

# HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

## April 5, 2011

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman Jimmy Wohl at 2:10 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, Conference Room 3, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

**Supervisors present:** Ida Jackson, Audrey Vickers, and Jimmy Wohl

**Supervisors absent:** John Causey and Gary Gossett, Jr.

**Staff present:** Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Corine Burgess, Environmental Specialist  
Randy Gornto, Highlands County Livestock Agent  
Mike Jensen, County Extension Director

**Guests:** Pam Fentress, FSA Highlands County Board  
Ray Royce (HCCGA)

- I. Call to order 2:10 p.m., meeting notice, introductions (Wohl)
- II. Approval of Agenda: Jackie requested adding SFWMD Amend. 4; for approval. Motion to approve with change (Vickers/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval
- III. Minutes of March 1, 2011. Motion to approve as written. (Jackson/Vickers) Vote: unanimous approval.
- IV. Action Items
  - a. Cover Crop Update – Randy Gornto reported that a second soil and tissue test was taken on the Hairy Vetch. Test results showed that phosphorus was very low in the soil and a value of 0.35 percent in the tissue. Results show that phosphorus was pulled out of the soil. May want to pick another plant, hairy vetch seed is poisonous to cattle and has a tendency to become invasive. (Wohl) Ask Randy Gornto to speak with Mark Clark about cover crop next month. (Gornto) Agreed that he will speak with Mr.Clark.
  - b. Update on proposed reorganization of entity – Vickers began a discussion regarding the current issues with HSWCD. She stated that there has never been a formal vote by the BCC on a “Natural Resources Department.” (Vickers) She stated that she did not recall any discussion in any HSWCD meetings. (Vickers) We are still operating under the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Vickers stated that Ross MacBeth stated the MOU is valid. (Wohl) Would like to see HSWCD more involved with IFAS. We will be seeing funds cut throughout the county budget. (Vickers) County employee’s positions are in jeopardy. (Fentress) Wouldn’t HSWCD take a position on these job positions? Motion to recommend to the HCBCC to retain and fully fund the following positions: Corine Burgess, Environmental Specialist and Jackie Bailey, Office Manager. (Vickers/Jackson) Vote: approval.
  - c. Ray Royce’s letter – Heartland Ag Coalition - (Royce) He is representing the Ag Coalition to the HCBCC. Board member represents HCCGA, Cattleman, FNGLA, Farm Bureau, Lykes Brothers and Atlantic Blue.

d. Election of Officers – (Vickers) Do we elect officers in January? (Bailey) Chapter 582 states that Board can decide when to hold elections. (Wohl) Table until the next meeting or when there is a full slate of officers.

f. Amend #4 for the Storage and Treatment Contract was received. This amendment changes the way funds are distributed from SFWMD, We will receive all funds immediately upon execution of the amendment. Motion to approved Amendment #4 (Jackson/Vickers) Vote: unanimous approval.

V. New business

(Wohl) SFWMD has asked that our 2010 Single Act Audit be performed as soon as possible.

VI. Financial Activity

1. Overview of Financial Report – Motion to approve (Vickers/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval.

(Bailey) When will HSWCD pay HCBC the \$10,000 for the Lake Clay Project? Vicki Pontius, Director of P&NR, needs to know for budget purposes. Motion to table request until next month. HSWCD would like to receive a formal request from the County. (Vickers/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval.

2. Contract Activities Report. Motion to approved (Vickers/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval.

VII. Old Business

- a. Northern Everglades/Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA) – no report
- b. Mark Clark, IFAS, May 3, 2011 Presentation.

VIII. Announcements

- 1. Water Conservation Workshop – April 16, 2011 (Showerhead Exchange)
- 2. AFCD Area IV Meeting – April 20, 2011.
- 3. Area Speech Contest - April 20, 2011.
- 4. April Showers – April 21, 2011 (Showerhead Exchange).
- 4. State Envirothon is set for April 30, 2011.

The next Board meeting was set for May 3, 2011 at 2 p. m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman