

**HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Secretary/Treasurer Ida Jackson at 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, August 5, 2008 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

**Supervisors present:** John Causey, Gregg Hartt, Ida Jackson and Jimmy Wohl

**Supervisors absent:** Wayne Zahn

**Staff present:** Carlos Torres, District Conservationist  
Jennifer Abbey, Soil Conservationist  
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant

**Guests:** Linda Crane and Mark Clifford

The Agenda was amended to add discussion to appoint a new member to the Board and the Minutes of July 1, 2008 were approved as written.

Jimmy Wohl was introduced to the Board. He has filed with the Election Office and will fill the seat vacated by Charlie Filler as of January 1, 2009. Gregg Hartt made a motion to appoint Jimmy Wohl to Seat #5 until the expiration of the term. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. John Causey requested Charlie Filler be reminded to fill out the Financial Disclosure form and send it to Tallahassee to avoid penalties.

This is the Financial Report for July 28, 2008

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made totaling \$2,378.20. \$1,588.30 was admin fees, 190.00 was sales of composter kits, \$49.90 was interest from CDs and \$550.00 was from sales of bid packages for the Avon Park Air Force Range Contract.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1346 for \$80.00 to Comcast for internet service.  
Check 1347 for \$332.00 to Old Republic Surety Group for Bond Insurance.  
Check 1348 for \$640.00 to Yainni's Restaurant for Charlie's recognition dinner.  
Check 1349 for \$500.00 to Ag Venture as a donation.  
Check 1350 for \$1,000 to Highlands County 4-H Foundation as a donation.  
Check 1351 for \$179.00 to Department of Revenue for quarterly taxes.  
\*Check 1341 was adjusted by \$0.80.

HSWCD balances as of July 28, 2008

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 5,343.48
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 June 23, 2008	\$373,817.08
Interest	<u>865.58</u>
Balance as of July 28, 2008	\$374,682.66

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of June 23, 2008	\$323,534.91
Interest	<u>757.18</u>

Balance as of July 28, 2008	\$324,292.09
Balance as of July 28, 2008 (Regular Checking)	\$528.62
<u>Avon Park Air Force Range Grant</u>	
Balance as of June 23, 2008	\$269,681.46
Interest	631.15
Balance as of July 28, 2008	\$270,312.16
<u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Balance as of June 23, 2008	\$ 0.00
Two depts – State of FL	9,398.13
Check 102 to FHREDI	4,480.55
Balance as a of July 28, 2008	\$4,917.58
<u>MiniFARMS Contract #012056</u>	
Balance as of July 28, 2008	\$ 0.00
<u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of July 28, 2008	21.55
<u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Balance as of June 23, 2008	\$ 3.09
Dep – State of FL	33,359.90
Checks #659 -666	33,354.24
Balance as of July 28, 2008	8.75
<u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as of May 27, 2008	\$ 127,353.41
Checks 98 through 100, plus Check 700	127,325.63
Balance as of June 23, 2008	27.78

Jackie included the Composting Workshop totals with the Financial Statement.

Jackie presented an engagement letter from Wicks, Brown and Williams to perform bookkeeping services. Jackie explained during the audit we were sited for material errors. Wicks, Brown and Williams was not able to give an exact quote because they were not able to determine how many hours would be needed to set up the books to be audit friendly. Discussion included contacting Okeechobee SWCD and check how they do bookkeeping. Asking NCT Group to assist us with “know how” to avoid material errors. The engagement letter was not signed.

John Causey made a motion to bestow Charlie Filler with the Honorary Title of Supervisor Emeritus. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed and made changes to the Watershed and Natural Resources Protection, Objective 2 Section of the Long Range Plan. The section will be updated accordingly.

The 4H Foundation and HSWCD co-hosted, “It’s a Green Thing”, a week long summer camp attended by over thirty children. There were a variety of wholesome activities to keep the kids busy. They visited Highlands Hammock State Park, Bishop Park, Butler Oaks Dairy and Cypress Gardens. Highlands Hammock State Park has contacted us about participating in this year’s CCC Festival on November 1, 2008. Ag Venture and the Florida Farm Bureau Federation’s Care Program have written letters of thanks for the donation we sent them. The Board decided not to contribute to Keep Highlands Beautiful. Board members express it was important for us to use our money to promote ourselves. Jackie will contact Ridge Trails about the Big Canoe Challenge. The Board would like to know how Ridge Trail has spent the money sent last year.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie stated she is waiting on reimbursement from Tallahassee. Linda Crane did not have a NEEPA report this month. Discussion of the Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District Project was tabled until next month when Bo Griffin will be at our meeting.

Lake Management Specialist Report –Erin gave both Clell’s and her report. City of Sebring took no action with the two emergency projects on Lake Jackson. The rain has alleviated the problems. The Little Lake Jackson Alum plant is operational. The hydrilla in Lake August was not eradicated by the herbicide treatment. Lake Placid Special Benefit District has approved \$13,000 to treat the “topped out” hydrilla and to stock the lake with triploid grass carp. The office has received phone calls concerning flooding issues on Jack Creek. The mandatory pre-bid meeting for The Avon Park Air Force project was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sixteen potential contractors attended the meeting. Due date for final bids will be determined after all questions have been addressed.

Lake Management Assistant Report – The Lake Blue PowerPoint presentation has been tabled until our next meeting. Staff has helped to identify appropriate planting sites for the Lake Jackson Restoration project. The Lake Viola Clean Up was held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over twenty residents participated in the event. Two more dead turtles were observed. Erin stated the Invitation to Bid for the Ridge Residential Canal project has been submitted to the Purchasing Department. Erin visited Hickory Branch, she reported the water was extraordinarily clear. Erin helped April, the 4H Agent organize and oversee the “It’s a Green Thing” camp.

District Conservationist Report – Carlos attended the Fisheating Creek Watershed meeting to assess the rehabilitation of structures for possible water storage. Three people were served through conservation planning, four people were served through conservation application and sixteen people were served through inventories and evaluations. Jennifer went to Oklahoma City for three weeks of “Boot Camp” training. Jennifer learned a great deal about NRCS conservation planning.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine help plan and organize, “It’s a Green Thing”. Corine has also applied for two grants one for exotic plant control education and the other for rain sensors.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman