debbie. Volunteers have been sporadic. Sometimes the bookstore gate has been closed. Tom Allen, a retired teacher from Poplar Bluff, has been helpful and hopes to do programs.
- There may be a bat program on September 29.
- Debbie will share a list of books with Amanda for purchase as previously approved.
- Consider adding bird seed to the budget. Herman Wilfong made a motion to approve up to \$250 for immediate use. Stephen Sutter seconded. The motion passed.
- Future consideration: National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant (handicap)
- Blind donated by MO Disabled Sportsman group for the Flat Banks area. (William Hall???)

Next meeting: October 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mingo NWR visitor center

Motion to adjourn: Herman Wilfong made a motion to adjourn. Second by Stephen Sutter. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.