

November 18, 2009

Friends of the Refuge Headwaters

Minutes

7:05 pm started meeting

Bev Spande, Judy Inman, Eric Nelson, Paul Heimowitz (3<sup>rd</sup> day on the job in Winona), Len Cross, Cortney White, Mary Stefanski absent

1. Bev made presentation to Friends of Birds Club
2. Recommended Christmas gifts of membership to Friends of the Refuge (or just a donation)
3. Cortney working on a newsletter
4. Cortney assembled and printed a list of our membership
5. Cortney reported that the 501-C-3 application is completed except for the Treasurer's financial
6. Swan Watch report: 40 attended. Dave Palmquist, naturalist at Whitewater State Park and Ed Lagace, Winona District park ranger traveled with the group. Approx 12,000 swans also were in attendance. Paul reported about a group that will be holding a Trumpeter Swan Watch upcoming and we might contact them with our Friends group events toward mutual support, attendance, etc.
7. Eric reported about 2000 birds each week at Big Lake. On the Total Upper Mississippi Refuge, 781,000 ducks, swans, geese one week ago still on the Refuge. At Brownsville, on highway 26 is the best viewing platform. Winona pool: 6,000 birds. In Pool 7, Lake Onalaska reported 473 Bald Eagles.
8. Cortney reported on progress of a Grant Application: need activities that we would like to have funded. (1) fishing line project; (2) children-in-action project to clean up river bank; (3) fishing day for children; and (4) photography contest for children. Judy suggested a nature walk. Paul suggested geocaching event.
9. Next meeting will be Jan 13<sup>th</sup>.
10. Eric suggested we might meet with the Isaac Walton League in the next month or two in an effort toward mutual support.
11. Cortney distributed copies of the National Friends newsletter. Also we viewed a copy of the Big River magazine, 800-303-8201, Reggie McLeod, or editors@BigRiverMagazine.com with thoughts of placing an ad for our Friends group or activities.
12. Paul mentioned a proposal regarding Aghaming Park Committee and City of Winona and Fish and Wildlife Service partnership and the possibility of our Friends group supporting the proposal of Aghaming property jurisdiction moving from the City to the Refuge.

Meeting adjourned 8:04pm

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Ornes

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