

**HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES**  
**May 6, 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 2:05 p.m., Tuesday, May 6, 2008 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

**Supervisors present:** John Causey, Gregg Hartt, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

**Supervisors absent:** Charlie Filler

**Staff present:** Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist  
Clell Ford, Lakes Management Specialist  
Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant

**Guests:** Yvette Bonilla, Mark Clifford, Linda Crane, Danny Kushmer, Jeff Schmidt, Audrey Vickers and Benita Whalen

**Our volunteers:** Ed Cunningham, Gerald Hibbs and Eric Manor

This is the Financial Statement for April 28, 2008.

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made totaling \$4,387.54. \$3,387.54 was admin fees and \$1000.00 was from Highlands Independent Bank to sponsor the AFCD Area VI meeting.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1328 for \$5.12 to Department of Revenue for taxes collected  
Check 1329 for \$33.90 to The Print Shop for rubber stamps.  
Check 1330 for \$71.88 to Jackie Bailey for reimbursement for internet hosting charge.  
Check 1331 for \$150.00 to Alana Neilander for first place in the Speech Contest.  
Check 1332 for \$100.00 to Meghan Lollis for second place in the Speech Contest.  
Check 1333 for \$50.00 to Tyler Durrance for third place in the Speech Contest.  
Check 1334 for \$100.00 to Okeechobee Farm Bureau as a donation to the CARES program.  
Check 1335 for \$184.00 to Bagwell Lumber for composter workshop supplies.  
Check 1336 for \$120.00 to Lake Placid Conference Center for deposit for AFCD Area VI meeting facility.  
Check 1337 for \$80.00 to Comcast for monthly internet service.  
Check 1338 for \$300.00 to Petty Cash for the composter workshop.

HSWCD balances as of April 28, 2008

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 6,764.98
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 March 28, 2008	\$359,750.77
March 31, 2008 Interest	923.84
Check 100 for \$6,500.00 to NCT Group for professional services	6,500.00
Deposit - admin fees	<u>5,443.49</u>
Balance as of April 28, 2008	\$359,618.10

<u>Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment</u>	
Balance as of March 28, 2008	\$321,198.47
Interest	<u>824.55</u>
Balance as of April 28, 2008	\$322,023.02
Balance as of April 28, 2008 (Regular Checking)	\$528.62
<u>Avon Park Air Force Range Grant</u>	
Balance as of March 28, 2008	\$267,733.49
Interest	<u>687.30</u>
Balance as of April 28, 2008	\$268,420.79
<u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Balance as of March 28, 2008	\$ 0.00
Deposit – State of Florida	7,317.25
Check 99 to FHREDI	7,317.25
Deposit – State of Florida	6,000.28
Check 100 to FHREDI	<u>6,000.28</u>
Balance as of April 28, 2008	0.00
<u>MiniFARMS Contract #012056</u>	
Balance as of April 28, 2008	\$ 0.00
<u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of March 28, 2008	\$203,063.76
Check 526 through 530	<u>203,042.21</u>
Balance as of April 28, 2008	21.55
<u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Balance as of March 28, 2008	\$26,260.79
Check 651 – 653	<u>7,583.33</u>
Balance as of April 28, 2008	\$18,677.46
<u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as of April 28, 2008	\$ 127,353.41

The Agenda and Minutes of April 8, 2008 were approved as written. The final audit was delivered.

The latest draft copy of the Long Range Plan was in the meeting packet. The input of the supervisors was requested by staff members. This item was tabled until the June meeting.

A Land Management Review of state owned lands took place at Highlands Hammock State Park on April 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>. Gregg Hartt reported the biggest concern of the review was that the park's prescribed burn project is two years behind schedule. Limited staffing makes it very difficult to keep up with all the needs of the park. Forestry has stepped in to help the park on several occasions. One recommendation of the panel was to create a position for an in-house Biologist that would oversee invasive plant removal and cataloging plants and animals in the park. The new acquisition of the Seven Lakes parcel has increased the parks size to over 9,000 acres. Scrub Jay nests have been found in the new area which also hinders burning. The hydrology of the park also needs attention.

The Area Speech Contest will be held this afternoon. The State Environthon contest was held on April 12<sup>th</sup>, the scores have not been received. Earth Day was held in Lake Placid on April 26, over forty showerheads were distributed. The Butler Oaks Farm Tour was on April 30<sup>th</sup>, it was

very informative. Bob Butler showed us the different systems that are in place for nutrient management. The home composter workshop will be held on May 8, 2008. The AFCD Area VI Annual Meeting will be held at the Lake Placid Conference Center on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Highlands Independent Bank has donated \$1,000 to sponsor the event. Staff members would like to present a more professional look at outreach events and asked the Board to purchasing shirts for staff. Pricing will be research this month. This item has been tabled until the June meeting.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. The exemption from DEP for the Avon Park Air Force Range Contract has been received. The Core of Engineers will be contacted about the exemption needed from them. The next step for our office is to send the Request for Bid to SFWMD and the Air Force Range for review. Getting the work done before the rainy season would be advantages to the project. If this project is not done by the expiration date of the contract; it will not be renewed for the next fiscal year.

Benita Whalen from SFWMD answered questions about the new contract. The contract is for \$175,000. The purpose of the grant is to support the completion of the Ag Stormwater project at B4 and Butler Oaks Farms. FDACS will oversee the completion of the project and provide us with the Certificate of Construction Completion as documentation. The project should be completed within four months. John Causey made a motion that the contract be signed. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Earth Team volunteers were introduced to the Board. The volunteers have been coming in every Wednesday and have prepared over 60 composting kits for the Home Composting Workshop. The Board walked down to the shed; not only did the volunteers prep all the barrels they also installed the shed. We are lucky to have such a great group of volunteers. Kudos.

Lake Management Specialist Report – Florida legislators have appropriated \$800,000 for the Istokpoga Residential Canal Maintenance Project. The operations and maintenance agreement for the Little Lake Jackson Alum Plant has been approved by the City of Sebring. Clell participated in the Lake Jackson Clean-up, Ag in the Classroom and is helping Avon Park with their SPLASH grant. The County budget for 2008-09 has been submitted. Clell attended the North America Lakes Association Conference. Clell brought back many good ideas from the conference. One of the ideas was Fishing for Success an educational program for children. He would like to see our department involved with this program.

Lake Management Assistant Report –Erin will be a presenter at the Florida Lakes Management Society conference in June. She will present the data collected for the past two years from Lake Blue. The next herbicide treatment for the Lake Jackson project will be completed soon. Zones for planting will be identified. Interpretive signs for the project were discussed. A 700 acre treatment for hydrilla will be performed on the north end of Istokpoga. The Lake Denton committee continues to work on getting the lake opened again. The Highlands County Lakes Association's grill which is used at lake clean ups is in need of repair. The boards on the trailer need to be replaced. Ida Jackson made a motion that we donate \$100 towards the repair of the trailer. John Causey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

District Conservationist Report –Jeff Schmidt, Area Conservationist announced Carlos Torres was selected as our new District Conservationist. His starting date is June 23. Jeff stated that Area IV was awarded 9 million dollars for EQIP this year. Jeff thanked the Board and staff for

all of our good work in Highlands County. Two people were served through conservation planning, four people were served through conservation application and eleven people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine informed the Board that the perennial peanut plot has been planted. Corine is organizing a conservation connection day to be held June 25, 2008. She is asking all environmental agencies in the county to participate so citizens can come out and learn more about the agencies.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman