

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
March 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Interim Chair Wayne Zahn at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2008 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: Charlie Filler, Gregg Hartt, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

Supervisors absent: John Causey

Staff present: Jennifer Abbey, Soil Conservationist
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager
Erin McCarta, Lakes Manager Assistant

Guests: Joe Campbell, Mark Clifford, Linda Crane, June Fisher, Scott Kuipers,
Danny Kushmer, Paul Orth, Michelle Thatcher and Turner Wallis

This is the Financial Statement for February 25, 2008

DEPOSIT:

No deposits were made.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1316 for \$80.00 to Comcast for internet service.

Check 1317 for \$500.00 to Avon Park High School Envirothon Team for the state competition.

Check 1318 for \$80.00 to Comcast for internet service.

HSWCD balances as of February 25, 2008

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 7,421.77
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 2,000.00

HSWCD Money Market Account

Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$326,551.88
Two deposit were made	17,883.75
Interest earned	1,055.99
Check # 98 to Total Site Solutions for Lake Jackson project	<u>1,500.00</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$343,991.62

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$319,351.73
Interest	<u>1,030.86</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$320,382.59
Balance as of February 25, 2008 (Regular Checking)	\$528.62

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$266,195.63
Interest	<u>857.79</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$267,053.42

FHREDI Contract

Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$ 0.00
Two deposits and Checks 97-98 written	<u>10,498.74</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$ 0.00

MiniFARMS Contract #012056

Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$ 0.00
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Ag Stormwater Systems #12941

Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$ 6,035.68
Two deposits from State of Florida	710,753.44
Checks 514-519	<u>442,113.36</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$274,675.76

BMP Contract #12942

Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$ 10,820.24
Adjustment made	<u>0.14</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$10,820.58

Concentrated Feed Operations #12943

Balance as of February 25, 2008	\$ 127,353.41
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Minutes of February 5, 2008 were approved as written.

June Fisher was introduced to the Board. She has accepted the position of Division Director of Community Services with Highlands County. She was the County Administrator in Citrus County before coming home to Highlands County.

Tuner Wallis from Osceola County is seeking appointment to the Governing Board of South Florida Water Management District. He wants to safeguard the interest of the citrus and cattle trades in the six county area of the water management district.

Michelle Thatcher, Executive Director of the Association of Florida Conservation Districts showed a PowerPoint Presentation about the importance of SWCD's in Florida and around the Country. The presentation contained the history of SWCD's, information on the rules and regulations we must follow as Supervisors and staff members and the importance of establishing partnerships with other local government entities. She also highlighted many of Highlands SWCD accomplishments.

A draft copy of the Long Range Plan was in the meeting packet. Corine's PowerPoint presentation showed the changes that have been made to the plan. The objectives and goals reflect more involvement with the county government departments; to be more active with planning changes. A view of lakes management shifts from individual water bodies to the protections of the entire watershed. Staff would like guidance from the Supervisors on the goals and objectives of the District.

NCT Group will be at our next meeting to discuss the audit. The Audit General's Office has completed their audit. Jackie was unable to find the agreement letter for the 2005 audit. NCT Group was asked to look for their copy; they stated it had been archived. Audit General's office

wanted the document immediately. The Board requested that NCT Group continue to look for the document.

Staff members are still researching costs, styles and quality of shirts to be purchased; tabled until the next meeting.

The Avon Park Envirothon team will represent Highlands at the state competition. Our booth at the County Fair showcased the backyard composter. The district Speech Contest will be next month and the Area contest will be May 6th. We will participate in Earth Day on April 26 in Lake Placid. We will demonstrate the low flow Showerhead display. Gregg Hartt made a motion that the requested educational activities materials be purchased at a cost of \$162.90 for the Earth Day event. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Linda Crane wants to help the landowners in Highlands County get their Water Use Permit applications and renewals to South Florida Water Management District on/or before June 30, 2008 to avoid fines. She hopes to have a meeting and get news coverage so that the landowners are notified.

Lake Manager Assistant Report –Erin gave an overview of the progress of the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration project. She also included the budget for the project. Erin and Corine continue to help Sebring High School with the Splash Grant to design a pond and wetlands. Water samples for bacteria were collected at Veteran’s Beach; which has been closed since December because of high coliform bacteria levels.

District Conservationist Report – There are a total of 12 EQIP conservation plans approved this year, and two others waiting to be approved. Highlands County has been awarded 1.5 million dollars for EQIP this year. Nine people were served through conservation planning five people were served through conservation application and thirteen people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine informed the Board that HSWCD was awarded \$4,988.00 from SWFWMD for the Low Flow Showerhead Grant. SWFWMD will reimburse the District for funds expended. Corine will kick the grant off at the Highlands County Home Association Meeting on March 10th. Attached to Corine’s report was a budget for the upcoming Composter Workshop. Corine is requesting funds to buy materials needed and money to provide a luncheon and gift to thank our volunteers for all the hours they have spent making composters. Composter kits will be sold at the workshop which will cover the all expenses. Ida Jackson made a motion that \$2,500 be allotted to be used for the composting workshop and luncheon for the volunteers. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lake Manager’s Report – Clell stated that many of the lakes are at record low levels. Clell and Erin continue helping Park Elementary with a Splash Grant to educate students about water quality in Highlands County Lakes. Office staff has reviewed more Planning and Zoning documents. As President of the Florida Lakes Management Society Clell has a special invitation to participate at the upcoming 21st Annual National Lakes Conference in Chicago to represent

the State of Florida. Because of budget restraints Clell cannot get funding from the County. Ida Jackson made a motion that HSWCD pay \$300 towards Clell's expenses to attend the conference, noting it would be an honor for Clell to represent the state. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ida Jackson informed the Board that she would be participating in workshops at Highlands County Government Day in Tallahassee.

The next board meeting was set for April 8, 2008 in Conference Room #3 at 2p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman