

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

March 3, 2009

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Greg Hartt at 3:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2009 in Conference Room 3 at the Bert J. Harris, Jr., Agricultural Center in 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: Don Bates, Mark Clifford, Bo Griffin and June Fisher

This is the Financial Report for February 25, 2009

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made this month totaling \$2,509.06 for admin fees for two contracts.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

- Check 1390 for \$300.00 to Radar Accounting for bookkeeping services.
- Check 1391 for \$77.89 to Jackie Bailey for reimbursement for ehostpros website hosting.
- Check 1392 for \$100.00 to Emmanuel United Church for donation in memory of Paul Orth.
- Check 1393 for \$30.00 to FCDEA for affiliate membership.
- Check 1394 for \$958.28 to Jimmy Wohl for reimbursement for travel to NACD conference.
- Check 1395 for \$50.00 to Party Bounce House for deposit for bounce house for Conservation Connection.
- Check 1396 for \$1,380.00 to Total Site Solutions for Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project.

HSWCD balances as of February 25, 2009

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 4,036.85
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 January 29, 2009	\$407,593.39
Interest	496.14
Two Deposit for admin fees for three projects	17,095.72
Check 105 for \$5,000 to NCT Group partial pay for audit	5,000.00
IWMID encumbered	<u>50,000.00</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2009	\$370,185.25

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of January 29, 2009	\$210,372.35
Interest	<u>364.19</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2009	\$210,736.54

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of January 29, 2009	\$273,849.85
Interest	332.19
Check 2001 URS	2,569.92

Check 2002 HSWCD	128.50
Check 2003 HSWCD remainder of admin fees	<u>12,519.10</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2009	\$258,964.52

FHREDI Contract

Balance as of February 25, 2009	0.00
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MiniFarms 13882

Balance as of January 29, 2009	\$ 6,250.00
Check 99 voided	
Check 100 to HSWCD – admin fee	297.50
Check 101 John McCracken	<u>5,950.00</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2009	\$ 2.50

BMP Contract #13929

Balance as of January 29, 2009	\$36,758.33
Check 694 Bishop Bros. Inc	35,000.00
Check 695 HSWCD	<u>1,750.00</u>
Balance as of February 25, 2009	\$ 8.33

Petty Cash

Date	Vendor	Expense	Balance	Project
1/28/2009	Office Depot	\$ 62.98	\$ 25.76	Office Supply - Card software
2/3/2009	Petty Cash	\$ (274.24)	\$ 300.00	
2/17/2009	Home Depot	\$ 26.31	\$ 273.69	Watershed Model
2/17/2009	Lowes	\$ 28.96	\$ 244.73	Watershed Model
2/18/2009	Home Depot	\$ 15.92	\$ 228.81	Conservation Connection
2/18/2009	Home Depot	\$ 8.55	\$ 220.26	Watershed Model
2/18/2009	Home Depot	\$ 5.96	\$ 214.30	Composter project
2/18/2009	Micheals	\$ 6.28	\$ 208.02	Watershed Model
2/18/2009	Micheals	\$ 16.96	\$ 191.06	Conservation Connection
2/19/2009	Lowes	\$ 28.96	\$ 162.10	Watershed Model
2/23/2009	Home Depot	\$ 66.58	\$ 95.52	Watershed Model

Minutes of February 10, 2009 were approved with the correction to spell out the word phosphorus. Today’s agenda was approved with the addition of Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District. The petty cash total was added to the Financial Report.

Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District’s Project The Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District (IMWID) committee is pleased with our support of the project. They are willing to share information with HSWCD and are receptive to a joint meeting. It is suggested that one supervisor attend their meetings regularly. Jimmy Wohl attended one meeting and voiced his concerns. Clell informed the Board that the Alternative Water Supply and Disposal agreement between SFWMD and IMWID was approved by BCC. This agreement provides funding for the first task of the project, land acquisition. An application was submitted to NRCS for Alternative Watershed Enhancement Project (AWEP) funds and an application will be submitted to DEP for 319 funding. Bo added that the IMWID project was a small portion of the 3.2 million acres from Okeechobee to Kissimmee that FDACS was cost-sharing the implementation of BMPs on the land.

Jimmy Wohl made a motion that the May 5, 2009 meeting start at 2PM and be dedicated to updating and completing the Long Range Plan. Motion seconded by John Causey. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion included reviewing the Supervisor Handbook. Defining our

goals and incorporating the goals of our partners. Pursue grant funding for projects. Bo Griffin from FDACS will facilitate the meeting.

Conservation Connection Day will be held on March 7th, the annual Speech Contest will be held on April 7th, The State Envirothon will be held April 25th. The AFCD Area VI Annual Meeting will be hosted by Hendry and Glades SWCDs on April 23, 2009.

The Contract Activity Report -description of the projects paid for the month will be included in future reports. Jackie explained John McCracken the hydroponics project. This project was cost shared through the MiniFARMS contract.

Clell informed the Board that the work on the Avon Park Air Force Range project has begun. The contractor is working seven days a week to complete the project. Quest Ecology was selected as the Habitat Conservation Plan consultant for the BCC. Meeting was held with FDEP to discuss the permitting activities for the Istokpoga Residential Canal Maintenance project. A question was raised about the criteria for the fair disposal of material.

Department of Transportation and City of Sebring have a landscaping permit for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project. The wildflower plots will be planted soon. The City of Sebring may ask for our support for maintenance of this project. Maintenance cost should be minimal.

Carlos informed the board that the cut off date for EQIP has been extended to March 13, 2008. Draft copies of the guidelines and the rules for the New Farm Bill have been created. Five people were served through conservation application. Four people were served through conservation planning. Two people were served through conservation technician assistance and eleven people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Corine has been organizing the 2nd Annual Conservation Connection Day to be held March 7, 2009. Corine and Jackie attended the mandatory project implement workshop at SWFWMD's Sarasota Service Center and picked up the purchase order for \$4,950 for the rain sensor give away education grant. Corine worked with SWFWMD on transferring MIL to Extension office; project is being used as a "model" to other SWCD's and agencies to partner together in an effort to conserve water.

The next board meeting was set for April 7, 2009 in Conference Room #3 at **2p.m.**, Speaking Contest follows the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman