

**Friends of the Refuge Headwaters**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**102 Walnut St., Suite 205**  
**Thursday, February 22, 2024, 4:30 pm**

**Participating**

Members: Sue O'Brien, Bart Theiler, Meg Hurkman, Steve Norman, John Lyons, Heidi Bryant

(on conference line) Members: Wendy Schneider

Visitor: None

Refuge Staff: Wendy Woyczik, Stephanie Edeler

**Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm by Co-President Sue O'Brien.**

**Introductions:** Wendy Woyczik introduced herself to the group as the acting manager for Winona District.

**Minutes:** John made a motion to approve the January minutes. Steve gave a second to the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Reports**

- **Treasurer's Report** (Meg Hurkman)

- Checking Acct. Previous Total Balance = \$4,283.02
- Deposits = \$40.00
- Expenditures = \$1,356.38
- Tree Planting account = (\$3,658.00) sub account within the checking account
- Checking Acct. New Total Balance = \$2,966.64
- Money Market Previous Balance = \$65,320.10
- Deposit (Dividend) = \$359.27
- Money Market New Balance = \$65,679.37
- Altra Regular Savings = \$5.00
- Grand Total = \$68,651.01
- Pay Pal Account Balance = \$135.02
- Wendy S. wants to thank PayPal new members. She will look at the email on the website to see who the new members are.
- Renewals will be done in June and Wendy S. will send a note of what the Friends did this last year and mention more information on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Wendy S. to check emails for IRS approval.
- John made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Steve gave a second and the motion passed.

- **President's Report** (Sue O'Brien)

- Nothing to report.

- **Refuge Manager's Report** (Wendy Woyczik)
  - Weaver Overlook – Agreement is going thru the signing process between DOT and USFWS. It has also been assigned an engineer. It will be a smaller version of Brownsville Overlook. It is located in between the driveway and the culvert across from the cemetery. Print outs and a map will be made for the next meeting.
  - Seasonal Biology technicians are in the process of being hired.
  - Fishing Platform off of McNally landing has rotten boards. Friends agreed to pay for the boards/materials at \$440 and Bob Costa will do the labor. Bart made the motion to pay for the materials and Sue seconded the motion.
  - Minnesota Conservation Corp will do a spring clean-up of docks/stairs/debris on refuge property. In 2018 the Friends group donated \$2500 to this cause. This year the refuge proposes to pay for \$2500 and the Friends group would pay up to \$2500 as well to total \$5000 for four days of clean-up. Steve motioned that the Friends pay up to \$2500 to remove these structures on refuge property. John seconded that motion. All approved.
  - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary stickers and brochures are available at the FWS office.
  
- **Completed Business** (Stephanie Edeler)
  - Annual Kids Ice Fishing Event went well. We had 17 families participate and the weather was wonderful. The ice was a little slick near the boat dock, but the rest of it was alright.
  - Display of the Centennial Photo Contest Winners – The display had 44 votes while at the Frozen River Film Festival and seemed to have engagement with the college students on campus. It is now in Savanna, IL and will be back to Winona the end of February.
  
- **Continuing Business** (Stephanie Edeler)
  - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events/Activities in Winona –
    - Refuge Float for Steamboat Days Parade, June 16, 2024. The meeting in April or possibly part of the meeting in March will talk about the float construction. Bart and John will go to the Winona Shop to measure the float. Stephanie will print out large Centennial Duck logos to get the ideas started. The pontoon will need to be cleaned several times before the parade due to the flour from next door.
  - Centennial Film Festival June 7-8. Barry Drazkowski will come to the meeting in March to discuss plans for this event and we will work to incorporate a canoe program and staffing a booth.
  - UpperMiss100.com website has many resources about the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and includes a link to the FORH website.
  - Next Meeting is going to be moved to a different date due to the refuge staff being gone. Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> will be the next meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p. m.

**Date for next meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2024**