

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

October 5, 2010

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman, Jimmy Wohl at 3:05p.m., Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, Conference Room 3, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

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

Supervisors absent: Ida Jackson

Staff present: Carlos Torres, District Conservationist
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Corine Burgess, Environmental Specialist
Clell Ford, Lakes Management Specialist
Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant
Vicki Pontius, Director of Parks and Natural Resources

Guests: Mark Hammond, Keith Kolassa, Roy Mazur, and Mike Peck from SWFWMD, Pam Fentress, Bo Griffin (FDACS) Anita Kovasc (CPA), Robert Miller (City of Sebring) Dick Reaney (HCLA)

- I. Call to order 3:05p.m., meeting notice, introductions (Wohl, Chairman)
Corine Burgess stated that in the future, all meeting agendas will be in electronic format, and requested that the Board print the agenda and bring it to the meetings.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve (Zahn/Hartt) Vote: unanimous approval
- III. Minutes of September 7, 2010 Motion to approve (Zahn/Hartt) Jackie informed the Board that minutes will be streamlined in the future. Vote: unanimous approval
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. SWFWMD Presentations
 1. Mike Peck - Ridge Lake Initiative PowerPoint presentation on Lake Clay.
 2. Roy Mazur - Current Event Regional Water Supply Planning Presentation
Wohl- Are there any programs that HSWCD could participate with leverage dollars to help provide environmental benefits to our community?
Mazur – anything that is conservation oriented that ends up in quantifiable water savings.
 3. Mark Hammond - Watershed Management Program – Flood study includes updating FEMA Flood Plan maps.
Community Education Grants - Day at the Lake was a successful event.
Grant applications for next year’s will be accepted in August 2011.

Lake Clay funding discussion - Pontius - Would this be a project the Supervisors would embrace and consider some funding? Reaney - Tourist Development Council (TDC) has given \$40,000 to the Lake Clay Project. Wohl – funding from county came from infrastructure fund? Pontius – Yes. Wohl – Should HSWCD wait for next project? Zahn – Funding is met, if we partner in anyway the obligation we will relieve from the County, where will the money go. Pontius – it would go back into infrastructure fund. Wohl – HSWCD has money and would like to use it

for the betterment of the environmental qualities. Hartt – Can this project be tied into NEEPA; will spending money in one of these lake projects benefit the overall agricultural plan for Highlands County? Motion to offer \$10,000 to the Lake Clay project. (Causey/Hartt). Vote: unanimous approval.

V. Action

1. Anita Kovacs – CPA
Ms. Kovacs presented the group with her work history and experience and gave a definition of an unqualified audit. Motion to engage Ms. Kovacs services for the unqualified audit at a cost \$550.00 per year. (Causey/Hartt) Vote: unanimous approval. Wohl - Ms. Kovacs will begin with the year ending 2010.
2. Engagement Letter
Motion to accept Engagement Letter with Wicks Brown & Williams signed by Mark Cox not to exceed \$11,000 for fiscal year 2010/11. (Causey/Hartt). Vote: unanimous approval.
3. Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project – Erin McCarta
Request to enter into MOU for the maintenance of the part of the project that is a transitional wetland; approximately 8 acres.
Discussion took place regarding liability insurance, reimbursement to the City of Sebring for mowing costs. Mr. Miller will open up a discussion with Sebring City Council members and bring back information to the District in reference to reimbursement.
4. Highlands County Lakes Association
 - a. LakeWatch picnic November 8, 2010
Reaney – Thanked the Board for sponsoring the LakeWatch picnic. This is the only recognition the LakeWatch volunteers in Highlands County receives. Highlands County receives the benefits that would amount to hundreds and thousands of dollars from the work of the LakeWatch volunteers.
5. Purchase CDs.
Three proposals were presented:
Wauchula 1.95% for 3 years; no prepayment penalties. Heartland Bank 2% for 3 years; no prepayment penalties. Highlands Independent Bank 1.84% for 3 years, penalty of three months interest. Sovereign Advisors are from Highland Independent Bank. Kovacs informed the board that if they file a Qualified Public Depositor report the funds will be insured by the State of Florida. Motion to open a three year \$450,000 CD from Heartland National Bank. (Zahn/ Causey). Vote: unanimous approval.
6. West Waterhole Pasture Pilot Project Contract Amendment.
Motion to approve the West Waterhole Pasture Pilot Project Contract Amendment for \$393,750.00. (Causey/Hartt) Vote: approved. Wayne Zahn abstained from voting.
7. FRESP contract amendment.

Motion to approve the FRESP contract amendment for \$52,500.00.
(Hartt/ Zahn) Vote: unanimous approval.

8. FDACS New Contract for Ag Stormwater Systems
Motion to approve the FDACS New Contract for Ag Stormwater Systems
for \$500,000. (Hartt/ Zahn) Vote: unanimous approval.

VI. Financial Activity

1. Overview of Financial Report (Causey/Zahn) Vote: unanimous approval
2. Contract Activities Report (Causey/Zahn) Vote: unanimous approval
3. Budget discussion – tabled until next meeting

Old Business

1. Crop cover – site has been chosen – table until next meeting
2. Northern Everglades/Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA) – table until next meeting.

Announcement

1. Local Working Group meeting October 20, 2010 9am. Jimmy to attend
2. Ag Venture, October 26, 27, and 28, 2010.
3. Conference Call with Jeff Eisenberg, November 3, 2010 at 10a.m.
4. CCC Festival, November 6, 2010
5. Regional Envirothon, December 10, 2010

The next Board meeting was set for November 2, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman