

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
January 3, 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, January 3, 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: Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Jennifer Donze, Natural Resources Specialist
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager Specialist
Eric Harper, Soil Conservation Technician

Guests: Ed Ayen, Chris Butler, Bo Griffin, A.J. Johnson, Don Linton and Paul Orth

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made totaling \$1,174.56. \$1,080 for Administrative Fees, \$65.00 for sales and \$29.59 for interest on CDs.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1189 for \$25.00 was voided. It was never received by the University of Maryland.
Check 1194 for \$25.00 was written to the University of Maryland for a soil kit.
Check 1195 for \$116.00 was written to Polston Engineering for cost of prints.
Check 1196 for \$524.48 was written to Jackie Bailey for mileage to Pigeon Forge.
Check 1197 for \$115.20 was written to Cheryl Moffat for mileage to Envirothon.

HSWCD balances as of December 22, 2005:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$7,066.85
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$2,000.00
<u>Citrus Ridge VRT Grant account</u>		
Deposit from State of Fla		\$20,400.00
Balance as of December 22, 2005		\$50,010.00
<u>Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant</u>		
Balance as of December 22, 2005		\$37,727.28
<u>Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment</u>		
Balance as of December 22, 2005		\$500,000.00

Minutes of December 6, 2005 were approved as written.

The BCC approved our loan of \$13,000 for the Showerhead Exchange Program. The presentation has been completed and is tentatively scheduled to be shown to the BCC on January 10, 2006. The State Envirothon competition will be held on March 31-April 1st, 2006 at Silver River State Park near Ocala. The Los Diablos from Avon Park High School will represent the County. The Supervisor's decided that this year's Speech Contest topic is, "Wise Use of Florida's Water Resources". Our Speech Contest will be held in April. We will participate in the Lorida Round Up again this year on January 14, 2006. Ed Ayen from Florida's Yards and Neighborhoods and Connie Steele from Florida Freshwater Frontier will join us for the event. Freddy the SFWMD mascot will also be there.

The AFCD has sent a request for dues. Our dues may be waived if we maintain the AFCD website for them. Andy Jackson will be calling us on their decision. We received a letter suggesting a topic for the speech contest. Since we had voted on a topic that was similar we will use our topic.

Eric discussed the proposed budget for a Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL). Pictures of the Lee SWCD's MIL were shared. Education will be an important part of a new program. Ed Ayen said MIL should educate the public about irrigation systems, fertilizers and plants. Irrigation companies may also use the services of the MIL. The MIL would be used in both the agricultural and urban setting and in both WMDs. The Board will look into funding possibilities. FDACS may have funding available if there are other partners.

Citrus Ridge VRT Grant. We have one request for payment. Davis Citrus Management, Inc. A low technology retrofit at a cost of \$2,675.00 or 60% cost share will be \$1,605.00. Ida Jackson made a motion that we accept request for payment to Davis Citrus Management, Inc. Seconded by Charlie Filler. Motion passed unanimously.

We received amendment #1 from FDACS for the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Act, the amendment changes the time period of the grant from 12 months to 18 months. Charlie Filler made a motion that we accept the amendment to the contract. Seconded by Ida Jackson. Motion passed unanimously. Bo Griffin stated that VRT for flatwoods would be included in this grant. The tech position from DEP is still up in the air.

Bo Griffin presented a new contract to the Board. This contract would be between FDACS, State of Florida and HSWCD. It is for two composting projects at a cost of \$700,000. The Board would receive a 5% Administration Fee with this grant. Charlie Filler made a motion that the Board accept the agreement with FDACS and the State of Florida for the new grant. Seconded by Ida Jackson. Motion passed unanimously.

Lake Okeechobee Water Storage and Treatment Grant – The second draft of the Landowner Working Contract was presented. The Board felt that some of the wording was very vague. Sarah Lynch from WWF has been revising this document. The Board felt at this time we need

to see the revisions before making changes to the draft. This item was tabled until our February meeting.

District Conservationist Report – No report this month.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Jennifer has been working on her second volume gun irrigation system. Smoak Groves appreciates the help they are receiving from our office through IWM. Requested an aquatic insect display from FWC. The fish habitat is much bigger than anticipated. We will contact Fish and Wildlife and place the habitat in one of the counties lakes, possibly Lake Jackson.

The Lake Manager Report – Clell presented “Request for letter regarding Avon Park Correctional Institution Waste Water Treatment Plant Permitted discharges to Arbuckle Creek” to BCC on Dec. 6. Istokpoga Management Committee’s primary issue is to develop a management plan. A special meeting will be held on January 26 to refine the issues to be considered by the plan. A substantial amount of work has been completed on the Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection System. Reviewed the fish mercury data presented by the Dept of Health and FFWCC. It appears there is no physical backup data present to substantiate the no consumption fish advisories. More info needed from FFWCC. Clell submitted a draft matrix for management of Istokpoga resources showing agencies and their responsibilities.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman