

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
December 12, 2006

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Interim Chairman Wayne Zahn at 3:20 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2006 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

**Supervisors present:** Charlie Filler, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

**Supervisors absent:** Joan Hartt

**Staff present:** Larry Shapre, District Conservationist  
Jennifer Abbey, Natural Resources Specialist  
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager

**Guests:** David Brumbaugh, Don Linton, Paul Orth, Ann and Vohn Steinlage and Lynn Topel

DEPOSIT:

Four deposits were made totaling \$8,239.09. \$60.17 was for sales. Administration fees for three of the grants was \$4,900.92. \$3,277.00 was a grant from SFWMD to revise the GAL.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1237 for \$32.00 to Polston Engineering for copies.  
Check 1238 for \$237.16 to Jackie Bailey for mileage.  
Check 1239 for \$1,000.00 to Florida Envirothon for a donation to the event.  
Check 1240 for \$1,000.00 to Southwest Florida Gulf Coast Envirothon for a donation.  
Check 1241 for \$200.00 to Avon Park High School to support the Envirothon team.

HSWCD balances as of December 1, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$64,097.95
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 December 1, 2006	\$39,290.00
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Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$ 0.00
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Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Checking Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 25,773.88
Check 116 to Archbold/Buck Island	8,178.68
Check 117 to HSWCD 5% admin	408.93

Check 118 to Lykes Bros	6,166.67
Check 119 to HSWCD 5% admin	308.33
Check 120 to Archbold/Buck Island	9,414.96
Check 121 to HSWCD 5% admin	<u>470.75</u>
Checking Balance as of December 1, 2006	825.56
Money Market balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 354,925.88
Interest earned	<u>1,167.07</u>
Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$ 356,092.95

Composting Grant

Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$ 0.00
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Showerhead exchange/Toilet rebate

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 12,620.66
Check 103 toilet rebate	<u>41.40</u>
Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$ 12,579.46

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$254,633.50
Check 96 Ardaman and Associates	1,290.00
Check 97 HSWCD 5% Admin fee	64.50
Interest on account	<u>837.29</u>
Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$254,116.29

Phosphorus Control #11526

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 216.71
State of Florida	86,502.45
Check 99 HSWCD 5% Admin fee	4,119.16
Check 100 Alderman Dairy	11,000.00
Check 501 Lykes Bros	13,740.00
Check 502 Williamson Cattle Co	16,250.00
Check 503 Rafter T Ranch	10,451.29
Check 504 Triple G Ranch	3,759.18
Check 505 Scarbrough Farms	<u>18,532.00</u>
Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$ 8,867.53

Lake Okeechobee #11528

Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$ 910,000.00
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CNMP #11529

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 29,675.60
Check 96 Crewsville Dairy	15,000.00
Check 97 Pine Island Dairy	<u>14,600.00</u>
Balance as of December 1, 2006	\$ 75.60

It was decided that the Long Range Plan be reviewed next month keeping in mind what goals can be met by using the money we have in our account. Matching grants with other entities may also be a good way to use our money.

Minutes of November 7, 2006 were approved as written.

The qualifications of the people who were interested in serving on our board were discussed. Ida Jackson made a motion that Dr. John Causey be appointed to our Board to fill Seat #2 vacated when Don Bates resigned. Charlie Filler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The regional Envirothon Competition was held on December 8 at the Caloosahatchee State Park. Avon Park had two teams and Lake Placid had one. The event had television coverage. Lake Placid will represent Highlands County at the state competition. 2,407 people attended the CCC Festival that was held on November 4th. Ag Venture was held on November 14, 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>. This is the first year we had a booth at the event. It was a very positive experience and we hope to participate for years to come.

The County was contacted again about the Liability Insurance for our Board. It was determined that as a State of Florida entity we cannot be covered by insurance through the County. It was suggested that we check with other state entities to see where or if they have liability insurance.

David Brumbaugh introduced himself. He has taken Lynda Garvins place and will be the grant manager for the MINI farms grant. The contract was received from FDACS just before the meeting. The Board decided to wait until next month to sign the contract; this would give them time to review the contract.

Lynn Topel discussed the FHREDI grant with the Board. This is the contract we have signed for \$29,000 for a Transportation Study. Lynn informed the Board that an addition \$50,000 amendment will be made to the contract. She also stated it will be six more months before we see any action on this grant. She said that she is waiting until after all corridors meetings were complete so that the study would be more accurate and useful. Avoiding negative effects on Highlands County is one goal of the study.

The Monthly Grant Activity Report was in the packet. The Showerhead/Toilet Rebate Grant has expired. We will pay off the loan from BCC in January. The Conservation Technician position was discussed. Jackie and Wayne will speak with Don about setting up the position as a county employee. An amendment reducing the amount of the Lake Okeechobee Grant #11528 was received. Ida Jackson made a motion that the amendment be signed. Charlie Filler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe informed the board that the deadline for EQIP applications was December 15, 2006. Larry mentioned that NRCS was helping resolve the erosion problems at Highlands Hammock State Park. Three people were served through conservation planning, three people were served through conservation application and nineteen people were served through inventories and evaluations. One governmental agency was served.

Lake Manager Assistant Report was in the packet – Erin McCarta was absent; Clell Ford reported that the NRAC proposed changes requiring land owners with potential protected natural resources to have an environmental evaluation complete prior to land clearing and building permits being issued was passed by the BCC. Erin has been working diligently on updating the Guide to Area Lakes brochure.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell Ford reported that a six month extension has been granted by EPA to give time to collect data to determine the impact of the proposed TMDLs. Testing, training and monitoring of the Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection system has begun. Full operation expected in January. Fiscal Year 2008's cooperative funding projects have been submitted to SWFWMD. When the soil borings were performed for the Avon Park Air Force Range; tests were not performed to check for stability of the soil. This is a concern for the SFWMD engineers. More tests may be needed which will bring the project over budget. The revision to the Guide to Area Lakes has an estimated cost of \$12,600; funding from both WMDs has been secured. \$7,878 is still need to finish the project. Many sources of funding were discussed. Charlie Filler made a motion that HSWCD give \$3,000 to the GAL project. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting was set for January 2, 2007 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman