

# HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

## September 4, 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, September 4, 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:** Dusty Johnson, Bo Griffin, Greg Griffin and Paul Orth

This is a summary of the Financial Statement for August 27, 2007

### DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made totaling \$124.78. Interest on CD's was \$51.28. The remaining amount of \$73.50 was from sales.

### CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1278 for \$142.20 to Tampa Trib for advertising ITB for Lake Jackson Restoration Project.  
Check 1279 for \$1,000.00 to NCT Group for professional services for audit.  
Check 1280 for \$80.00 to Comcast monthly charge for internet services.  
Check 1281 for \$100.00 to petty cash.  
Check 1282 for \$280.00 to AFCD for Jackie, Speech Contestant Winner and Family to attend Banquet.  
Check 1283 for \$500.00 to Ag Venture for donation to event.  
Check 1284 for \$40.00 to FCDEA for membership dues.  
Check 1285 for \$3,750.64 to Heacock Insurance for liability insurance policy.  
Check 1286 for \$39.00 to Brittany Gaudino for gas expenses to get the State Speech Contest.  
Check 1287 for \$197,825.00 to Highlands SWCD money market account.

### HSWCD balances as of August 27, 2007:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 5,003.05
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 August 27, 2007

Beginning balance	\$197,825.00
Deposit from 3 contracts admin fees	<u>14,336.57</u>
Ending balance	\$212,161.57

### Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$329,255.49
Interest July 31, 2007	<u>1,202.95</u>

Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$330,458.44
Balance as of August 27, 2007(Regular Checking)	\$528.62
<u>Avon Park Air Force Range Grant</u>	
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$260,820.26
Interest July 31, 2007	<u>952.92</u>
Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$261,773.18
<u>Phosphorus Control #11526</u>	
No activity	
Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$38,317.35
<u>Lake Okeechobee #11528</u>	
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$ 63,247.63
Dep State of Florida	6,676.04
Check 1035 State of Florida	<u>69,923.67</u>
Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$ 0.00
<u>CNMP #11529</u>	
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$29,682.95
Adjustment to account	0.45
Check 501 State of Florida	<u>29,682.50</u>
Balance as of August 27, 2007	0.00
<u>Engineering and Design #11791</u>	
No activity	
Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$1,392.01
<u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Opening Balance	\$ 14,664.62
Check # 91	<u>14,664.82</u>
Balance as of August 27, 2007	0.00
<u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Dep State of Florida	\$375,000.00
Check #91- 93	<u>373,057.00</u>
Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$ 1,943.00
<u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Dep State of Florida	\$ 50,000.00
Check #91- 95	<u>45,529.02</u>
Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$ 4,470.98
<u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Dep State of Florida	\$ 82,500.00
Check #91 – 93	<u>71,914.86</u>
Balance as of August 27, 2007	\$10,585.14

Jackie noted that the money market account at Highlands Independent Bank had been opened. Jackie stated that HSWCD had received a letter of arrangement from NCT Group to perform the audit for F/Y 2007.

Minutes of July 3, 2007 were approved as written.

Dusty Johnson from Heacock Insurance gave a brief summary of the liability insurance policy HSWCD purchased for our projects. Discussion included would the premiums be lower if the policy was based on the cost of the Lake Jackson Restoration Project (\$101,000) or the Avon Park Bombing Range Project (\$254,000). Dusty will check with the underwriter.

Greg Griffin the contractor hired for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project was present at our meeting. He gave a quick description of his plans for the project. Discussion included concern for maintenance for the project and who would be the funding source. Clell Ford stated the funds may come from the County or the Tourist Tax Committee; and the cost should be no more than \$5,000 a year.

The Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding between HSWCD and NRCS was reviewed with emphasis on the civil rights section of the document.

Brittney Gaudino represented our area at the state speech competition which was held at the Association of Florida Districts conference. Brittney won second place in the contest. Jackie attended the conference as well as the Florida Conservation Districts Employees Association. We will participate in the CCC Festival on November 3, 2007. Jackie informed the supervisors of coloring books available through NACD at 3 cents a piece. This is cheaper than we can make them. Gregg Hartt made a motion that we purchase 2,000 books for \$60.00 plus shipping and handling. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jackie also stated that for the Ag Venture event we would like to propose an individual composter as our hands on project for the students. Supplies would cost \$350. After discussion John Causey made a motion to approve the \$350 expenditure for the individual composter project. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie commented that HSWCD will be receiving an amendment to the Avon Park Bombing Range Contract extending the project by 9 months. Jackie has also been working on closing out last years contracts. Bo Griffin told the board that FDACS had very little money this year. He also stated that next year their funding would be coming from Everglades Bond sales. The new program will be called the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Act (NEEPA). Linda Crane will be our liason.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe stated that this month he has been working extensively on one irrigation system design. Participation in surveying for water control structures has also taken up a lot of time. Five people were served through conservation application and nine people were served through inventories and evaluations. One unit of government was served.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – The report was in the package. For Ag Venture on October 30, 31 and Nov 1, we like to include our individual composters. Corine and Erin worked together to design a home composter.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – The Lake Tulane Clean up is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>. Lake Denton will be closed to public access for one year beginning September 10, 2007. Erin reported that at the NRAC meeting the county commissioners approved the Habitat Conservation

Plan (HCP) application for a grant that will be valued at approximately \$277,000. Erin shared the press release and the bids for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project.

Lake Manager's Report –Alum was delivered the Little Lake Jackson Alum System, waiting for rain to use the system. Lake August hydrilla treatment has been scheduled. Monitoring well have been installed, began monitoring seepage into Lake Blue. Groundwater wells have been installed for Lake Blue, water sampling to begin in September.

Closing public access lakes to the public concerns the Lakes Management staff. Clell asked for guidance from the supervisors. After much discussion Gregg Hartt made a motion that a letter be drafted to the commissioners stating HSWCD staff will assist in anyway need with technical questions and offer professional services to come to help implement a solution for all parties concerning the lake. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed. Ida Jackson abstain.

The next board meeting was set for October 2, 2007 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman