

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

May 1, 2007

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Ida Jackson at 2:10 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2007 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: John Causey, Charlie Filler and Ida Jackson

Supervisors absent: Joan Hartt and Wayne Zahn

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

Guests: Linda Crane, Noel Martin and Paul Orth

DEPOSIT:

Three deposits were made totaling \$31,534.88. Sales were \$85.35, and the remaining amount of \$31,529.53 were administration fees from four grants.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1259 for \$80.00 to Comcast for monthly service.
Check 1260 for \$110.21 to Ida Jackson for reimbursement for floral arrangement.
Check 1261 for \$201.96 to Jackie Bailey mileage reimbursement.
Check 1262 for \$150.00 to Brittany Gaudino for first place for the Speech Contest.
Check 1263 for \$100.00 to Jerry Lee Wright for second place for the Speech Contest.
Check 1264 for \$50.00 to Colby Royce for third place for the Speech Contest.
Check 1265 for \$10.00 to Dept of State for John Causey's registration.
Check 1266 for \$20.82 to Fla. Dept of Revenue for quarterly sales tax.
Check 1267 for \$6,277.00 to Media General for publication of Guide to Area Lakes.
Check 1268 for \$131.25 to Artistic Design for labels for the MRRP program.

HSWCD balances as of April 24, 2007:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$100,967.05
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 1,500.00
Highlands Independent Bank	CD	\$ 2,000.00

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of March 26, 2007	\$330,461.27
Check #101 Lykes Bros	5,454.54
Check #102 HSWCD	272.73
Interest	<u>1,105.34</u>
Balance as of April 24, 2007 (Money Market)	325,839.34
Balance as of April 24, 2007(Regular Checking)	\$528.62

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of March 26, 2007	\$257,268.78
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Interest	<u>860.51</u>
Balance as of April 24, 2007	\$258,129.29

Phosphorus Control #11526

Balance as of March 26, 2007	\$ 8,135.00
State of Florida Deposit	137,774.36
Check 534 Archbold	16,072.98
Check 535 Scarbrough	22,482.30
Check 536 Indian Prairie Cattle	5,707.88
Check 537 HSWCD	4,822.26
State of Florida Deposit	64,090.14
Check 538 Alderman-Deloney	9,000.00
Check 539 HSWCD	<u>4,569.91</u>
Balance as of April 24, 2007	\$147,345.87

Lake Okeechobee #11528

Balance as of March 26, 2007	\$560,181.50
Check 1003 Butler Oaks	110,773.00
Check 1004 HSWCD	4,430.92
Check 1005 B-4, Inc	32,368.68
Check 1006 B-4, Inc	143,755.00
Check 1007 HSWCD	7,044.95
State of Florida Deposit	252,494.70
Check 1008 B-4, Inc	133,447.00
Check 1009 HSWCD	<u>5,337.88</u>
Balance as of April 24, 2007	375,518.77

CNMP #11529

Balance as of April 24, 2007	\$ 29,255.60
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Engineering and Design 11791

Balance as of March 26, 2007	\$242,025.72
Check 99 NFC Dairy, LLP	167,684.43
State of Florida Deposit	132,622.64
Check 100 HSWCD	6,315.36
Balance as of April 24, 2007	\$200,648.57

Minutes of April 3, 2007 were approved with corrections. The Financial Statement was approved with the notation that John Causey gave HSWCD \$10 for his fees and then a check was written for that amount.

Jackie Bailey did research on State Board of Administration (SBA) Local Government Investing Pool. Many questions were asked about costs, fees and restrictions. Jackie will contact SBA and report to the board next month.

A quote for liability insurance from Heacock Insurance was in the packet. Motion made by John Causey to authorize purchase of liability insurance as soon as pending permits are received for the project on the Avon Park Air Force Range. Charlie Filler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Envirothon state competition was held on April 14, 2007. Highlands Independent Bank contacted the office requesting a letter stating that the supervisors were aware of the Southwest

Gulf Coast Envirothon account and approved of the signers. Jackie had drafted a letter with this information. Motion made by Charlie Filler to sign the letter. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

HSWCD staff participated in the Earth Day at De Vane Park in Lake Placid on April 21, 2007.

The district Speech Contest was held April 3, 2007. The subject was, "What are the Effects of the Real Estate Boom on Florida's Agriculture"? Eight speakers competed in the Contest. First-place contestant, Brittany Gaudino from Lake Placid High School, was presented a cash prize of \$150.00; the \$100.00 prize went to second-place contestant, Jerry Lee Wright from Avon Park High School and \$50.00 to third-place contestant, Colby Royce from Lake Placid Christian School. The Area Contest will be held after our May today.

National County Government Week was celebrated on April 24th. This event took place at the Government Center. The Enviroscope was used to show the effects of stormwater runoff to the Commissioners, county staff and interested citizens.

HSWCD along with the Highlands County Lakes Association are planning a Lake Jackson Clean Up on May 12 at 9a.m. at Veterans Beach. Lunch will be provided by the Tourist Development Council. Joining in the clean up will be Habitat for Humanity and the Sheriff Office dive team.

The Area VI SWCD meeting will be held on May 31, in Belle Glade. John Causey and staff members will attend the meeting. Linda Crane stated it was important that staff member and area producers attend the pump calibration training in Okeechobee on May 24th. SFWMD is stricter on renewing water use consumption permits and are requiring that pumps be calibrated every 5 years.

Larry Sharpe explained why a high end computer capable of manipulating digital materials would be an asset to the office staff. FDACS has approved the use of the funds for office supplies in the Conservation Tech grant to be used for this computer. Motion made by John Causey to purchase the computer with the FDACS funds. Charlie Filler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Noel Martin presented five MiniFARM applications; Rod Stephens of Blue Sky Farms for a total of \$6,077.50, John McCracken for two practices, both with cap payments of \$8,000.00, George and Marilyn Mason with a cap payment of \$8,000.00 and Sunshine Nursery with a cap payment of \$8,000.00. Motion made by John Causey to approve the five applications for the MiniFARM program. Charlie Filler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Grant Activity Report was reviewed.

The interlocal agreement was received from Ross MacBeth for the Conservation Tech position. Motion made by John Causey to sign the agreement and move forward to the Board of County Commissioners to approve this position as a county position. Charlie Filler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

District Conservationist Report – Five EQIP applications have been approved. Two WHIP conservation plans have been prepared. Corine Burgess was introduced as the new Natural Resources Specialist II. Ten people were served through conservation planning, two people were served through conservation application and nine people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – The Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration project's total funding approved to this point is \$101,000. Erin McCarta presented pictures of the fish attractor. There were a lot of juvenile fish, turtles and sucker fish using the structure.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell Ford informed us that a large amount of his time was spent on SFWMD proposal to USACE for deviation from the Istokpoga regulation schedule. The public is very interested in this issue. The county budget for F/Y 2008 has been submitted. Clell attached a graph depicting the monthly average Evapotranspiration of Lake Istokpoga to his report.

The next board meeting was set for June 5, 2007 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman