

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
May 2, 2006

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman, Don Bates at 2:10 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2006 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

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

**Supervisors absent:** Joan Hartt

**Staff present:** Larry Sharpe, District Conservationist  
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Jennifer Abbey, Natural Resources Specialist  
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager Specialist  
Erin Mc Carta, Lakes Manager Technical Assistant

**Guests:** Bo Griffin, Charles Shinn, Lynn Topel and Audrey Vickers

DEPOSITS

Two deposits were made totaling \$253.00. This was for sales and the rain barrel workshop.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1209 for \$53.50 to Learning Lab for a soil kit.  
Check 1210 for 60.98 to Jennifer Donze for materials needed for the Rain Barrel Workshop.  
Check 1211 for \$66.00 to Polston Engineering for prints.  
Check 1212 for \$150.00 to Maureen Calhoun for First Place in the Speech Contest.  
Check 1213 for \$100.00 to Colby Royce for Second Place in the Speech Contest.  
Check 1214 for \$50.00 to Ciara Lourie for Third Place in the Speech Contest.

HSWCD balances as of April 24, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$11,207.49
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 1010 to Lykes Bros – 3 <sup>rd</sup> machine	\$10,200.00
Check 1011 to Ag-Plus Development – new machine	10,200.00
Check 1012 to Story Citrus Service – new machine	10,200.00
Check 1013 to Story Grove Service – new machine	<u>10,200.00</u>
Balance as of April 24, 2006	\$ 7,605.00

Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

March 31, 2006 Interest	\$ 193.93
Balance as of April 24, 2006	\$38,098.17

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

March 31, 2006 Interest	\$ 2,603.35
Balance as of April 24, 2006	\$502,114.81

Composting Grant

Balance as of April 24, 2006	\$ 55,230.00
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Showerhead exchange/Toilet rebate

Balance as of April 24, 2006	\$13,000.00
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Minutes of April 4, 2006 were approved as written.

One proposal was received to perform financial audit services for F/Y 2005. Ida Jackson made a motion that the NCT Group, LLP perform the audit. Seconded by Wayne Zahn.

Jennifer stated that the Rain Barrel Workshop was a success. There were twenty-eight participants paying \$10.00 each to make a rain barrel and then take it home to use in their lawns and gardens. Earth Day was held on April 22 at Highlands Hammock State Park. Over 2,300 people attended the event. Jackie shared recent news releases published in the local papers with the supervisors.

Jennifer and Jackie reported on the Conservation District's Area VI meeting. Most of the ten districts were represented. Dr. Boman from IFAS spoke on several BMP Brochures being published by IFAS. We showed our BCC Presentation. Education is a priority for all of the Districts in Area VI.

A letter was written to Mr. Bruce Wirth with SWFWMD for out of cycle money to fund the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL). Hopefully, we will be on the Peace River Board Basin agenda for the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jennifer will follow up on this matter.

There was one application 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, there was a problem with the retrofit and 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. Wayne Zahn made a motion to accept the application. Seconded by Ida Jackson.

Bo Griffin handed out the newly published Supervisors Handbooks. He recommended that all supervisors and staff review the handbooks, especially the financial reporting requirements. Reviewing the handbooks will be placed on the agenda monthly. Bo reported on several of the grants stating that large amounts of money will be handled through our District. Bo also informed the Board that several landowners were spreading the word about the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan and that the agricultural community was accepting the program.

Lynn Topel with Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI) asked the District to be the conduit for grant monies to be received from the Department of Transportation to establish an organizational framework necessary to implement the recommendations contained in the Rural Transit Planning Study. We will not receive an administration fee for this grant. If an audit is needed, FHREDI will pay the portion of the audit that applies to their grant. This grant will be for a period of one year. Ida Jackson made a motion that we administer this grant. Seconded by Wayne Zahn. Motion passed unanimously.

District Conservationist Report – The month can be summed up in one word: EQIP. Seventeen people were served through conservation planning, four people were served through conservation application, and twenty-nine people were served through inventory and evaluations. Larry attended the Fisheating Creek Landowners Group meeting to discuss watershed operation and maintenance.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Jennifer has visited two more schools with the Soil Tunnel. Over a thousand children have crawled through the tunnel. Jennifer requested the purchase of 72 showerheads for the Showerhead Exchange grant. The District will be responsible for \$77.46. Charlie made a motion to approve the purchase. Ida Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Lake Manager Report – Clell reported that the Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection System needed additional funding of approximate \$25,000. This money will come from Highlands County BCC. Clell also mentioned that the Highlands County Lakes Association is in possession of very old documents that need to be stored or destroyed. After discussion it was decided that the documents would not be of value to our office.

The next board meeting was set for June 6, 2006 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman