

Friends of the Refuge Headwaters
Meeting Minutes
102 Walnut St., Suite 205
Thursday, October 26, 2023, 4:15 pm

Participating

Members: Wendy Schneider, Bruce Nicklay, Bart Theiler, Meg Hurkman, Steve Norman, Heidi Bryant, Sue O'Brien, JoAnn Smerage

Visitor: None

Refuge Staff: Stephanie Edeler

Meeting called to order at 4:20 pm by President Wendy Schneider.

Minutes: Bart made a motion to approve the September minutes. Heidi gave a second to the motion and the minutes were approved.

Reports

- **Treasurer's Report** (Meg Hurkman)
 - Checking Acct. Previous Total Balance = \$4,213.02
 - Deposits = \$70.00
 - Expenditures = \$0.00
 - Tree Planting account = (\$3,658.00) sub account within the checking account
 - Checking Acct. New Total Balance = \$4,283.02
 - Money Market Previous Balance = \$65,203.37
 - Deposit (Dividend) = \$116.73
 - Money Market New Balance = \$65,320.10
 - Altra Regular Savings = \$5.00
 - Grand Total = \$69,608.12
 - Pay Pal Account Balance = \$385.24
 - Bart made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Steve gave a second and the motion passed.

- **President's Report** (Wendy Schneider)
 - On November 24th, the Minnesota DNR is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas.
 - Position of Co-President, looking for someone to fill this position, January through April, while Wendy is in Arizona - Sue O'Brien has agreed to act as Co-President for January – April, although she may possibly be gone in April. Steve Norman has agreed to act as Co-President in April if Sue is gone.
 - The Minnesota DNR, through the Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program (BOW), offers Women to Hunt workshops. Visit the BOW Website for more information.

- **Refuge Manager's Report** (Stephanie Edeler)

- A big Thank You to everyone who helped with the Prairie Island Dike Road trash pick-up on October 23rd. A positive note: there was not as much trash this year.
- Big Lake – Public Open House on November 8th, 2023, 6-8 pm at Wabash-Kellogg High School.
- Robinson Lake – Meeting on November 1st, 2023, with partners to share ideas on desired features.
- The Draft EIS is out for the Wabasha Barge Fleeting Project. Comments due by November 9th.
- It is the end of the season for the Bio-Techs – Hannah's last day was October 20th and Abbi's last day is November 3rd.

- **Complete Business** (Stephanie Edeler)

- Canoe/Kayak Paddle scheduled for October 12th was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.
- Bike/Hike at Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge took place on October 19th. Some of the wildlife that was seen; frogs, turtles, pelicans, waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes.

Continuing Business (Stephanie Edeler)

- Preparations for the Refuge's 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2024 – The cake prop for the float in the Steamboat Day Parade, is all ready.
- Centennial Photo Contest's deadline is October 27th.
- Swam Watch Bus Tour, scheduled for November 18th, has been cancelled as there is not enough time to coordinate. A self-guided tour is available on the website.
- Plans for Bev Spande dedication – spotting scope for the new Observation Deck – plans are in process.
- Jazz Jam Fundraiser for FORH, possible in January or February. The Jam happens on the third Sunday of each month from 2:30 – 5:30 pm. Possibility of Puddles the Blue Goose making an appearance to promote the Refuge's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

New Business (Stephanie Edeler)

- Kid's Ice Fishing Event – January or February, date tbd.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p. m.

Date for next meeting: Thursday, January 25, 2024 (No November or December meetings due to the holidays).