

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
September 20, 2006

The special meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairman, Don Bates at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at Inn on the Lakes, Sebring, Florida.

**Supervisors present:** Chairman Don Bates, Joan Hartt and Ida Jackson

**Supervisors absent:** Charlie Filler 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:** Bob Barben, Dottie Bates, Sanford Hart, Andrew Jackson, Bill Lee, Charlotte Lee, Carol Orth, and Paul Orth

This special meeting was called to thank Don Bates for all his years of dedicated service to the District. Don was appointed to the board in November of 1991 and was appointed Chairman in January of 1995. Don tendered his resignation from the board so that he could run for Highlands County Commissioner for the District 4 seat that is currently held by Bob Bullard. Bob Bullard is not seeking re-election. Don spoke to the board, staff members and guests about the difficulty of resigning from the soil and water board. This was one of the hardest decisions he had to make.

Don highlighted the many projects and programs that the District has been involved with over the past sixty years to help landowners, other organizations and agency partners to protect our soil, water, and other natural resources. He spoke about the involvement of the District with the creation of the watershed projects back in the 50's and 60's. He spoke about the many grants from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and South Florida Water Management District that are being administered by the staff at present. He saw the creation of the Lakes Management Programs. He commended the staff on their dedication to accomplish the goals of the Long Range Plan. Jackie Bailey presented Don with a plaque of appreciation from the board as well as the staff members.

Thanks Don, you will be missed.

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman