

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

June 1, 2010

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chair, Jimmy Wohl at 3:05p.m., Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at the DeSoto Volunteer Fire Department Conference Room, 6800 George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

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
Clell Ford, Lakes Management Specialist
Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant

Guests: June Fisher (County Admin) and Pete Pollard

Today's agenda was approved as written. Minutes of May 6, 2010 and May 10, 2010 Long Range Plan meeting were approved as written. Financial Report and the Contract Report were both approved as presented.

Action Items:

Jackie mentioned the two \$1,500 CDs were not renewed but placed in the Money Market account. Supervisors requested Jackie check if HSWCD would be eligible for membership in a credit union.

A letter from Okeechobee SWCD to sponsor the Area VI Speech Contest winner to go to state was in the packet. Supervisors requested the budget and letter be submitted at next month's meeting.

PJ Radar gave a quote of \$125 per week to write the checks. The Clerk of Courts office requested a copy of the county policy before they would give a quote. Ida Jackson stated she was fine with writing the checks. Should checks only be written once a month? Producers may need their money sooner than one month. All Supervisors can write the checks. Locate a local bookkeeper to write checks.

Gregg Hartt made a motion to pay AFCD annuals dues of \$350.00 and if it is not in the budget to place it in the budget. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Supervisors thanked Gregg Hartt for taking the time to revise the Long Range Plan. Changes and suggestions were discussed. Many changes were small and made the plan easier to read. Other changes were made to more clearly identify how staff provides assistants to the District. Carlos will provide the list of duties of the Local Working Group. Erin will rewrite the objective and goal under the watershed section. The revised Long Range Plan will be presented at next month's meeting.

June requested the MOU be presented to make sure that the language is acceptable to the Supervisors. Beginning F/Y October 1, 2010, 20% of the administrative fees earned by HSWCD

will be given to the County to offset the cost of staffing and administrative overhead. The payment will be due on September 30, 2011. It was the consensus of the Supervisors that semi-annual payments will be made to the County.

Old Business

Istokpoga Marsh Watershed Improvement District's Project (IMWID) – Clell stated 2 acres in the IMWID area are available to plant 50lbs of Hairy Vetch cover crop seeds. The area will need to be mowed before broadcasting the seed. This will be a test plot to show an alternative solution to remove phosphorus from the IMWID area.

Cheryl Moffat and Ashley Calhoun thanked the Supervisors for their support of the Envirothon competitions. Ashley stated her high school memories will include the friends she made at the competitions. She explained how the students worked as a team to answer questions in the fields of aquatics, soil, wildlife, forestry and a current issue. Cheryl stated the Envirothon team members do better on their FCATS. Students are exposed to many environmental career opportunities through participation in Envirothon.

New Business

Jennifer informed the Board the Sustainability Committee was looking for a partner interested in organizing field trips to provide producers site visits to farms and ranches to see installed solar power pumps at watering facilities. The committee is also interested in providing workshops to help producers find funding sources for solar power practices.

Updates

Florida Lakes Management Society Annual Meeting – June 14 – 17, 2010

AFCD Annual Meeting and State Speech Contest - July 28, 29, 30, 31 and Aug 1st

Erin stated the deadline for SWFWMD Community Education Grants is August 28, 2010.

She asked the Board if they had any ideas for the grants.

Announcement

The next board meeting was set for Tuesday, July 6 2010 at 3pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman