

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

March 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 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 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: Carlos Torres, District Conservationist
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Corine Burgess, Environmental Specialist
June Fisher, Community Services Director
Mike Jensen, County Extension Director
Vicki Pontius, Director of Parks and Natural Resources

Commissioners: Commissioner Jack Richie

Guests: Joe Decerbo (SLID) and Ray Royce (HCCGA)

- I. Call to order 3:00 p.m., meeting notice, introductions (Wohl)
- II. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve (Causey/Vickers) Vote: unanimous approval
- III. Minutes of February 1, 2011. Motion to approve as written. (Causey/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval.
- IV. Presentations
Joe Decerbo, District Manager for the Spring Lake Improvement District gave a presentation on the Water Quality Plan for Arbuckle Creek. Discussion: (Gossett) Was the Spring Lake area a flood plan before it was developed? (Decerbo) Yes. (Gossett) What do you want from HSWCD? (Decerbo) We need partners and ideas. (Causey) What will make FEMA back off from their deadline to inspect the levee? (Decerbo) The mapping process is being coordinated by SWFWMD. If no public hearings are held the mapping process would be delayed. (Wohl) How many platted lots are in Spring Lake? (Decerbo) 3,800 taxable lots. (Wohl) What will happen if you miss the FEMA deadline? (Decerbo) Spring Lake will become a flood plan and flood insurance will be extremely high. (Wohl) Spring Lake may want to contact FDACS in Okeechobee and investigate environmental services as an option. (Vickers) Audrey would like a letter written to FEMA to delay deadline. (Wohl) Place on the next month's meeting.
- V. New business
Discussion - Mike Bennett had introduced Senate Bill 628 to repeal Chapter 582 (SWCDs); the bill was pulled before introduction. The companion House Bill 4089 was introduced by Bryan Nelson of Orange County. The last activity shows the bill was sent to the Ag and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Feb. 16, 2011.
- VI. Financial Activity
 1. Overview of Financial Report – Motion to approve (Vickers/Jackson) Vote: unanimous approval. Request was made to ask the bookkeeper to attend some meetings.

2. Contract Activities Report. Motion to approved (Causey/Gossett) Vote: unanimous approval. Jackie will add a description of each contract to the report.

VII. Old Business

1. Crop cover – (Causey) Very little rain. Is it time for a forage analysis? It has been 75 days since the Hairy Vetch was planted. Want samples before it seeds. Test analysis to gauge the best sequestering of phosphorus. We have learned this hairy Vetch can be used as a biological indicator. Who will obtain the sample? May get support from the Extension Service with the project.

2. SWFWMD MIL Grant – Dee Dee Jacobsen’s report was distributed.

3. (Wohl) Mark Clark, Ecologist with IFAS confirmed May 3, 2011 at 4p.m. would be a good time for him to make a phosphorus presentation to the ag community of Highlands County. Ray Royce and the Extension Service will help to advertise the event.

VIII. Announcements

1. CARES dinner was held February 24 in Okeechobee, Jackie and Audrey attended.

2. District Speech Contest is set for April 5, 2011.

3. Area Speech Contest is set for April 20, 2011.

4. State Envirothon is set for April 30, 2011.

IX. Updates

(Vickers) Report on the NACD National Conference. Audrey felt it was worthwhile and a coming together of people concerned with the agriculture of the United States. Southeast region was well represented. Vickers attended AFCD Area IV meeting, discussing the senate bill which was already withdrawn. David Legg gave the orientation for the new Supervisors.

XI. Supervisors/Staff announcements

(Torres) Carlos handed out a document highlighting the importance of HSWCD partnership with NRCS. Commissioners need to be educated how the partnership works to serve the agricultural community.

(Bailey) A statement has been made that the HCBCC are considering rescinding the MOU with HSWCD.

The next Board meeting was set for April 5, 2011 at 2 p. m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman