

**HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES**  
**November 6, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Interim Chair Wayne Zahn at 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, November 6, 2007 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

**Supervisors present:** John Causey, Gregg Hartt, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

**Supervisors absent:** Charlie Filler

**Staff present:** Larry Sharpe, District Conservationist  
Jennifer Abbey, Soil Conservationist  
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager  
Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist  
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager  
Erin McCarta, Lakes Manager Assistant

**Guests:** Mark Clifford, Danny Kushmer and Paul Orth

This is a summary of the Financial Statement for October 29, 2007.

DEPOSIT:

Two deposits were made totaling \$5,874.84. \$5,724.84 was admin fees and \$150.00 was from sales.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1292 for \$200.00 to Petty Cash for the composter projects.  
Check 1293 for \$80.00 to Comcast for internet service.  
Check 1294 for \$394.00 to Clifford Rhoades for professional services.  
Check 1295 for \$10.00 to State of Florida for Gregg Hartt's registration.  
Check 1296 for \$1,000.00 to Southwest Gulf Coast Environthon for a donation.  
Check 1297 for \$1,000.00 to State Environthon contest for a donation.  
Check 1298 for \$150.00 to Highlands County Fair Association for booth rental.  
Check 1299 for \$1,000.00 to North American Lake Management Society to sponsor a break.  
Check 1300 for \$8.46 to Florida Dept. of Revenue for sales tax.  
Check 1301 for \$500.00 to Ridge Trail Association to sponsor a canoe.

HSWCD balances as of October 29, 2007:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 6,296.90
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 2,000.00

HSWCD Money Market Account as of October 29, 2007

Beginning balance	\$218,834.64
Interest	691.52
Four deposits from 4 contracts admin fees	<u>81,945.41</u>
Ending balance	\$301,471.57

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$331,628.00
Interest	<u>1,038.06</u>

Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$332,666.06
Balance as of October 29, 2007(Regular Checking)	\$528.62
<u>Avon Park Air Force Range Grant</u>	
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$262,699.65
Interest	<u>822.30</u>
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$263,521.95
<u>Engineering and Design #11791</u>	
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$ 3,119.31
Dep – State of Florida	391,059.44
Check 124 –128	<u>394,178.75</u>
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 0.00
<u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 0.00
<u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$ 1,943.00
Four Deps – State of Florida	1,280,580.56
Check 94 – 96 and 500- 506	<u>1,036,902.20</u>
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 245,621.36
<u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$ 11.66
Deps State of Florida	104,258.79
Check 604 – 619	<u>100,184.93</u>
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 4,085.52
<u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$ 10,585.14
Deps – State of Florida	319,414.86
Check 94 – 97	<u>202,646.59</u>
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$127,353.41

Minutes of October 2, 2007 were approved with one spelling correction.

This years audit will begin on November 19, 2007.

The office staff participated in the Big Canoe Challenge held October 20, 2007, it was an exciting event sponsored by the Ridge Trail Association. We came in fourth place missing third place by a tenth of a second. Ag Venture was held Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. Over 750 third graders visited our booth. We spoke to them about the importance of the water cycle and keeping pollution out of the watershed. The CCC Festival was held on November 3; again we handed out tons of environmental educational materials, we also displayed our home composter. Freddy from SFWMD joined us again this year. The office staff attended the LakeWatch Picnic on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Corine presented a PowerPoint presentation of the community events we participated in over the last few weeks.

The Regional Environthon will be held on December 7, 2007 at the Caloosahatchee Regional Park in Alva. Our donation was greatly appreciated. The State Environthon competition will be

held on April 12, 2008 at the Myakka River State Park. The State Committee verbally thanked us for our donation.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. The board members would like to have a better understanding of what the large payments to dairy producers are paying for; they would also like to know what BMPs are being addressed. Jackie will bring detailed information to the next meeting to explain where the funds are being spent and on what projects. We are still planning to visit Butler Oaks Farms.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe summed up his report in one word – EQIP. Sign up cut off date is November 13, 2007. Required forms to sign up for EQIP have doubled this year. With the rollover applications from last year and the new applications this year we have over 20 applicants. Ten people were served through conservation application and nineteen people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine was involved with Ag Venture, CCC Festival, Environthon and the LakeWatch Picnic. She is also preparing for the Home Composter Workshop being held November 29<sup>th</sup>. She assisted with one EQIP survey and inspected an EQIP plan.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – The scrape will begin on November 5<sup>th</sup> for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project. Because of weather conditions the project will take longer than anticipated. An extension on the DEP permit for six months will be requested. Fish and Game is interested in herbicide control for the Primrose willow just outside of our project. Lake Rachard was sampled for the first time; the lake is deeper than 45 feet. At the Lake Denton meeting the committee's goal is to reopen the lake by April 18, 2008. Erin and Corine attended the newly form Landscape Standards Review Committee meeting on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. The committee was formed to review existing regulations.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell informed the Board that the SFWMD has requested a temporary deviation to the Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule. With the change of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan to include more of the upstream watershed and renaming the project to the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA) state funding is expect to be up to 100 million dollars. Clell will be participating in the watershed helicopter tour tomorrow with the new SFWMD project manager. Little Lake Jackson Alum System has been completed, and is waiting for rain to use the system. Lake August hydrilla treatment is underway. Ridge Residential Canal Evaluation and Maintenance project has begun. Clell would like to receive suggestions for Cooperative Funding Projects for F/Y 2009.

As President of Florida Lakes Management Society, Clell hosted the North American Lakes Management Society (NALMS) International Symposium in Orlando. He also gave a presentation on Lake Istokpoga. He shared his presentation with us today. HSWCD received a letter thanking us for the \$1,000 donation to NALMS; our money sponsored the Awards Reception.

Danny Kushmer, SWFWMD, stated that Polk County had received an education grant from SWFWMD that the Highlands County Landscape committee may want to look at and possible apply for a similar grant.

The next board meeting was set for December 4, 2007 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman