

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

July 7, 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, July 7, 2009 in Conference Room 3 at the Bert J. Harris, Jr., Agricultural Center in Sebring, Florida.

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

Staff present: Carlos Torres, District Conservationist
 Jennifer Abbey, Soil Conservationist
 Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
 Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist
 Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant

Guests: Don Bates (HCBCC), Mark Clifford, Linda Crane (FDACS), Leroy Crockett (RC&D), Tom Higginbotham (Health Dept) Lynn Topel (FHREDI)

This is the Financial Report for June 30, 2009

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made this month totaling \$2,761.81. \$1,761.81 was admin fees for the 13929 contract. \$1,000 was received from FLEPPC for the Air Potato Exchange for Native Plant grant.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1417 for \$59.00 to Comcast for internet service.
 Check 1418 for \$332.00 to Old Republic Surety for renewal of bond and OM insurance.
 Check 1419 for \$100.00 to Indian River SWCD for Area VI speech contest winner travel expenses.
 Check 1420 for \$1,000 to Highlands County 4H Foundation for support of the Rockin It Outdoors Day Camp.

HSWCD balances as of June 30, 2009

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 8,513.39
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 May 26, 2009	\$362,501.78
IWMID encumbered	50,000.00
Interest	402.07
Deposit from 5% admin, 13929	<u>3,413.60</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$366,317.45

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of May 26, 2009	\$210,221.74
Interest	<u>205.70</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$210,427.44

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of May 26, 2009	\$140,000.26
Interest	97.94
Bank Charge	6.00
Dep from SFWMD	<u>24,871.41</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$164,963.61

FHREDI Contract

Balance as of May 26, 2009	\$ 0.00
Dep from State of FL	13,617.91
Check #1506 to FHREDI	<u>13,617.91</u>

Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$ 0.00
<u>MiniFarms 13882</u>	
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$ 6,250.00
<u>BMP Contract #13929</u>	
Balance as of May 26, 2009	\$ 16,500.00
Three Deposits State of Fl	95,285.52
Checks 712 - 724	<u>108,683.52</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$ 3,102.00
Petty Cash had no activity	
Balance as of June 30, 2009	\$ 200.93

Minutes of June 2, 2009 were approved as written. Today's agenda was approved.

Lynn Topel from FHREDI thanked the District for administering the grant funds free of charge to produce the Heartland Rural Mobility Plan. Highlands, Hardee, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee counties and Pahokee, South Bay and Belle Glades were included in the study to develop an overall mobility improvement process. Goals of the study are; promote mobility within the Heartland Region, support economic development opportunities, provide coordination between land use development and the promotion of smart growth, promote mobility from the Heartland Region to regional destinations and coordinate regional mobility governance, planning and funding. This is the first rural mobility study developed and the study will be showcased in Washington DC in August. A pilot project is already running in Hendry County. The study will go before the BCC soon. The project will need to be subsidized with government funds; as with most transportation projects. Though finding may be hard to find at this point, the plan is finish and can be presented to possible partners. Lynn is also working on a broadband project to connect the Heartland region to faster DSL access.

Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District's Project (IMWID) Gregg Hartt stated there have not been any IMWID meetings. Don Bates said the appraisals have been completed but the report has not been received.

Long Range Plan Review – Revise MOU - In the meeting packet were examples of thirteen MOUs that Jackie collected from other SWCDs and other agencies. Employees job descriptions with draft revisions were also handed out to the Supervisors. June spoke with Jackie and said if the board would like she would create a draft MOU. By consensus the Board requested that June prepare a draft MOU outline with talking points. The new MOU must strongly state the partnerships needs between HSWCD and the County.

There is a concern of the relationship between HSWCD and the County. The HSWCD Supervisors need to communicate with the BCC and the County Administration as to the benefits of the District to Highlands County BCC, the taxpayers and the Agricultural Community. A suggestion was made to create a presentation to be shown to the BCC.

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.

The County budget has been cut. At the August meeting the board will begin to work on a budget for next year. Jackie will bring last year's profit and loss report and last year's budget.

Community report –The report was in the packet. Jackie mentioned the AFCD meeting stating she did not know at this time if the County would pay for her travel. As President of the FCDEA she would like to attend. The Board asked her to bring her request to the August meeting.

Contract Activity report - Next year's FDACS General BMPs contract for \$350,000 was received the contract needed to be signed on July 1st. Through phone calls Jackie polled the Supervisors and they approved Wayne Zahn signing the contract. The Avon Park Bombing Range Levee final inspection is on Thursday, July 9th. The Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project is finished. The MOU with the City of Sebring for operation and maintenance of the shoreline project has not been written. Our liability insurance expires on September 5, 2009. If both of these projects are finished we will not have to renew this policy.

Northern Everglades/Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA) – Linda Crane thanked the Board for all the help they have given the producers by administering the contracts. On Tuesday, September 15, 2009 there will be a workshop about bio solid sludge, chicken litter and the changes to DEP rules for using any type of sludge except for Class AA. Plans are to hold a workshop in Okeechobee at the Civic Center. This is an important meeting for all producers to attend. When plans are confirmed Linda will get out an email.

Lake Management Specialist report - Lake August is showing re-growth of Hydrilla. FWC biologist recommended adding more carp into the lake when the weather cools. Another herbicide treatment will be applied in September or October. An assessment of the Lake Persimmon aeration system will be scheduled.

Lakes Management Assistant report – Erin reported that our staff members have been helping the 4H with this week's environmental camp, "Rockin' It Outdoors". Today the 4Her's were at Bishop Park. Gregg Hartt volunteered to grill for the event. Erin stated she and Corine had visited the seven lakes area and sampled four of the lakes. The 30' depth of Lake Hourglass was a surprise. Erin reported the MRRP fishing line recycling bin was set up at the Outdoor Recreation show at the Mall. Ridge Rangers have volunteered to collect recycled fishing line. Lake Verona Clean Up is scheduled for July 17, 2009 at 9a.m.

District Conservation Report - Carlos and Jennifer continue farm visits for Resource Inventory Evaluation for all new EQIP program applications. Third quarter audit review is completed. Follow up with EQIP contracts – practices scheduled for 2008 (reschedule/modifications) and 2009 practices. Four people were served through conservation application, seven people were served through conservation planning and eight people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist report – The Rain Barrel/Rain Sensor workshop was successful with 50 people in attendance. Thanks to Linda Crane's help twenty-eight 55 gallon drums were available to be sold to make rain barrels. NRAC Resolution Revision meeting was held. Corine is working on arranging a GIS workshop for NRAC. The purpose of the workshop is to bring everyone together with GIS layers and see if the entities can pool their resources together.

The next board meeting was set for August 4, 2009 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman