

# HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

August 4, 2009

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, August 4, 2009 in Conference Room 3 at the Bert J. Harris, Jr., Agricultural Center in 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  
Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist  
Clell Ford, Lakes Management Specialist  
Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant

**Guests:** Don Bates (HCBCC), Mark Clifford and Bo Griffin (FDACS)

This is the financial report for July 28, 2009.

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made this month totaling \$49.39 both deposits were for interest on CDs.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1421 for \$59.00 to Comcast for internet service.

Check 1422 for \$6.00 to the Avon Park Air Force Range Contract to cover bank charges.

HSWCD balances as of July 28, 2009

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 8,497.78
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 2,000.00

Money Market Account

Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$366,317.45
IWMID encumbered	50,000.00
Interest	376.74
Deposit City of Sebring for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Project	<u>12,500.00</u>
Balance as of July 28, 2009	\$379,194.19

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$210,427.44
Interest	<u>191.95</u>
Balance as of July 28, 2009	\$210,619.39

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$164,963.61
Interest	137.00
Dep from HSWCD	6.00
Checks 2014 and 2015 to Enviro Tech	51,996.26
Check 2016 to URS	<u>35,700.33</u>
Balance as of July 28, 2009	\$ 77,410.02

FHREDI Contract

Balance as of July 28, 2009	\$ 0.00
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MiniFarms 13882

Balance as of July 28, 2009	\$ 6,250.00
<u>BMP Contract #13929</u>	
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$ 3,102.00
Deposit State of Fl	<u>18,727.14</u>
Balance as of July 28, 2009	\$21,829.14
Petty Cash had no activity	
Balance as of July 28, 2009	\$ 200.93

Minutes of July 7, 2009 were approved as written. Today's agenda was approved.

Along with the Financial Report, a draft 2009-10 budget and profit and loss documents were in the packet for review. The Board questioned the categories of where funds were recorded. Jackie will discuss their concerns with the bookkeeper. A blank budget form will be placed in next month's meeting packet to be filled out by the Supervisors.

**Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District's Project (IMWID)** Don Bates said the appraisals are being reviewed by SFWMD since the review process was incomplete, results were not available at the last meeting. Per SFWMD, Environmental Assessments, purchasing the parcels of land and closing on the properties must be completed by the end of September. Carlos stated that all the funds allocated to the State of Florida for AWEF have not been expended. The final date for the application process for 319 money from DEP is the end of September.

**Long Range Plan Review – Revise MOU** - The draft MOU prepared by June at the request of the Board was in the packet. Gregg Hartt also handed out two examples of MOUs. Don Bates stated that until recently, HSWCD had very limited funds. The County and the District are two governmental agencies that have partnered together for the past 75 years. Both entities have separate budgets. The County has supported the District with employees, office space, telephone services and operating expenses. The County budget that supports HSWCD was decreased by \$20,000 for operating expenses. Discussion included: staffs opinions about Federal and County Holidays? The County's 2010-11 F/Y budget may identify expenses by line items. What is accomplished through HSWCD and their partners and the benefit to the tax payers of Highlands County? Does the MOU need an ending date? John Causey stated that June in good faith created the draft MOU; Supervisors need to put in writing their suggestions for the new MOU and return them to Jackie by August 18, 2009, item tabled until the September meeting.

Gregg Hartt wanted to know, by opening an email from the County can a personal computer be confiscated under the sunshine law? It was decided to get a legal opinion on the question. This question has not been answer yet.

**Community report** –The report was in the packet. Jackie informed the Board the County will pay her travel expenses to attend the AFCD/FCDEA meetings. NACD will be held January 31 through February 3, 2010 in Orlando. The Lake Verona Clean up was held on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Corine gave her final presentation for the Rain Sensor Giveaway Grant on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The CCC Festival will be held November 7<sup>th</sup> at HHSP. The Highlands County Fair will not have booth rentals this year because of construction. A request from Ag Venture to sponsor their annual event was received. Jimmy Wohl made a motion that we donate \$500.00 to Ag Venture. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Florida Farm Bureau Federation requested a donation for the CARES program which promotes environmentally sound and economically viable farming. John Causey made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the CARES Program. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Contract Activity report – The Avon Park Bombing Range Levee project is complete. The inspection was performed. The contractor fixed all items on the punch list. Final payment was made to Enviro-Tech. The contract activities report reflects URS is still owed one more payment. The Air Force is discussing placement of shell rock. The levee will be used for a perimeter road. The Air Force is responsible for maintenance on the levee. Our liability insurance expires on September 5, 2009. Jackie will check if our liability insurance can be extended for 30 days. A field trip to the site would be beneficial to the Supervisors.

The Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment Contract – Benita Whalen from SFWMD informed Wayne Zahn the contract will be increased by \$393,700.00 for O/M and service cost for Buck Island and Lykes Brothers. Benita will attend our September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to discuss the amendment. Gregg Hartt will be the contact person for the Lykes Brothers contract.

Northern Everglades/Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA) – Bo Griffin stated that FDACS is searching for another million dollars for the General BMP Contract.

Lake Management Specialist report – Two responses have been received from letters sent to landowners for the Istokpoga Residential Canal Maintenance Project for storage of materials on upland properties. The permit application is being drafted. FDEP staff may complete disposal site certifications by mid November at the earliest. Ten County Coalition presentation suggests storage and treatment reservoirs be used for recreation.

Lakes Management Assistant report – The Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project is finished. There is still \$3,000 in the budget for the project. These funds may be used to purchase 6,000 more stems of bulrush. DOT permits expires on September 3, 2009. Working on drafting a MOU with the City of Sebring for maintenance of site. Water samples are showing outer lagoons are sequestering nutrients from Stormwater. Supervisors suggested writing a news article about the project. Final report to be presented to BCC in the next 3 or 4 months.

District Conservation Report –One EQIP-09 Beginner Farmer application has been pre-approved by State Office. Six people were served through conservation application, five people were served through conservation planning and six people were served through inventories and evaluations. Five practices were certified and cost share provided in the amount of \$347,931.27 for the month of July 2009.

Natural Resources Specialist report – NRAC is making progress on resolution revision. Jimmy Wohl commented that he is happy NRAC is being facilitated through our office; staff doing a great job.

The next board meeting was set for September 1, 2009 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman