

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
November 7, 2006

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

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

**Supervisors absent:** Joan Hartt

**Staff present:** Larry Shapre, District Conservationist  
Jennifer Abbey, Natural Resources Specialist  
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager  
Erin McCarta, Lakes Manager Assistant

**Guests:** Bo Griffin, Linda Garvin and Paul Orth

Ida Jackson made a motion that Wayne Zahn be appointed as the Interim Chairman and that Charlie Filler continues with the position as Secretary/Treasurer. Charlie Filler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Charlie Filler made a motion that Ida Jackson be appointed Co-Chairperson. Wayne Zahn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Many names have been suggested of people to be contacted to fill the vacancy on our board. Interested candidates will be at the next meeting.

DEPOSIT:

Five deposits were made totaling \$15,993.78. \$135.00 was for sales. Administration fees for two of the grants were \$15,858.78.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1236 for \$175.00 to Department of Community Affairs for the Special District Fee.

HSWCD balances as of October 30, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$58,329.02
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

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$39,290.00
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Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 3,588.87
Check #1010 to State of Florida (closed)	<u>\$ 3,588.87</u>
Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 0.00

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 55,832.91
Check #112 to Achbold (Buck Island)	\$ 18,983.49
Check #113 to HSWCD 5% Admin	\$ 949.17
Check #114 to Lykes Bros	\$ 9,644.16
Check # 115 to HSWCD 5% Admin	\$ 482.21
Checking Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 25,773.88
Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 353,871.54
September 29, 2006 interest	\$ 1,054.34
Money Market balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 354,925.88

Composting Grant

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 300.75
Deposit from State of Florida	\$ 80,000.00
Check #98 to HSWCD 5% Admin	\$ 14,427.40
Check #99 to McArthur Farms	\$ 60,000.00
Check #100 to State of Florida (closed)	\$ 5,873.30
Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 0.00

Showerhead exchange/Toilet rebate

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 12,620.66
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Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$254,242.00
Interest	\$ 391.50
Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$254,633.50

Phosphorus Control #11526

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 44,524.54
Check #97 to Syfrett Ranch	\$ 25,500.00
Check #98 to Alderman-Deloney	\$ 18,807.83
Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 216.71

Lake Okeechobee #11528

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 910,000.00
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CNMP #11529

Balance as of October 30, 2006	\$ 29,675.60
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Minutes of October 3, 2006 were approved as written.

The board reviewed the budgets for 2006 and 2007. The budgets are working documents and budget amendments can be written when needed. It is mandated by the state that we have a yearly budget. Ida Jackson made a motion that the budgets be approved. Charlie Filler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackie attended the Florida Envirothon meeting on October 23, 2006. The meeting was in preparation for this year's event on April 13 and 14, 2007. The regional Envirothon Competition will be held on December 8 at the Caloosahatchee State Park. Avon Park has two teams and Lake Placid will have one or two teams. Donations were request from both events and from the Avon Park teams. Charlie Filler made a motion to donate \$1,000 to each event and also recommend a donation of \$200 be sent to the Avon Park High School teams. The motion was seconded by Ida Jackson. Motion passed unanimously.

2,407 people attended the CCC Festival that was held on November 4th. Ag Venture will be held on November 14, 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>.

The County was contacted again about the Liability Insurance for our Board.

The need for additional software for the district computer and the need for wireless internet service were discussed. Several quotes for the internet service were presented. Charlie Filler made a motion to purchase Microsoft Office at the cost of \$300 and to contact Comcast for wireless internet service. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Linda Garvins presented four applications for the MINI farms grant. Linda stated that the application could be approved before the funds were received. The contract has not been received from FDACS. The Board decided to wait until the contract is received and executed before approving the applications.

The Monthly Grant Activity Report was in the packet. There was one change to the report; a request made for a toilet rebate through the Showerhead/Toilet Rebate Grant.

Bo Griffin distributed documents concerning EPA's proposal of implementation of TMDLs for Lake Okeechobee and its tributaries. Proposed TMDL is 77ppb of phosphorous. Ida Jackson made a motion that Clell Ford write a letter asking for a six month extension to give time to collect data to determine the impact of the proposed TMDLs on the entire watershed. Charlie Filler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Conservation Technician position was discussed. It was suggested that we speak to the BCC to ask if this position could be set-up as a county employee. It may take several months to get this position established with the County. The money would come through FDACS and flow through the county.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe voiced his concern of dairies backing out of EQIP contracts. Larry also informed the board that the County removed Scarborough's culvert in the Lake Istokpoga Marsh Watershed. Three people were served through conservation planning, five people were served through conservation application and twenty-one people were served through inventories and evaluations. One governmental agency was served.

Jennifer Abbey updated the board on the progress of funding for the Mobile Irrigation Lab.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – Erin McCarta reported that non-public access lakes water quality assessments have begun. Erin and Clell are working on updating the Guide to Area Lakes brochure. Funding for the publication received from both WMDs; more funding possible from the TDC. Erin presented a talk on Artificial Fish Habitats at the FL Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference. NRAC proposed changes requiring land owners with potential protected natural resources to have an environmental evaluation complete prior to land clearing and building permits being issued.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell Ford reported LIMC hosted a presentation from the USACE and SFWMD regarding proposed water regulation schedule revisions for Lake Istokpoga. Pumps have been replaced and the electronic control mechanisms have been completed for the Little Lake Jackson Alum Injection System. Testing, training and monitoring of system will begin in November. Lake Glenada water quality and lake hydrology conditions have been summarized. Clell listed Fiscal Year 2008's cooperative funding projects. He requested the Board comment and prioritized the projects before presenting the list to the BCC and SFWMD.

The next board meeting was set for December 12, 2006 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman