

Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The District Board held twelve regular meetings, two Long Range Plan Workshops and a Local Working Group meeting in the year 2010. The District was represented at the annual meetings of the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Association of Florida Conservation Districts, the Florida Conservation District Employees Association and the Florida Lake Management Society. Jennifer Abbey, Soil Conservationist was promoted to District Conservationist for the Plant City Field Office.

Our Annual Report for 2010 reflects the following accomplishments:

Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs:

Summary of Obligations and Paid contracts items for Farm Bill Programs at end of FY-2010.

EQIP_FY	No. contracts Active/Completed	Obligation	Payment	FY 2010 % Completed
2005	2/6	\$ 780,625.30	\$ 718,823.30	92.08%
2006	5/5	\$ 883,579.45	\$ 647,008.18	73.26%
2007	10/3	\$ 728,786.35	\$ 365,179.35	50.11%
2008	12/0	\$ 1,334,551.12	\$ 659,504.12	49.42%
2009	1/0	\$ 242,334.00	\$ -	-
2010	5/0	\$ 677,253.00	\$ -	-
WHIP_FY				
2008	1/0	\$ 34,868.00	\$ 7,515.00	21.55%
2009	1/0	\$ 12,397.13	\$ 5,617.13	45.31%
CSP_FY				
2010	2/0	\$ 61,299.00	\$ -	-
AWEP_FY				
2009	1/0	\$ 19,347.00	\$ -	-
Total	40/14	\$ 4,775,040.35	\$ 2,403,647.08	50.34%

The District administered contracts for FDACS, WWF, FHREDI and SFWMD.

A total of \$1,891,001.32 was paid to producers to develop Best Management Practices to comply with water quality regulations set by the DEP.

The District encumbered \$10,000 for the Lake Clay Restoration Project.

The District sponsored two teams at the Southwest Florida Gulf Coast Regional Envirothon in December and the winning team, from Avon Park participated at the state level in April. At the April board meeting, twelve young people competed in the 2010 District Speaking Contest. This year's topic was "What is One of the Many Land Uses in Florida"? First-place contestant,

Megan Stein was presented a cash prize of \$150.00; the \$100.00 prize went to second-place contestant, Laine Daum and \$50.00 to third-place contestant, Alexis Merlo. In May South Dade SWCD hosted the Area VI Speaking Contest; the contestant from the Okeechobee SWCD represented the Area placed second at the State Contest.

The District received four educational grants:

- SWFWMD – The Day at the Lake grant for \$3,760.80.
- SWFWMD - Mobil Irrigation Lab Grant for \$20,000.00.
- FLEPCC – Tame Your Wildside – Air Potato Grant - \$1,000.00
- TDC – MRRP – Fishing Line Recycling Program - \$500.00

Highlands SWCD participated in and/or funded the following events:

- 4H's Commissioners Breakfast
- Ag in the Classroom Literacy Day
- Ag Venture
- Air Potato Workshops and Exchange Day
- Area VI meeting
- Avon Park Bombing Range Levee Field Trip
- Career Academy
- CCC Festival at Highlands Hammock State Park
- County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship Recognition Dinner
- Diversity Day
- Earth Day at Highlands Hammock State Park
- Envirothon, regional and state competitions
- Florida Lake Management Society Symposium
- Forum on Expanding the US Biofuels Market
- Great American Teach In
- Heartland Christian School Science Fair, regional and international
- Lake Clean-ups
- Lake Watch Picnic
- Lake Placid Middle School Career Day
- Mobile Irrigation Lab evaluations
- Pollinator Workshop
- Splash Grant assistance to Sebring High School
- Volunteer Proclamation to the Board of County Commissioners

HSWCD articles published in the following news venues:

- FOCUS
- Highlands Today
- In the Field
- News Sun
- NRCS This Week
- Volunteer Voice
- Wildland Weeds

The District reached 51,000 citizens throughout the year.

Continuing activities:

- Published “News from the Watershed” weekly in the local paper
- Quarterly newsletter published and distributed to over 350 entities
- Continue to update website
- Continued classroom presentations as requested by county teachers
- Continued environmental presentations for Rotary, governmental agencies and clubs
- Utilizing Earth Team volunteers
- MRRP – Fishing line recycling program
- Perennial Peanut Patch, Composter Display and vermiculture