

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
June 6, 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, June 6, 2006 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

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

**Staff present:** Larry Sharpe, District Conservationist  
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Sarah LoPiccolo, Summer Work Student

**Guests:** Mike Carter, Bo Griffin, Don Linton, Jack Richie, Mark Robbins, and Benita Whalen

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made totaling \$8,108.75. This was for administration fees for the VRT grant and the Composting Grant.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1215 for \$144.60 to Tampa Tribune for advertising for Audit.  
Check 1216 for \$75.00 to Petty Cash fishing line recycling program.

HSWCD balances as of May 31, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$19,086.64
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

Reimbursement from State of Florida	<u>\$ 42,405.00</u>
Balance as of May 31, 2006	\$ 50,010.00

Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

Checking Account	
Transfer from Savings Acct 5/9/06	\$28,854.00
Check 1001 Lykes Bros	<u>27,480.00</u>
Checking Balance May 31, 2006	\$ 1,874.00
Saving Account Balance as of May 31, 2006	\$ 8,744.17

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of May 31, 2006	\$504,718.16
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Composting Grant

Reimbursement from State of Florida May 8, 2006	\$119,770.00
Balance as of May 31, 2006	\$175,000.00

Showerhead exchange/Toilet rebate

Check 101 to AM Conservation Group for Showerheads	\$ 364.59
Balance as of May 31, 2006	\$12,620.66

Minutes of May 2, 2006 were approved as written.

Jackie Bailey has been working on a budget for F/Y 2007. If you have any suggestions please get them to her before October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike Carter and Mark Robbins from The NCT group were introduced to the Board. They will be performing our FY 2005 audit.

Jackie Bailey has ordered the Enviroscape wetlands model. The Tourist Tax Committee will reimburse us for \$500.00 of the cost. Ag Venture has written asking us to buy materials for the event which will be held on November 14 through 16, 2006.

Jackie Bailey has contacted a lawyer to find out how to put them on retainer. She is also checking into liability insurance and bonding for supervisors.

A brief review of our Long Range Plan shows that we are meeting our goals.

The Association of Florida Conservation Districts annual meeting will be held August 11-12 at the Walt Disney World Resort. Don and Joan will attend. An election was held for Area VI Vice President and Deputy Vice President, Eva Webb and Brian Lewis will be our representatives. The 2006 Diversity Awards nomination forms were distributed. Raffle tickets for the educational fund are available.

The Mobile Irrigation Lab issue will be on the Peace River Board Basin agenda in August. Don Bates and Jennifer Abbey will attend the meeting.

The Avon Park Air Force Range contract was reviewed. This is a new grant that will be a model project for storage and treatment of water on public lands. This grant is different from the others we are administering because we would be writing the bid and contract for the contractor that will actually be doing the work. The project consists of repairing the dike and replacing one culvert. 10,000 acre/feet of water would be held in this retention area. This contract is for approximately \$250,000 and will take no more that a year to complete. We will receive a 5% administrative fee. Benita will have items #11 and #16 reviewed by SFWMD. The Board is in favor of signing the contract after clarification of the aforementioned items.

There was one request for payment for the Citrus Ridge VRT Grant for Robert J. Barben, Inc. to retrofit one machine. The initial VRT on the machine cost \$ 32,250.00, additional valves and cables were added at a cost of \$2,246.00. The machine retrofit total was \$ 34,496.38. Cap payment for the machine is \$10,200. Ida Jackson made a motion to make the payment. Seconded by Charlie Filler. Motion passed unanimously.

There was one request for payment for the CIAP grant for J. M. Wohl. He has treated 6.4 acres twice for Brazilian peppers and lygodium at a cost share amount of \$470.00. Joan Hartt made a motion to make the payment. Seconded by Ida Jackson. Motion passed unanimously.

A request for payment through the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Act Grant was presented to the Board for Alderman – Deloney Ranch for \$13,000. A motion was made by Charlie to approve payment. At this time \$10,500 will be paid and the remaining will be paid when we are reimbursed from the state. Seconded by Ida. Motion passed unanimously.

Don Bates asked if each time a request for payment was presented to the Board is a motion necessary to pay the request? This would mean that producers may wait up to a month for payments. Discussion indicated that since we had motioned to administer the grants that a review of all payments should be placed on the agenda each month. Payments should be made when invoices and request for payments are received at the office.

Bo Griffin presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Florida Watershed Restoration Act and the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act. It was a description of what FDACS wants to accomplish with the many grants available. Bo reported on several of the grants stating that large amounts of money will be handled through our District. Bo stated that FDACS fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. At the July meeting many of our grants will need to be renewed. Supervisor's handbook will be reviewed in August.

The Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI) grant has been sent to FDOT for approval.

District Conservationist Report – Larry continues to work on the numerous EQIP conservation plans. Two people were served through conservation planning, six people were served through conservation application, and thirteen people were served through inventory and evaluations. Larry attended the County's budget workshop for FY 2007.

Natural Resources Specialist, the Lake Manager , and the Assistant Lake Manager Reports were included in the meeting packet.

The next board meeting was set for July 11, 2006 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman