

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
March 1, 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, February 1, 2005 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

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

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

Guests: Don Linton, Jack Ritchie and Ray Royce

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made totaling \$179.12. \$ 14.12 was interest and \$165.00 was from sales.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check #1161 to petty cash for \$100.00 for MRRP.
Check #1162 to Polston Engineering for 66.00 for copying charges.
Check #1163 to Highlands Hammock State Park for \$10.00 for vendor fees for Earth Day.
Check #1164 to Pride Enterprises for \$155.34 for signs for MRRP.

HSWCD balances as of January 31, 2005:

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|----------------------------|----------|------------|
| Highlands Independent Bank | Checking | \$4,848.10 |
| 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 February 18, 2005 | \$50,000.00 |
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Minutes of February 1, 2005 were approved as written.

The State Envirothon Competition will be held on April 1st and 2nd at Hillsborough River State Park. Charlie made a motion to give \$400.00 for expenses to Avon Park High School to participate in the state contest. Seconded by Joan Hartt. Motion passed unanimously.

The staff will participate in the Spring Lake BBQ on March 5th. This is our first time at this event. Three hundred people are expected to attend. We will have a small booth and hand out environmental materials. Eric will be "Freddy" the Gator from SFWMD.

The Speech Contest will be held at our April 5th meeting. This year's topic will be, "Celebrating Florida Conservation". Highlands County Schools and Lake Placid Christian School will have students competing. Joanna Sherman from OSWCD will be here for our contest.

Earth Day will be held at Highlands Hammock State Park on April 23, 2005. "Ripply" has already been reserved for the day.

Lake Okeechobee Restoration Act and Florida Watershed Restoration Act. Bo Griffin called the office to state he had no further information on the funding of the technician position for our office. He should hear something from Tallahassee before the end of the month.

Citrus Ridge VRT Grant. We have two requests for payments. Ida Jackson made a motion that we pay Reynolds Farm, Inc. \$9,396.00 for the 60 % cost-share of their conversion of their second spreader. Seconded by Wayne Zahn. Motion passed unanimously. Ida Jackson made a motion that we pay C. Elton Crews, Inc. \$10,200 the cap payment for the conversion of their spreader. Seconded by Joan Hartt. Motion passed unanimously.

An extension for the CIAP (Lygodium) Grant for one more year has been requested. We have not heard from NOAA about the request. One request for payment has been received from Rafter T Realty. Ida Jackson made a motion to pay \$1,414.00 the 50% cost-share for the removal of Brazilian Pepper. Seconded by Charlie Filler. Motion passed unanimously.

Larry presented an amendment to the Rafter T Ranch CIAP Grant. He had re-inspected the area of treatment and \$24.00 more is needed for the cost-share. Ida Jackson made a motion to amend the conservation plan. Seconded by Wayne Zahn. Motion passes unanimously.

Larry presented a conservation plan from Lykes Bros. for treatment of lygodium on 136.4 acres. Two treatments with a 75% cost-share will be \$10,912. Ida Jackson made a motion to approve the conservation plan. Seconded by Joan Hartt. Motion passed. Wayne Zahn abstained from voting do to conflict of interest.

District Conservationist Report – Two WRP ranking field visits were performed. One for 300 acres easement purchase and the second was for restoration only. Ten people were served through conservation planning, four people were served through conservation application, and thirty-eight people were served through inventory and evaluations.

Review of the Avon Park Air Force Range's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was discussed by the Board. Discussion included noise problems, length of use of the range, air traffic paths, and reasons why this range was chosen.

Florida State Economical Impact Report of Lake Istokpoga shows that the Windy Point Park will encourage more use of Lake Istokpoga and will have economical impact on the community.

Natural Resources Specialist Report Attended the Master Naturalist Instructor Training, will be able to start teaching classes later this year. A ten person minimum is need to teach the class.

Began construction of the Soil Tunnel. Trained new volunteer for LakeWatch. Has help with the MRRP fishing line recycling program. Attended Grape Grower's meeting.

The Lake Manager Report - Clell reported that he had been working on bids for two project this month. The EWP has been approved by the BCC for debris removal from Erin Park and Lake Bonnet Village canals. Bids also were opened for the Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection project. The landfill has been contacted as to the disposal of alum residual materials. Bids will be opened on March 3rd for the Lake Istokpoga Intensive Water Quality Investigation Project.

The waterfront property owner's brochure will go before the TDC on March 11 for approval. Clell will meet with the Lake Persimmon homeowner in reference to the habitat restoration of the lake shore.

Don Bates will send a brochure from the Florida Stormwater Association about Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) to all the County Commissioners. He stated he had talked with several of the commissioners and has shared with them the financial impact of the implementation of regulation by DEP could mean to the County. A lakes manager assistant is needed. A staff member would be able to collect samples from the lakes and have them analyzed. The County by spending \$50,000 a year for a staff position could save millions.

SFWMD, SWFWMD and Highlands County have a MOU about Bill 373 which would switch the county to SFWMD. SWUCA will stay enforce if the County changes WMD boundaries or not.

The next board meeting was set for April 5, 2005 in Conference Room #3 at **2p.m.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman