

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
October 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Supervisor Gregg Hartt at 3:10 p.m., Tuesday, September 2, 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
Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist
Clell Ford, Lakes Management Specialist
Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant

Guests: Mark Clifford, Linda Crane, Paul Orth, Dick Reaney and Jack Richie

The Agenda was amended to add Sam Polston Auditorium Dedication. Minutes of September 2, 2008 were approved as written.

This is the financial report for September 29, 2008.

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made this month totaling \$2,447.41. \$2,375.31 is Admin Fees. \$72.10 in sales.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1357 for \$59.00 to Comcast for Internet.
Check 1358 for \$40.00 to Media South Fla Beef Forage for Corine and Jennifer to attend Pasture Weed Day.
Check 1359 for \$74.22 to the News Sun to advertise the Request For Bid for the Avon Park Air Force Range.
Check 1360 for \$452.30 to Jackie Bailey for mileage to Panama City and reimbursement for website domain name.
Check 1361 for \$150.00 to Highlands Fair Association for booth rental.
Check 1362 for \$1,000.00 to Southwest Gulf Coast Regional Envirothon as a donation.
Check 1363 for \$1,000.00 to Florida Envirothon as a donation.
One bank adjustment of \$0.20.

HSWCD balances as of September 29, 2008

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 4,445.32
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 August 26, 2008	\$412,338.69
Interest	840.19
Check 101 for Total Site Solutions Lake Jackson	2,300.00
Check 102 for Heacock Insurance Liability Insurance	<u>3,750.64</u>
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$407,128.24

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of August 26, 2008	\$325,051.05
Interest	711.60
Deposit from Regular Checking	<u>528.62</u>
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 326,291.27
Balance as of September 29, 2008 (Regular Checking)	\$ 0.00

<u>Avon Park Air Force Range Grant</u>	
Balance as of August 26, 2008	\$270,944.79
Interest	<u>593.15</u>
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$271,537.94
 <u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Balance as of August 26, 2008	\$ 0.00
Dep State of Fla	4,744.10
Check 104 FHREDI	<u>4,744.10</u>
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 0.00
 MiniFarms 13882	
Dep State of Fla	\$ 6,250.00
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 6,250.00
 <u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of September	\$ 21.55
 <u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 0.03
 <u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 5,414.37
 BMP Contract #13929	
Dep State of Fla	\$50,000.00
Check 670 Williamson Cattle Co	20,284.00
Check 671 HSWCD	1,014.20
Check 672 Archbold – Buck Island	19,722.22
Check 673 HSWCD	986.11
Check 674 Alderman Deloney	7,500.00
Check 675 HSWCD	<u>375.00</u>
Balance as of September 29, 2008	\$ 118.47

Minutes of September 2, 2008 were approved as written. Today's agenda was approved. As requested by the board a description of the goals of each FDACS contract was given. Two estimates for bookkeeping services were reviewed. Discussion included P. J. Radar experience with Okeechobee SWCD. John Causey made a motion that P. J. Radar Accounting Services be hired for professional services to prepare our accounts for this year's audit and to reconcile accounts on a regular basis. Jimmy Wohl seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dick Reaney from the Highlands County Lakes Association informed the board of all the work the Lake Watch volunteers do for the county. He stated that over 55 volunteers sample sixty lakes each month for water quality and send the data to U of F. The Lakes Management program uses this data as a baseline for the health of the lakes. Each year the volunteers are recognized at an annual picnic. He is expecting about 100 people to attend this year's picnic on November 2 to be held at Windy Point Park. John Causey made a motion that we support the Lake Watch picnic with a donation of \$500.00. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

John Causey informed the board the Agri- Civic Center will be renamed the Bert J Harris, Jr Agricultural Center and the auditorium will be renamed in honor of Sam Polston. The dedication will be held on November 13th. A public dedication will be held in the afternoon. In the evening a dinner will be held for the agricultural community. John Causey made a motion that we donate

\$250.00 towards the evening reception. Jimmy Wohl seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed and made changes to the Services to Governmental Agencies, Objective 2 of the Long Range Plan. The section will be updated accordingly.

A picture was taken of the Board with the Highlands County Friend of 4H award. Board decided we would not participate in the Big Canoe Challenge this year. The Southeast Conservation District Employees Association (SECDEA) annual meeting will be held on November 10-13, 2008. As President of the FCDEA, Jackie would like to attend the meeting. She asked the Board if Corine could also attend. Corine has the ability to turn an idea into a successful education outreach event. Jackie would like Corine to share our success stories with other SWCDS in the organization. Jimmy Wohl made a motion the Board will pay up to \$2,000 travel expenses for Jackie and Corine attend the SECDEA annual meeting. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed with the Financial Report.

Lake Management Specialist Report – The two possible reasons that no bids were received for the Avon Park Air Force project are: budget for project too small and potential bidders were not able to obtain bonding. SFWMD is looking into finding additional funding for the project. Jimmy Wohl made a motion to eliminate bid bond and lower performance bond to 10% of project cost for the Avon Park Air Force Range – Arbuckle Marsh Levee Restoration Project. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jimmy Wohl invited board and staff to participate in FRESP field day at Buck Island on October 29 at 8a.m. A vendor has been selected for the Ridge Residential Canal Maintenance program.

Lake Management Assistant Report – Erin assisted with the installation of monitoring wells for the Lake Placid Watershed Study project. A community meeting has been schedule for Lake Viola. Lake Denton committee recommended that the County relinquish all rights to the boat ramp and give it back to the original owners or heirs. Erin and Corine have been working with the Career Academy, a SFCC voluntary vocational program for high school students. At the end of the school year they would like to have a competition for the students with prizes and perhaps scholarships.

District Conservationist Report –An inspection of Jack Creek showed no evidence of soil erosion. Two new Wetland Reserve Program applications have been received. Carlos shared the summary of contracts obligation and payments for EQIP and WHIP contracts. \$4,119,000.67 has been obligated to Highlands County. Two people were served through conservation application, five people were served through conservation planning and thirteen people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – At last month's meeting the Board asked Corine to produce a business plan for the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL). Corine created a PowerPoint presentation to answer the concerns of the Board. Discussion included renting a van, using volunteers to run the lab, approaching homeowner groups and writing grants for the equipment. The Board gave Corine their consent to continue forward with the MIL project.

The next board meeting was set for November 4, 2008 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman