

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
December 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, December 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: Mark Clifford, Linda Crane, Mary Freeman, Paul Orth, Lynn Topel and Audrey Vickers

This is a summary of the Financial Statement for November 26, 2007.

DEPOSIT:

No deposits were made to the General Fund

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1302 for \$80.00 to Comcast for internet service.
Check 1303 for \$175.00 to Department of Community Affairs for Special District Fee.
Check 1304 for \$138.24 to Jackie Bailey for mileage reimbursement.
Check 1305 for \$200.00 to Petty Cash.

HSWCD balances as of November 26, 2007

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 5,703.66
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 November 26, 2007

Beginning balance	\$301,471.57
Interest	1,033.25
Two deposits from 3 contracts admin fees	<u>15,238.59</u>
Ending balance	\$317,743.41

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$332,666.06
Interest	1,181.04
Checks 103 & 104	<u>14,782.10</u>
Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$319,065.00
Balance as of November 26, 2007(Regular Checking)	\$528.62

<u>Avon Park Air Force Range Grant</u>	
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$263,521.95
Interest	<u>935.56</u>
Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$264,457.51
 <u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 0.00
Deposit and Check written	<u>8,474.02</u>
Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$ 0.00
 <u>MiniFARMS Contract #012056</u>	
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 0.00
One Dep – State of Florida	8,400.00
Check 91 – 92Sunshine Growers	<u>8,400.00</u>
Balance as of November 29, 2007	\$ 0.00
 <u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 245,621.36
One Dep – State of Florida	269,818.64
Check 507 – 508	<u>367,501.68</u>
Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$ 147,938.32
 <u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 4,085.52
Dep State of Florida	22,172.93
Bank adjustment	<u>.05</u>
Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$ 26,258.40
 <u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as of October 29, 2007	\$ 127,353.41
No activity	

Minutes of November 6, 2007 were approved as written.

The auditors are in the office conducting the audit at this time.

The home composting workshop was held November 29, 2007. The goal of the workshop was to educate homeowners about the benefits of home composting. We were surprised by the response of the citizens, 56 people participated in the workshop. The staff would like to hold bi-annual workshops. We are looking for producers to give us the barrels.

We are looking at a composting wheel to be handed out at future workshops. The wheel can be used as a “How to Guide” for homeowners. Ida Jackson made a motion that we purchase 100 blank wheels to be given to homeowners at the workshops. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Discussion included putting the District’s name on the barrels, and asking AFCD to help pay for the wheels. One concern is where to store the barrels. Motion passed unanimously.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie explained the paperwork used to make payments to the producers. She reviewed Notice of Intents, Request for payments and the duty of FDACS employees to inspect the projects. Linda Crane explained in more detail what projects were being implemented and the criteria by which producers were chosen to receive

cost-share from FDACS. The purpose of the contracts is to put the producers in presumption of compliance with water quality standards for DEP.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe gave his final report. With the new farm bill approaching NRCS wants to have applicants for EQIP ranked as soon as possible. He stated that three months worth of work has been accomplished in one month. After 32 years with NRCS, Larry will retire on January 3, 2008. Larry told the supervisors it has been a pleasure working with them.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine and Erin spent many hours preparing for the Home Composter Workshop. After the workshop she wrote a letter to Commissioner Bates about the workshop's success. She assisted with the EQIP program and helped Erin with Lakes Management projects.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – The majority of the work for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project has been completed. We received an invoice for the work, which we paid and then sent an invoice to the County for reimbursement. In February, the contractor will look at what is growing in the seed bank. At that time it will be decided what kind and how many plants will need to be planted. FFWCC and Parks and Rec. are going to be applying additional herbicide treatment. At the Lake Denton meeting the committee discussed temporarily reopening the lake, charging a usage fee of \$25 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Lake Manager's Report – The first groundwater monitoring data was received for Lake Blue. Ammonia levels in deep lake waters continued to increase. Staff expects to see algae bloom during the winter months. Final hydrilla treatment was conducted on Lake August the last week of November. Clell created a form showing the prioritization criteria for the Residential Canal Maintenance project. Lake Istokpoga Management Committee requested and the BCC agreed that a letter be sent to the Army Corps to consider all impacts to Istokpoga environment when finalizing the deviation request. A graph was presented showing the Minimum Water Levels for Istokpoga. A contractor has been selected for the Arbuckle/Istokpoga Watershed Stormwater project.

Lynn Topel from FHREDI explained the Transportation Study. She also thanked the supervisors and staff for their help in making the study possible.

The next board meeting was set for January 8, 2008 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman