

Minutes of the Mingo Swamp Friends Annual Meeting

October 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President Sharon Tuschhoff called to order the Annual Meeting of Mingo Swamp Friends at 6:25 pm in the multipurpose room of the Visitors Center.

ATTENDANCE

Twelve members and two Mingo Refuge staff were present:

Friends Members:

Bruce Beck, secretary

Gary Beacham, treasurer

Nicole Breeden

Betty J. Greenlee

Ray Greenlee

Rebecca Moore

Amanda Mossman

Jackie Ratliff

Leroy Romine

Susan Spargo

Sharon Tuschhoff, president

Brad Watkins, vice president

Refuge Staff:

Ben Mense, Refuge Manager

Peter Rea, Visitors Services Park Ranger

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the July 29, 2014 Annual Meeting were read by secretary Beck. **Motion** by Brad Watkins, second by Gary Beacham to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beacham reported a balance in the checking account of \$11,970.09 as of October 1.

BEGINNING BALANCE July 1, 2014	\$10,337.79
DEPOSITS	
Book Store sales	1697.85
Memberships plus one pavestone	180.80
Total Deposits	1773.83
EXPENSES	
Total Expenses	285.55
BALANCE October 1, 2014	\$11,970.09

- The balance total included \$382.15 that is still in the Photo Contest account at the bank.
- There is an additional sum of about \$1,500.00 in Bookstore receipts for the past three months that is not yet counted.

Motion by Watkins, second by Leroy Romine to accept the report as given. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Bookstore Discussion

There was lengthy discussion concerning the pricing of bookstore sale items and the profit margin. Beck said that he would review sale items and their prices with the other Bookstore Committee members, Gretchen Pendley and Regina Mense, and with Peter Rea.

Peter Rea said that Friends member and refuge volunteer Nicole Breeden would soon begin entering data into the QuickBooks program on the Friends' laptop so that we will have a running account of expenditures and income for the Bookstore.

Pavestones

Ben Mense reported that the walk below the Visitors Center by the overlook is now being prepared for the pavestones. Brad Watkins said that he would try to take time to come the Visitors Center to help with the installation. Beacham reported that there are now 19 pavestones ordered and all should be available now. He will see about paying for them and picking them up.

Food Plot Seed

Beacham went to Stoddard County Seed Company seeking seed for planting food plots on the refuge. The manager Gene Rowland donated 66 bushels of seed. He would not take the \$300 that The Friends had approved in July for seed payment, In turn, Gary wrote a tax receipt of \$700.00 for Stoddard County Seed.

Motion by Beacham, second by Watkins that a lifetime membership be given to Mr. Rowland. Motion passed. Beck offered to order an engraved plaque for Stoddard County Seed Company or Mr. Rowland.

Pavestones for Lifetime Members

Motion by Watkins, second by Leroy Romine that the Friends order and pay for a pavestone for each lifetime member after first contacting those individuals to learn whether they want a pavestone in recognition of their lifetime membership. Motion passed.

Lifetime members recalled are Jerrod Smith, Randy Woods, Danny Frost (deceased), Virgeal Harp. The officers need to confirm the names of all the lifetime members.

Every Day Building Grant

Sharon reported that a \$2,000 grant was given to Mingo Swamp Friends. The grant money is to be spent on the following activities:

- Four GPS units for orienteering \$\$550
- Three digital cameras for photography teaching \$\$450
- Family Fishing Day \$475
- Eagle Days \$500

The amounts spent on each activity may be modified, without a change in the total amount granted. The money must be spent by the end of October, 2015. A report on the activities must be submitted in November, 2015.

Eagle Days

Motion by Watkins, second by Romine that the Friends give the Refuge \$500 for Eagle Days expenses. This is in addition to the \$500 budgeted from the Everyday Building Grant. Motion passed.

Mingo Swamp Friends Polo Shirts

Tuschoff handed out the shirts ordered through her.

Mingo Swamp Friends Banner

Motion by Beck, second by Jackie Ratliff that Rebecca Moore take bids on a 30' x 6' banner with the Mingo Swamp Friends logo. Rebecca and Tuschhoff are authorized to place the order. Motion passed.

Conservation Fund Tree Planting Audit

Ben Mense reported that an audit of the results of the tree planting done on the refuge five years ago will be done at the Refuge in February. He invited Friends members to participate with their observations. Watkins, Beck and Tuschhoff have agreed to participate. Mense will contact Tuschhoff when the date is set, so that she can invite other members.

STAFF REPORTS

Ranger Peter Rea:

Hunting on the Refuge

The archery deer season has gone well on the refuge.

Swamp Fest Planning

The Swamp Fest in recognition of 50 years of the Wilderness Act will be on October 25. Fliers and news releases have been prepared. Activities of the day include:

- **10:00 am: Wonderful Waterfowl** is an activity for the children, including coloring and the Migratory Bird game.
- **10:00 am and Noon: Tours of the Visitor Center** led by a refuge employee, including a highlight of the features making the building environmentally friendly.
- **11:00 am and Noon: Guided Swampwalk Nature Trail Hike** led by refuge staff or volunteer.
- **11:00 am to 1:00 pm: Visitor Center Activities** including button-making, the Migratory Bird game and nature mosaic artwork.
- **11:00 am to 1:00 pm:** Cake and punch will be served in the multipurpose room.
- **1:00 pm: Wilderness Presentation** – explains the 1964 Wilderness Act, how Wilderness is designated, and Wilderness areas across the country.

Volunteers are needed.

Motion by Beck, second by Watkins that the Friends pay for the sheet cake, punch, cups, plates, plastic utensils and napkins. Motion passed.

Youth Deer Hunt

The youth deer hunt on the refuge will be November 1-2. Volunteers are needed. Beacham volunteered to help.

HOOHA Hunt

The HOOHA (Healing Outside of the Hospital) Hunt for disabled service members will be November 4-5. Motion by Beacham, second by Watkins that the Friends donate \$200 for deer tags and food for the four service members. Motion passed.

Managed Deer Hunt – December 6-7 and 13-14

This year's managed deer hunt will give hunters selected in last year's weather-cancelled hunt opportunity to participate. Volunteers are needed to help at the check-in.

Wilderness Waterways Clearing

A team of volunteers will be on the refuge October 20-24 to clear Mingo River, sloughs and ditches using only hand tools.

Volunteer Time Sheets

Volunteers are asked to submit their time sheets to Peter as soon as possible.

Manager Ben Mense:

Cooperative Agreement between USFS and Mingo Swamp Friends

The Friends are asked to read and agree to a cooperation agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and Mingo Swamp Friends by October 25. Ben will e-mail the document to the officer to read and for Sharon to sign.

Hunting and Photo Blinds

Waiting on cooler weather, repair work will be done in October and November.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mingo Swamp Friends will be **Tuesday evening, January 13, at 6:30 pm** in the Visitor Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Beacham, second by Watkins. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Bruce Beck, Secretary