

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

November 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 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, November 4, 2008 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: John Causey, Gregg Hartt, Jimmy Wohl and Wayne Zahn

Supervisors absent: Ida Jackson

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

Guests: Mark Clifford and Brian Scofield

This is the Financial Report for October 28, 2008

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made this month totaling \$1,409.79. \$1,366.99 is Admin Fees. \$42.80 in sales.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1364 for \$52.47 to Florida Department of Revenue for taxes collected.
 Check 1365 for \$59.00 to Comcast for Internet.
 Check 1366 for \$175.00 to Department of Community Affairs for Special District Fees.
 Check 1367 for \$445.50 to Cliff Rhoades for reviewing documents for the Avon Park Air Force Range project.
 Check 1368 for \$500.00 to Highlands County Lakes Association for sponsoring Lake Watch picnic.
 Check 1369 for \$250.00 to Highlands County Citrus Growers Association as donation for the building dedication.
 Check 1370 for \$200.00 to Southeast Conservation District Association for registration fees for Jackie and Corine.

HSWCD balances as of October 28, 2008

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 4,173.14
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 September 29, 2008		\$407,128.24
Interest		<u>987.01</u>
Balance as of October 28, 2008		\$408,115.25

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 326,291.27
Interest	787.86
Check 107 to Lykes Brothers	27,339.68
Check 108 to HSWCD	<u>1,366.99</u>
Balance as of October 28, 2008	\$298,372.46

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$271,537.94
Interest	<u>656.01</u>
Balance as of October 28, 2008	\$272,693.95

<u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 0.00
Dep State of Fla	5,247.63
Check 104 FHREDI	<u>5,247.63</u>
Balance as of October 28, 2008	\$ 0.00
<u>MiniFarms 13882</u>	
Dep State of Fla	<u>\$ 6,250.00</u>
Balance as of October 28, 2008	\$ 6,250.00
<u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of October 28, 2008	\$ 21.55
<u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Balance as of October 28, 2008	\$ 0.03
<u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as October 28, 2008	\$ 5,414.37
<u>BMP Contract #13929</u>	
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 118.47
Dep State of Fla	<u>49,881.53</u>
Balance as of October 28, 2008	\$50,000.00

P. J. Radar has performed the necessary bookkeeping and our books are ready for the audit that will be conducted by NCT Group in December. The consensus of the Board is that all Board members should be signers on all bank accounts.

Minutes of October 7, 2008 were approved as written. Today's agenda was approved.

Brian Scofield, from FFWCC introduced himself to the Board. He stated FFWCC offers engineering assistance and funding to private landowner to improve habitat for wildlife.

Updating the Long Range Plan will be the focus of the January meeting.

Ag Venture was held October 28 – 30th. At our booth, over 700 third grade students learned about stormwater run off and the water cycle. The CCC Festival was held on November 1st, over 2,200 citizens attended the event. Jimmy Wohl, Jackie and Jennifer attended the FRESP Field Trip visiting three ranch water management projects. Jackie attended the Lake Watch picnic. HSWCD was recognized for the donation making the picnic possible. Jackie and Corine will attend the SECDEA annual meeting on November 10-13, 2008. The renaming of the Ag Civic Center to the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center and the naming of the auditorium in honor of Sam Polston will take place on November 13, 2008.

The Contract Activity Report - Expenses incurred for the Avon Park Air Force Range project were noted. The last couple of reimbursements from Tallahassee have taken longer than usual. A week to ten days is an appropriate time frame to write and sign checks for the contracts.

Lake Management Specialist Report –Clell asked for guidance to complete the Avon Park Air Force Range – Arbuckle Marsh Levee Restoration Project. The Board selected a Request for Bid to select a contractor. Benita Whalen from SFWMD needs to attend the Pre-Bid meeting to explain the funding options for the project. A vendor has been selected and a purchase order has been issued for the Ridge Residential Canal Maintenance program. Lake Placid has approved a revised Agreement and Scope of Work with SFWMD for the Lake Clay Retrofit Project. The

Hydrilla treatment and the installation of the fish fence will take place in November for Lake August. The HC BCC signed a resolution in support of the SWFWMD's West-Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan (WRAP). WRAP projects include funding for Lake Wales Ridge lakes initiatives for stormwater retrofit, minimum flows and levels and Facilitating Agricultural Research Management Systems (FARMS) projects that SWFWMD is projecting will cost a total of \$40 million over the next 18 years.

Lake Management Assistant Report – The third application of herbicide treatment for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration project will be schedule soon. FDOT will provide wildflower seeds for planting. Many beneficial plants are beginning to grow in the area. A field trip to HHSP is in the planning stages for January 6, 2009 for the students of the Career Academy. Erin requested a donation for lunch. Jimmy Wohl and Gregg Hartt volunteered to grill for the event. Erin and Corine are looking for a grant for the Career Academy students to restore the vegetation on the shoreline of Lake Glenada.

District Conservationist Report – Carlos attended Extend Outreach training last week. Carlos stated a Local Working Group will be formed to prioritize local issues for NRCS programs. Three people were served through conservation application, five people were served through conservation planning and twenty-one people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Erin stated that she and Corine are looking for funding to help the homeowners on Lake Huckleberry with problem exotic plants.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman