

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

April 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Interim Chair, Wayne Zahn at 2:10p.m., Tuesday, April 6, 2010 in Conference Room 3 at the Bert J. Harris Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd. in Sebring, Florida.

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

Staff present: 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 and Russ Danser

Today's agenda was approved with the addition of the MIL contract. Minutes of March 2, 2010 were approved as written. Financial Report was approved as presented.

The Contract Report was presented. Jackie added a column describing the practice that were implemented for payment. She included the Requests For Payments (RFP) form with more detail of the practice. Supervisors agreed the short description on the report was fine, the RFPs did not need to be included.

Action Items:

Moving money from the Money Market account to staggered CDs was discussed. Wayne Zahn stated he has been in contact with the brokerage department at Highlands Independent Bank. He requested the item be tabled until next meeting.

Day at the Lake event – Erin has been working hard on the event which will take place on April 10th. Many governmental and environmental agencies will be joining with HSWCD. Flyers have been distributed in all county schools. Canoeing, dip netting, boating, snorkeling, a lake clean up and many more activities will be available to the citizens to enhance awareness of recreation at the lake. The goal is to instill stewardship of the environment. SWFWMD is very excited about the event and will showcase the event in their newsletters.

It was decided that a special meeting would be held to update the Long Range Plan. April 27, 2010 at 3PM works best for the Supervisors.

The MOU and the memo from June Fisher were discussed. To charge SWCD for employee time is an effort to reduce the County budget. Are all County partnerships being asked to do the same? What is the effect on our partners and the agricultural community? All of HSWCD's dollars are earmarked to be spent in the county through projects and environmental education. Taxpayers benefit from the dollars HSWCD brings into the county. Supervisors choose to take no action until they have a meeting with June Fisher and Michael Wright. Jimmy Wohl suggested presenting the DVD, MOU and a spreadsheet to the BCC. The spreadsheet would include the many government agencies partnering with the producers? What percentage producers pay? Were FDACS, NRCS, FSA and WMD's funds responsible for stimulating the

economy of Highlands County? The spreadsheet would list all business, landowners and people employed because of the funds from FDACS, NRCS and other government agencies partnering with HSWCD. This would be a useful tool to record government funds being spent and the benefit to economy of the county.

Corine presented the MIL contract with HSWCD and Masuen Consulting, Inc. Masuen is out of Okeechobee. They also stated they would not charge over \$10,000 for the entire project. John Causey made a motion to approve the contract and asked Corine to go forward with the MIL project. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. John made a motion to approve signing the MIL contract when it is received at the office. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District's Project (IMWID) –BCC purchased 400 more acres. These acres will not be leased back to the landowner. John Causey stated he had researched Hairy Vetch as a possible cover crop to reduce the amount of phosphorus from the soil. A test plot of 1 to 2 acres would show if cover crop is a feasible way of removing phosphorus. 50lbs of seed will cost \$200.00 and depending on application could broadcast up to two acres. Clell stated 50 acres were available in IMWID, Supervisors would like to keep discussion open on this project.

Office Depot has given a quote of \$25,831.00 to scan and index the historical mylars. This is less expensive than buying a scanner and hiring someone to complete the project. Jackie has research for historical preservation grants and found a possibility. Corine will apply for the grant.

New Business

Russ Danser was introduced. He spoke about the development of the Highlands County Habitat Conservation Plan. The plan will address potential impacts to federally listed species in Highlands County scrub habitats. This is the first HCP encompassing the protection of a habitat and multi-species of plants and animals. To develop land a permit will be obtained through Fish and Wildlife. Landowners developing land will be allowed to mitigate the damage to the scrub area. The Stakeholders committee consists of developers and members of the Ag community.

Updates

Ag in the Classroom- Ag Literacy Day March 2010. Clell, Erin and Corine read to over 340 students.

Announcement

Day at the Lake April 10, 2010
Earth Day at HHSP April 22, 2010
State Envirothon April 24, 2010

The next board meeting was set for Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 3pm in the Conference Room 3.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman

DRAFT