

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
August 2, 2005

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman Don Bates at 3:10 p.m., Tuesday, August 2, 2005 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: Chairman Don Bates, Charlie Filler, Joan Hartt, and Ida Jackson

Supervisors absent: Wayne Zahn

Staff present: Larry Sharpe, District Conservationist
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Jennifer Donze, Natural Resources Specialist
Eric Harper, Soil Conservation Technician

Guests: Don Linton, Jack Ritchie and Ray Royce

DEPOSIT:

Three deposits were made totaling \$426.12. \$203.00 for sales, \$23.12 for interest earned on Cds and \$200.00 for administrative fees for the VRT grant.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1180 for \$150.00 to Petty Cash for the fishing line recycling program.
Check 1181 for \$150.00 to AFCD for Don Bates registration fees.
Check 1182 for \$28.00 to Polston Engineering for copies.
Check 1183 for \$63.68 to Jackie Bailey for mileage.
Check 1184 for \$200.00 to AFCD for four banquet tickets.
Check 1185 for \$100.00 to Petty Cash for the office.

HSWCD balances as of July 25, 2005:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$6,840.61
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$2,000.00

Citrus Ridge VRT Grant account

Balance as of June 27, 2005	\$50,000.00
Deposit 7/6/05 from state of Florida	<u>10.00</u>
Balance as of July 25, 2005	\$50,010.00

Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

Balance as June 27, 2005	\$ 500.00
Savings Account	37,000.00
6/30/05 Interest earned	<u>77.69</u>
Total as of July 25, 2005	\$37,577.69

Minutes of July 5, 2005 were approved as written.

Lake Okeechobee Water Storage and Treatment Grant - It was noted that in last month's minutes we would receive a 5% Administrative fee for this contract, not interest from the monies.

Lake Okeechobee Restoration Act – The Istokpoga Marsh Watershed will be receiving an 87-1/2% cost share reimbursement from DACS through this grant to develop a phosphorus discharge model.

Lissette Vega won second place at the State Speaking Contest. She won \$250.00 and a plaque. Eric, Jennifer and Kevin visited the Children's Museum for Boat and Water Safety week.

The AFCD Annual Meeting was held on July 29-31, 2005 at the Mission Inn at Howey-in-the-Hills, Fl. Don Bates, Larry and Jackie attended. Don stated over 35 Districts were in attendance. It was one of the best AFCD he had attended. There is enthusiasm for the new organization. Many agencies sent representatives to speak at the meeting. Jackie's presentation of our successes was well received. At the business meeting four resolutions were passed. The current executive board was elected for the next fiscal year.

At the AFCD meeting the Florida Conservation District Employees Association was formed. They elected their officers. Jackie will serve as the Treasurer of the association.

A Mobile Irrigation Lab for Highlands County was discussed. Possible funding sources were suggested. This item was tabled until next month.

District Conservationist Report –Larry and staff have concentrated on the Emergency Conservation Program and EQIP. Site reviews have been performed for 11 producers. Three people were served through conservation planning, thirteen people were served through conservation application, and nineteen people were served through inventory and evaluations.

The Board reviewed the EQIP Plan for Bishop Dairy. The plan covers 1,297 acres. NRCS cost share is \$450,000. Since the plan was over \$100,000 it will be mailed to the Area Office for review.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Jennifer included pictures of the Soil Tunnel in her packet. It is now completed and can be used as an interactive tool for the children of the County. She has applied for a \$500 education grant from the Gopher Tortoise Group to be used to purchase handouts for the children that tour our tunnel.

The County Budget for F/Y 2006 was approved as requested. The Lake Manager Assistant position was approved as well as all issue items. There is one more budget workshop scheduled for Aug. 9th. The person filling the new position needs to be scientifically capable of collecting water samples for TMDLs. It will be very important that we stay on top of sampling. The County Commissioners will be expecting our office to produce more work and be held

accountable for TMDL sampling. Our policy of Public Access Lakes only will change to all lakes in the County being serviced through the Lakes Management Program.

The Lake Manager Report – Clell reported that he had meet with the Lake Placid Homeowners Association to discuss the Posey Dairy Permit. The association voted to continue to pursue their Chapter 120 challenge to the permit conditions. The association will formally request Natural Resources to intervene to request Mr. Posey install additional groundwater monitoring wells. Don will draft a letter to the association that the request should be directed to DEP the regulatory agency for the permit and not to our office.

Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection System Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held Thursday, August 4 at 1PM. The BCC approved the Lake Istokpoga Residential Canal Project. The BCC also approved to close the boat ramp at Lake Denton.

At a joint meeting of the Water Advisory Committee and the Natural Resources Advisory Commission on June 29, an intensive study of groundwater hydrology was discussed. USGS would be requested to perform the study of the principal groundwater aquifers in our area - likely including the Lake Okeechobee watershed extending all the way up to Babson Park in Polk County. Clell was asked to follow up with Jim Polatty on the status of such a study.

The next board meeting was set for August 2, 2005 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman