

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
August 1, 2006

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 1, 2006 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

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

Supervisors absent: Joan Hartt and Wayne Zahn

Staff present: Larry Shapre, District Conservationist
Jennifer Abbey, Natural Resources Specialist
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager
Sarah LoPiccolo, Summer Work Student
Erin McCarta, Lakes Manager Assistant

Guests: Linda Crane, Linda Garvin, Don Linton, Paul Orth, Jack Richie, Karen Vallar and Audrey Vickers

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made totaling \$1,435.86. Administration fees for the Storage Grants were \$435.86. Received from Tourist Tax Committee: \$500.00 for the fishing line recycling and \$500.00 for the Enviroscope model.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1222 was voided.
Check 1223 for \$241.23 to Walmart for battery and motor for new porta-bote.
Check 1224 for \$1,777.00 to Porta-Bote for purchase a portable boat.

HSWCD balances as of July 24, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$19,892.25
Highlands Independent Bank	3 CDs	\$ 5,000.00

Citrus Ridge VRT Grant account

Balance as of July 24, 2006	\$ 50,000.00
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Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

Checking balance as of July 24, 2006	\$12,548.37
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Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Check #102 to Lykes Bros.	\$ 8,717.23
Check #103 to HSWCD	\$ 435.86
Checking balance as of July 24, 2006	\$114,331.91
Savings interest June 30, 2006	<u>2,695.79</u>
Savings balance as of July 24, 2006	\$352,113.95

Composting Grant

Balance as of July 24, 2006 \$ 500.00

Showerhead exchange/Toilet rebate

Balance as of July 24, 2006 \$12,620.66

Don Bates suggested that the Board think about investing and using the money, possibly to match grants or fund educational projects.

Minutes of July 11, 2006 were approved as written.

Jackie Bailey presented the updated draft of the budgets for F/Y's 2006 and 2007.

The office staff demonstrated the Enviroscape to the AG Venture committee. We may have a booth at this year's event. We were given a list of educational materials for the event which totaled over \$1,200. Ida Jackson made a motion that we give \$500 towards the purchase of the materials. Charlie Filler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

George Hensley from Heacock Insurance gave us a quote of \$436 for bond coverage up to \$100,000 to cover the Supervisors. Ida Jackson made a motion that we pay the annual premium for this coverage. Charlie Filler seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Liability insurance issue is still being discussed by the County. It is possible we can be covered through an interlocal agreement with the Board of County Commissioners. Issue tabled until next month.

The Association of Florida Conservation Districts annual meeting will be held August 11-12. Don and Joan will attend. Don will show our presentation as a success story.

The Mobile Irrigation Lab request for funding will be presented by the staff of SWFWMD at the Peace River Board Basin meeting on August 4th. Don Bates and Jennifer Abbey will attend.

Lynda Garvin with FDACS presented the contract for the Mini FARMS program. Mini FARMS is a program that targets producers with 100 irrigated acres or less to provide cost-share money for implementation of agricultural BMPs. Discussion included helping producers in Polk County, crossing water management districts territories and getting funds from both water management districts. The program consists of an 85% cost share with a cap of \$8,000. Ida Jackson made a motion that we administer the funds for the Mini FARMS contract. Charlie Filler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Karen Vallar from the Avon Park Bombing Range explained to the board that the work to be done through the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) Grant was to restore an existing dike to the original design and to replace one culvert. Karen will send an example of a contractor bid to help us through the process. The next meeting for the APAFR grant meeting will be August 18th at 9AM in our office.

Linda Crane from FDACS led the discussion about the Conservation Technician Position. This is the position that Bo Griffin has been speaking about for three years. The job description and duties were discussed as well as would this person be an independent contractor, who would supply vehicle, who would be their supervisor and who would be on the hiring panel. It was suggested that the lawyer look at the possibility of this person being an independent contractor. Ida Jackson made a motion that we sign the agreement for the Conservation Technician Position. Charlie Filler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe reported that Posey Dairy might default on their Conservation Plan and be charged liquidated damages. He spoke with Perry Smith about wetland mitigation requirements. Three people were served through conservation planning. Twelve people were served through conservation application and thirty-one people were served through inventories and evaluations. One governmental agency was served. He attended a FDACS meeting that describe programs to landowners.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Jennifer Abbey surveyed 18 culverts for the ECP Program. She checked two EQIP irrigation plans. She inspected one pest management plan and contacted several producers about their EQIP contracts. Contacted agencies interested in funding the MIL.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – Erin McCarta reported that the boat has not been received. The Guide to Area Lakes is being updated. Erin is taking recertification scuba lesson. The amendments to Land Development Regulations for the purpose of protecting wetlands in the county should go before the BCC this month.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell stated that Representative Denise Grimsley has scheduled a stakeholders meeting to discuss the management of Lake Istokpoga. BASS has requested to have a representation on the LIMC. Clell thanked Sarah LoPiccolo for her invaluable work she has performed for the office. Her last day will be Friday, August 4th. She will be going back to FSU to continue her studies in meteorology.

Don and Dot Bates will celebrate their 50th anniversary in September.

The next board meeting was set for September 5, 2006 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman