

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

October 2, 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 3:10 p.m., Tuesday, October 2, 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, Linda Crane, Ken Melvin and Paul Orth

This is a summary of the Financial Statement for September 24, 2007

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made totaling \$565.65. \$442.30 was admin fees, \$108.00 was refund on bond insurance and the remaining amount of \$15.35 was from sales.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1288 for \$80.00 to Comcast monthly charge.
 Check 1289 for \$408.50 to Cliff Rhoades for professional services.
 Check 1290 for \$163.20 to Jackie Bailey for mileage.
 Check 1291 for \$52.43 to Hobby Hill Florist for arrangement.

HSWCD balances as of September 24, 2007:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 4,764.57
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 September 24, 2007

Interest	353.18
Two deposit from 2 contracts admin fees	<u>6,319.89</u>
Ending balance	\$218,834.64

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Interest	<u>1,169.56</u>
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$331,628.00
Balance as of September 24, 2007(Regular Checking)	\$528.62

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Interest August 31, 2007	<u>926.47</u>
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$262,699.65

<u>Phosphorus Control #11526</u>	
Check 575 – 577	<u>\$38,317.80</u>
Balance as of September 24, 2007	0.00
<u>Engineering and Design #11791</u>	
Dep	<u>1,727.30</u>
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$3,119.31
<u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Dep State of Florida	\$6,144.36
Check 92 FHREDI	<u>6,144.36</u>
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$ 0.00
<u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$ 1,943.00
<u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Dep State of Florida	45,529.02
Check 600 – 603	<u>49,988.34</u>
Balance as of September 24, 2007	11.66
<u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as of September 24, 2007	\$10,585.14

Minutes of September 4, 2007 were approved as written.

Office staff is prepared for Ag Venture which will be held Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. This year we will make the water cycle wristbands and demonstrate the Enviroscape. We need more time to experiment with the individual composter before presenting them. The Regional Environthon will be held on December 7, 2007 at the Caloosahatchee Regional Park in Alva. Jennifer and Corine have been working with our team from Avon Park. Ida Jackson made a motion that we donate \$1,000 each to the Southwest Gulf Coast Regional Environthon and the State Environthon competition. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. CCC Festival is coming up on November 3; Freddie will join us again this year. The office staff showed an interest in the Big Canoe Challenge being held October 20, 2007, sponsored by the Ridge Trail Association which will raise money to reach their goal of building over 450 miles of trails in Highlands County. Gregg Hartt made a motion that we donate \$500 to sponsor a canoe and \$100 for office staff to purchase T-shirts for the event. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jackie stated that she had received the invitation to participate in this year's Highlands County Fair from February 8 through the 16th. New ideas for the booth were discussed. Ida Jackson made a motion that we pay the vendor fee of \$150.00 for the fair booth. Motion seconded by John Causey. Motion passed unanimously.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie commented that she has been busy closing out old contracts and opening new contracts. She noted that Contract #12941 has been increase by \$750,000. Linda Crane told the board that FDACS would lose another \$450,000 in funding this year. Linda stated that in a special legislative session bonds would be sold for the NEEPA.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe stated that this month he has been working on EQIP water control structures. He stated that the office has survived the NRCS spot checks.

EQIP 2008 cut off date will be November 13, 2007. EQIP contracts need to be finished in three months instead of six months. Eight people were served through conservation application and sixteen people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine has been helping with surveying, inspecting and updating for the EQIP program. Corine helped Erin map Lake Huckleberry and they have both been working on our composting projects. Corine has extensively revamped our website and created a new logo for HSWCD.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – Over a ton of trash was removed from Lake Tulane on Clean up Day. Erin attended the first Lake Denton committee meeting. The committee was formed to find solutions to the concerns of county citizens with the goal to reopen the lake to public access. The Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project is well underway, mulching has been completed, herbicide treatment has been scheduled and scraping should be performed within a week. Lake Blue’s monitoring wells and weather station have been installed. Sampling will begin soon.

Lake Manager’s Report – Training for the Little Lake Jackson Alum System has been completed, and is waiting for rain to use the system. Lake August hydrilla treatment is underway. The office has received many complaints about the low water levels. If the drought continues WMD may request another deviation. Clell attended the County Coalition meeting, one detail of legislation is that land disposal of sewage and septic sludge in the Lake Okeechobee watershed will no longer be permitted after Dec. 31, 2007. The F/Y 2008 county budget has been approved; included in the budget are the Residential Canal Evaluation and Maintenance project, county vehicle and Lake Clay Stormwater retrofit project.

Clell stated to the board that the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) was preparing to host their International Symposium in Orlando. As President of the organization, Clell will give the welcoming address on opening day as well as present a paper on Lake Istokpoga. Clell asked the board to support the symposium as a corporate sponsor; this would provide advertising and exposure for HSWCD to the professional lakes community. Ida Jackson made a motion to donate \$1,000 for the FLMS International Symposium to sponsor the Awards Reception. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Clell also informed the board that the Florida LakeWatch volunteer picnic would be held on November 4, 2007 at Windy Park.

The next board meeting was set for November 6, 2007 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman