

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
February 7, 2006

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman Don Bates at 3:15 p.m., Tuesday, February 7, 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 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 and Paul Orth

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made totaling \$235.00. \$210.00 for sales and \$25.00 for interest on CDs.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1198 for \$80.00 was written to Avanti for a flow meter for the Showerhead grant.
Check 1199 for \$250.00 was written to Kimberly Tucker to set-up accounts in Quickbooks.
Check 1200 for \$100.00 was written to Petty cash.

HSWCD balances as of January 30, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$6,879.85
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

Check # 1009 to Davis Citrus Mgmt.	\$ 1,605.00
Balance as of January 30, 2006	\$48,405.00

Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

Balance as of January 30, 2006	\$37,727.28
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Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of January 30, 2006	\$502,114.81
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Jackie stated that an audit was not required for 2004. One will be needed in 2005.

Minutes of January 3, 2006 were approved as written.

Don Bates read a letter from Niles Glasgow congratulating the District on a job well done reflected in our annual report for 2005.

The demonstration model for the Showerhead Exchange Program has been completed. Our presentation was shown to the BCC on January 10, 2006. It was well received. The State Envirothon competition will be held on March 31-April 1st, 2006 at Silver River State Park near Ocala. Charlie Filler made a motion that we initially give the team \$300.00 for lodging and travel expenses. Seconded by Ida Jackson. Motion passed unanimously. Charlie Filler asked for the total amount of money we have given to the Envirothon team this year. Jackie will supply the total at the next meeting. We participated in the Lorida Round Up on January 14, 2006. Turnout to the event was low because of bad weather. The Speech Contest will be held in April.

The AFCDD has sent a request for dues. The AFCDD decided to hire a part-time employee who will be updating their website. The offer for us to manage their website was rescinded. Ida Jackson made a motion that we pay our annual dues of \$250.00. Seconded by Charlie Filler. Motion passed unanimously.

A draft scope of work for the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) was discussed at length. The MIL would be used in both the agricultural and urban setting and in both WMDs. Over the past month many agencies have been contacted in hopes of finding funding. FDACS, both WMDs and NRCS may have funding available. FDACS stated that submission of a scope of work shows a real interest in the program and when they receive it they would process it for funding. SFWMD stated they would reimburse the program by how many evaluations were done. SWFWMD stated they would help us buy equipment for the lab. HSWCD and the County would provide in-kind services. NRCS would provide training but at this point are not interested in funding the MIL. Possible funding through the Tourist Tax Committee if evaluations were performed at golf courses and hotel properties. It was asked that the Board members look over the proposal and get back with Jennifer by Friday with suggestions. Jennifer will send the scope of work to FDACS.

A request to archive old files was made to the Board. All engineering plans would be left in the office. Old files would be archived in a facility used by the County in Avon Park. Suggestions were to make a detailed list of what is being archived so retrieval of information would be easier. The Board agreed it would be OK to archive old files.

The Memorandum of Understanding between HSWCD and USDA-NRCS was reviewed.

Citrus Ridge VRT Grant. We have one application. Ag Plus Development, Inc., will purchase a new fertilizer spreader, the amount of the invoice that is for variable rate technology is \$22,750. Our share will be the cap of \$10,200. Charlie Filler made a motion that we accept the application for Ag Plus Development, Inc. Seconded by Ida Jackson. Motion passed unanimously.

SFWMD held a meeting to accept comments about the damage done by Hurricane Wilma. Another meeting will be held on March 17 and the Corp of Engineers will attend to answer questions. Don Bates stated that producers should be receptive to the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Act Program and come on board with FDACS.

District Conservationist Report –Larry stated he is busy with EQIP field visit at this time. The EQIP deadline was extended until February 15. Nine people were served through conservation planning, three people were served through conservation application, and fifty-five people were served through inventory and evaluations. One governmental agency was served.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Jennifer and Eric attended a Mobile Irrigation meeting in Ft. Pierce and made many useful contacts to help us achieve our goal of getting a MIL. While in Ft. Pierce they also attended the Citrus Expo. Jennifer continues to do IWM work for Smoak Groves - they appreciate the help they are receiving from our office. The showerhead display was taken to the Lorida Round Up.

The Lake Manager Report – The Lakes Management Technical Assistant position has been advertised and closed. The Human Resources Department will send a list of the applicants to our department. The Board recommended the interview panel consists of: one Board member, Larry, Clell, Freddie Carino and request made to Commissioner Steward inviting her to sit in on the interviews. Special meeting of the Istokpoga Management Committee to develop a management plan yielded progress. Contractor has completed the fifth of six sample collections for task 2 of Istokpoga Intensive Water Quality Investigation. The Consultant services agreement between Contractor and County for the Istokpoga residential canals evaluation project approved by BCC. Requested additional funds from FDEP for the Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection System. Received most recent FDEP database run with TMDL data.

The next board meeting was set for March 7, 2006 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman