

# HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

## January 5, 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 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2010 in the Parks and Recreation Meeting Room, 4344 George Blvd. in Sebring, Florida.

**Supervisors present:** John Causey, Jimmy Wohl and Wayne Zahn

**Supervisors absent:** Gregg Hartt and Ida Jackson

**Staff present:** Jennifer Abbey, Soil Conservationist  
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist  
Clell Ford, Lakes Management Specialist

**Guests:** Bo Griffin (FDACS), June Fisher (County Admin) and Bonnie Wolff (FDACS)

Today's agenda was approved. Minutes of December 3, 2009 were approved as written.

The Financial Reports reflects all bank accounts were combined into one company. Discussion included the Contract Activity Report's line items be placed in the same order as the Financial Report making it easier to read. Financial Report was approved as presented.

Highlands Independent Bank quoted an interest rate of 1.90 on 12 month CDs. John Causey explained that SID-Rs are CDs that are insured up to \$250,000 per beneficiary. John Causey stated he would contact Wauchula Bank in reference to CD interest rates.

### **Action Items:**

Jackie presented a three year comparison of income and expenses to help develop a budget for FY 2010. John Causey stated that our budget should reflect no more than a 5% increase over last year's expenses. The two FDACS contracts could generate \$90,000 income this fiscal year. Wayne Zahn suggested tabling the budget until next month. He and Jackie will input the constant expenses. Other expenses will be discussed at our next month. A budget is a proactive tool to keep expenses in check.

A local weather station would be a valuable resource for local producers saving them time, money and water. This would be a valued expenditure for HSWCD. Tampa or Ona temperature readings are not the same as Highlands. With local information a better decision can be made to use irrigation systems or not, through cold nights. WMDs could be approached to support the idea.

NACD Conference will be held January 31 through February 3, 2010 in Orlando.

A contract with the Tourist Development Council (TDC) for the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program was presented. The contract states the \$500 is reimbursable, the contract is for a one year period and monthly reports are required. Jimmy Wohl made a motion to sign the contract with TDC for the \$500 to support the MRRP. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A new contract with FDACS was explained. The new contract is for projects involving the development and implementation of comprehensive site-specific BMPs to address nutrient and stormwater management. The amount of the contract is 1.5 million and the projects are on a specific time table. Funds may move between our contract and Okeechobee SWCD contract. Landowners benefiting from cost-share dollars reside in Highlands, Okeechobee, Hardee and Glades counties. Jimmy Wohl made a motion that the contract be signed with the pen and ink change on page 11 changing our project manager from James D. Bates to Wayne C. Zahn. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

It was the consensus of the board any changes to contracts will be approved at board meeting.

Jimmy Wohl made a motion to purchase an upgrade for the Quickbooks software at a cost of \$179.00. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District's Project (IMWID) – After a field visit to the 62 acres of land it was decided that it was not plausible for producers to invest. Clell stated the area may be bush hogged. Wayne Zahn said he may know a few producers that may be interested; he would share their names with Clell. Corine researched Hairy Indigo and stated it would not be a good choice of crop for the IMWID area.

Northern Everglades/Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA) Bo Griffin encouraged everyone to get the word out to producers about FDACS cost-share programs. Bonnie Wolff informed the board of the work being accomplished by Okeechobee SWCD.

The MOU was pulled from the HCBCC agenda. Commissioner Bates was absent when the MOU was presented. Commissioners had questions about the MOU. June will meet with Commissioner Bates. It was suggested to present our video and MOU to HCBCC at the same time.

Unique and Locally Important Farmland Evaluations - The unique farmlands have already been designated by NRCS. NRCS wants the board to designate important lands in the County. These lands meet one requirement as a unique land but not both requirements. The board decided not to designate the soils in questioned as locally important soils.

### **New Business**

Holiday Luncheon to be held January 8, 2010

### **Announcement**

The Habitat Conservation Plan is having a stakeholders meeting on January 13, 2010.

The next board meeting was set for **Tuesday, February 2, 2010** in the **Parks and Recreation Meeting Room**.

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