

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

February 1, 2011

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman Jimmy Wohl at 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, Conference Room 3, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

Supervisors present: John Causey, Gary Gossett, Jr., Ida Jackson, Audrey Vickers, and Jimmy Wohl

Staff present: Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Erin McCarta, Lakes Management Assistant
Vicki Pontius, Director of Parks and Natural Resources

Commissioners: Commissioner Jack Richie

Guests: Bo Griffin (FDACS) and Sharon Collins (Hillsborough SWCD)

- I. Call to order 3:05 p.m., meeting notice, introductions (Wohl)
- II. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve (Jackson/Gossett) Vote: unanimous approval
- III. Minutes of January 4, 2011. Motion to approve with addition of, "Ida Jackson began her third term of office". (Gossett/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval.
- IV. Photographs of the Supervisor's were taken.
- V. Action
Motion (Vickers/Jackson) To approve signing Amendment 3 for the Storage and Treatment Contract with Lykes Brothers – West Waterhole Project, increasing the amount of funds by \$42,664.14 and extending the period of the contract through 9/30/2011. Vote: unanimous approval.
- VI. Financial Activity
 1. Overview of Financial Report – All five reports for the December Financials were presented. Motion (Gossett/Jackson) Postpone approving the financial reports until the next meeting. Vote: unanimous approval. Petty Cash showed no activity for January and a balance of \$197.92.
 2. Contract Activities Report. Motion to approved (Causey/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval.
- VII. Old Business
 1. Crop cover – (Causey) There is a good 4" to 6" growth of crop with uniform coverage. Good moisture. Harvest before the seed drops? Hairy Vetch does well on high phosphorus land; the phosphorus levels were low when the soil was tested. Some hog activity in the area.
 2. Northern Everglades/Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA) – Farm to Fuel Program - February 14, 2011 in Highlands County sponsored by Florida Feed Stock Growers Association. SFWMD and FDACS are working together to enroll every producer into the BMP programs. Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area will be holding Public Scoping Meeting, February 4, 2011. USFWS is purchasing

50,000 acres along the Kissimmee River. Conservation and Wildlife easements are also being purchased as a tool to protect the land.

3. SWFWMD Showerhead Grant – the grant has been approved for the amount of \$4,676. Plans are to hold two workshops and utilize the volunteers to distribute the showerheads.

4. SWFWMD MIL Grant – The second year contract for the MIL grant for \$20,000 was received at the office. SWFWMD will pay \$13,335.00 and HSWCD will pay \$6,665.00.

5. Schedule meeting with Mark Clark, Ecologist with IFAS – A brief bio and presentation outline were distributed. (Wohl) Mark is excited about giving a presentation in Highlands County. (Wohl) Set May 3 as the date for the presentation. Target audience should include agricultural community, volunteers and LakeWatch. Contact Ray Royce and the Extension Service to help advertise the event.

Motion (Gossett/Jackson) May 3, 2011 HSWCD meeting to convene at 2 p.m. and be conducted no later than 3:30p.m.; start the presentation with Mark Clark at 4p.m., time is subject to discussion with Ray Royce. Vote: unanimous approval.

VIII. Announcements

AFCD Area 4 meeting and training, February 2, 2011 Vickers will attend the meeting.

IX. Updates

1. NACD National Conference, January 30-February 2, 2011, Nashville, TN – Vickers attended the meeting and will give a written report at the next meeting.

2. Plat Book advertising – HSWCD will have a full page ad in the Plat Book as a public service ad at no charge to the District.

X. Citizens not on the agenda

(Pontius) Asked Joe DeCerbo of the Spring Lake Improvement District to our next meeting to show a Power Point Presentation of a large wetland conservation area around Arbuckle Creek.

(Bailey) Received Thank You letter from Okeechobee County Farm Bureau for the \$100 donation to the CARES recognition dinner.

(Vickers) would like to see a place on the Agenda for announcements from Supervisors and staff.

The next Board meeting was set for March 1, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman