

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
March 7, 2006

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Ida Jackson at 3:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2006 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present:, Charlie Filler, Joan Hartt, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

Supervisors absent: Chairman Don Bates

Staff present: Larry Sharpe, District Conservationist
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Jennifer Donze, Natural Resources Specialist
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager Specialist

Guests: Linda Crane, Jack Ritchie, Don Linton and Paul Orth

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made totaling \$115.00 for sales.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1201 for \$124.95 was written to Jackie Bailey for mileage and reimbursement for water pump and hose for the Showerhead Grant.

Check 1202 for \$70.61 was written to Ridge Florist for the Hartt Family arrangement.

Check 1203 for \$300.00 was written to Avon Park High for the Envirothon Team.

HSWCD balances as of February 27, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$6,499.29
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>		
Balance as of February 27, 2006		\$48,405.00
<u>Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant</u>		
Balance as of February 27, 2006		\$37,904.24
<u>Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment</u>		
Balance as of February 27, 2006		\$502,114.81
<u>Composting Grant</u>		
Beginning balance		\$175,000.00
Check #92 to Butler Oaks Farms, Inc.		<u>100,000.00</u>
Balance as of February 27, 2006		\$ 75,000.00

Minutes of February 7, 2006 were approved as written.

The State Envirothon competition will be held on March 31-April 1st, 2006. Charlie Filler made a motion that we give the team an additional \$100.00 for meals. Seconded by Joan Hartt. Motion passed unanimously. The total amount of money we have given to the Envirothon team this year is \$815.20 and \$350.00 in contributions from the community. The County Employee Awareness Committee visited our office this month. The committee is visiting a different department each month to find out what services each department offers to citizens. The Speech Contest will be held in April. Lake Placid Christian School will send five participants; Gary Lee has contacted the office and is contacting potential participants. Earth Day will be April 22 at Highlands Hammock State Park.

Jackie asked the Board about purchasing the Enviroscope Wetland Model for an educational tool. A motion approved this purchase in January of 2004. At that time we were working with DEP to get a grant for half of the \$800 cost. This grant has not gone through. Jackie will contact DEP and tell them we are ready to purchase the model. Jack Ritchie stated that he felt this would be a good project for the Lakes Association and the Tourist Tax committee. We will make a request to the Lakes Association to partnership with us for half of the cost.

The scope of work for the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) was submitted to FDACS. It was suggested that two staff positions should be budgeted; this would add \$25,000 to our proposal. Funding for the vehicle is still being sought. A dopler flow meter may need to be purchased. Calibration of wells will be required in the basins as of 2007. The timing of the budget cycles for the WMDs is a challenge.

Composting Grant. On February 15, 2006 we received a request for payment for \$100,000 for Butler Oaks Farm, Inc. After consulting all Supervisors and checking that all paperwork was complete and correct, we issued a check. We received a request for payment from McArthur Farms, Inc for \$104,798.75. Joan Hartt made a motion that we pay McArthur Farms, Inc., \$74,000.00 of the requested amount at this time and the remaining amount when we receive our reimbursement from the State of Florida. Motion seconded by Wayne Zahn. Motion passed unanimously.

District Conservationist Report –Larry stated he is busy with ranking EQIP applicants and recording information in Protracts. Bonnet Lake Groves irrigation system installation for the EQIP program has been submitted for payment. Revision of the conservation plan for Sun “N Lake Preserve was discussed with County representatives. Six people were served through conservation planning, two people were served through conservation application, and twenty-eight people were served through inventory and evaluations. Two governmental agencies were served.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Jennifer and Eric participated in the Career Day at SFCC. Jennifer along with Florida Yards and Neighborhoods and the Master Gardener’s will sponsor a Rain Barrel Workshop. The cost to attend the workshop will be \$10.00 per rain barrel. Joan Hartt made a motion to approve expenditures up to \$300.00 for supplies for the workshop; this

money will be reimbursed as fees. Seconded by Charlie Filler. Motion passed unanimously. A suggestion was made that supplies should be purchased close to the time of the workshop as participants RSVP, this would eliminate overspending.

The Lake Manager Report – The Lakes Management Technical Assistant position has been filled. Erin McCarta accepted the position. The Contractor has completed sampling for Task 2 of the Istokpoga Intensive Water Quality Investigation. Significant progress was made towards completion of the Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection System. Most of the aeration pumps were reinstalled on Lake Persimmon. The revegetation project should now resume. Received draft Water Quality Assessment Report that includes 3 lakes for mercury in fish tissue. Clell handed out the draft matrix for management of Istokpoga resources showing agencies and their responsibilities.

The next board meeting was set for April 4, 2006 in Conference Room #3 at 2p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman