

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

October 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 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, October 3, 2006 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

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

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

Guests: Mike Carter, Linda Crane, Julie Fowler, Don Linton, Paul Orth, and Jack Richie

DEPOSIT:

Five deposits were made totaling \$23,497.07. \$195.00 was for sales. \$23,302.07 was for administration fees for five of the grants.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1230 for \$625.06 to Clifford Rhoades for professional services.
 Check 1231 for \$90.68 to Jackie Bailey for mileage and office supplies reimbursement.
 Check 1232 for \$4,790.00 to NCT Group for the cost of the audit.
 Check 1233 for \$150.00 to Highlands County Fair Association for booth rental.
 Check 1234 for \$79.75 to Artistic Frames and Graphics for plaque and boat decals.
 Check 1235 for \$273.50 to Chicanes Restaurant for luncheon.

HSWCD balances as of September 26, 2006:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$42,500.27
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 August 28, 2006	\$ 50,000.00
Check #1016 to C&T Groves & Land	10,200.00
Check 1017 to HSWCD	510.00
Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$39,290.00

Lake Okeechobee Restoration Grant

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 3,588.87
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Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Checking balance as of August 28, 2006	\$ 86,646.43
Check #108 to (Archbold) Buck Island	23,447.52
Check #109 to HSWCD	1,172.38
Check #110 to (Archbold) Buck Island	5,898.69
Check #111 to HSWCD	294.93
Balance as of September 26, 2006	55,832.91
Money Market balance as of September 26, 2006	\$352,816.31

Composting Grant

Balance as of August 28, 2006	\$ 500.00
State of Florida deposit 9/8/06	411,365.65
Check #96 to McArthur	<u>411,564.90</u>
Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 300.75

Showerhead exchange/Toilet rebate

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$ 12,620.66
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Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$254,242.00
Moved to Money Market Acct.	

Phosphorus Control #11526

Balance as of August 28, 2006	\$38,224.00
Check #94 to Alderman Deloney	12,192.17
Check #95 to Rafter T Ranch	1,314.98
Check #96 to Syfrett Ranch	24,568.31
State of Florida deposit 9/26/06	<u>44,376.00</u>
Balance as of September 26, 2006	\$44,524.54

Lake Okeechobee #11528

Balance as of August 28, 2006	\$901,000.00
Check #93 to Montsdeoca Ranch	7,623.75
State of Florida deposit 9/26/06	<u>16,623.75</u>
Balance as of September 26, 2006	910,000.00

CNMP #11529

Balance as of August 28, 2006	\$21,704.08
Check #92 voided	(2,972.72)
Check #93 to Triple G	2,979.72
State of Florida deposit 9/26/06	<u>7,978.42</u>
Balance as of September 26, 2006	29,675.50

Minutes of September 5, 2006 and September 20, 2006 were approved as written.

Mike Carter from the NCT Group presented the Board with an arrangement letter offering to perform the 2006-07 F/Y Single Act Audit. This audit will be much more detailed than the audit for F/Y 2005-06. Ida Jackson made a motion that we sign the arrangement letter with the NCT Group to perform the audit at a cost not to exceed \$11,000. Joan Hartt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mike Carter also introduced Julie Fowler who will be doing most of the work on next year's audit.

Don Bates commented we need to be proactive with the use of our funds. A suggestion for use of the monies was to fund GPS fertilizer spreaders; by map location and soil type the spreader would release a specified amount of fertilizer which would help producers reduce fertilizer use by 15%. The budgets for F/Y's 2005-06 and 2006-07 were presented to the board. Discussion of the budget documents included: changing the wording from surplus to revenue, the grant totals did not include the administration fee, the fees were recorded separately. We need to review our budget each month and make it a working document. The staff will generate a list of office supplies needed for the district, such as internet access and software needs.

Erin and Jennifer will attend the AG Venture planning meeting on Oct. 4, to demonstrate the EnviroScape model. The regional Envirothon Competition will be held on December 8 at the Caloosahatchee State Park. Avon Park has three teams this year. The Speech Contest will be held on April 3, 2007. This year's topic is "What are the effects of the Real Estate Boom on Florida's Agriculture?"

We now have two quotes for liability insurance. Tom Bowman with the County stated that accepting the company with the lowest quote would be easier than getting our insurance through the county. The board suggested going through the county would be best for us. Mr. Bowman will be contacted. It was also suggested to check out the insurance companies we received quotes from, with the State of Florida as to their rating and to make sure they are registered with the state.

Jackie Bailey presented the Grant Activity. She explained which grants would be expiring, which were new and how money was flowing through the grants. In her packet were the Notice of Intent's (NOI) for the producers that had received payment from the grants, how much the producers had been paid and if they had a balance that would be paid in the future.

The Conservation Technician Position contract has been received at the office. It was suggested that we speak to the County Administrator 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. The person in this position will be responsible for all aspects of administering of the grants. The amount of the contract was less than discussed; FDACS in Tallahassee explained that the funds were for nine months not an entire year. Joan Hartt made a motion to sign the Conservation Technician contract. Ida Jackson seconded. Pass unanimously.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe reported that much of his time this month was spent inspecting EQIP practices and approving payment certification. Larry stated that Posey Dairy had cancelled their EQIP contract; Posey will not be charged liquidated damages. This is a big concern for the citizens around Lake Placid because of run off from the dairy to the lake. This is an issue that will not go away soon. Perry Smith's wetland violation is in mitigation. He will be able to be paid for his EQIP contract. Larry informed the Board that Jennifer Abbey has accepted the position of Conservation Technician and will become a NRCS employee on October 16, 2006. Congrats! Jennifer! Three people were served through conservation planning. Seven people were served through conservation application and nineteen people were served through inventories and evaluations. One governmental agency was served. The Local Working Group meeting was held to address concerns for EQIP projects for the up coming year.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Jennifer Abbey went to Irrigation Management training last month. The training was very useful and she will be able to help the Mobile Irrigation Lab employee to understand what is expected of them. The training did not include urban. She did a golf course evaluation with the help of three NRCS employees. She has been coaching our three Envirothon teams at Avon Park High School.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – Erin McCarta reported that non-public access lakes water quality assessments will begin soon. Clell and Erin conducted two water samplings from Istokpoga and Arbuckle Creek in association with the emergency pumping from the Spring Lake Improvement District. Lake Istokpoga Intensive Water Quality Investigation is complete and the data has been organized and is being analyzed. Erin and Clell are working on updating the Guide to Area Lakes brochure. Erin shared underwater pictures of the Fish Attractor. A buoy has been purchased to mark the attractor.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell Ford reported that the Istokpoga residential canal evaluation report is completed. The LIMC held their summer meeting. Dr. Haller updated and educated the Committee on the status of the aquatic plant management research at the U of F; he was well received by the group. Requested update from SFWMD and USACE on proposed revisions to the Istokpoga regulation schedule, there will be a meeting October 19 at the BCC chambers. Jackie and Clell made a site visit to the dike for the Avon Park Air Force Range Grant. Staff has received request to invoice soil boring tests at a cost of 12 to 15 hundred dollars. Clell stated that the County Budget has been approved; all requested Lakes Management Projects were approved. Clell meet with representatives of the Town of Lake Placid concerning the Lake Placid Watershed Master Plan. Clell has received funding from SFWMD for reprinting the Guide to Area Lakes, he is looking for addition funding from SWFWMD, possibly the Tourist Development Tax Committee and HSWCD.

Don Bates stated that it was very hard for him to tender his irrevocable resignation from our Board. He has enjoyed working with us and feels that we are the best SWCD in the state. He urged us to fill the position and to appoint a chairman as soon as possible. He explained if there are five supervisors it will be easier to get a quorum than with four. The vacant position will be up for election in 2008.

The next board meeting was set for November 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