

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
August 7, 2007

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Ida Jackson at 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, August 7, 2007 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: John Causey, Charlie Filler, Joan Hartt and Ida Jackson

Supervisors absent: Wayne Zahn

Staff present: Larry Sharpe, District Conservationist
Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
Clell Ford, Lakes Manager
Erin McCarta, Lakes Manager Assistant

Guests: Mark Clifford, Linda Crane, Judy Filler, Gregg Hartt, Danny Kushmer and Paul Orth

This is a summary of the Financial Statement for July 30, 2007

DEPOSIT:

Three deposits were made totaling \$58,907.03. Interest on CD's was \$21.23. The remaining amount of \$58,885.80 was from administration fees from three contracts.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1274 for \$80.00 to Comcast for monthly service.
Check 1275 for \$236.64 to Jackie Bailey for mileage.
Check 1276 for \$2,000.00 to NCT Group for Professional Services.
Check 1277 for \$2.39 to State of Florida for sales taxes collected.
Check 1273 for \$80.00 to Comcast for monthly service.

HSWCD balances as of July 30, 2007:

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$208,535.11
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 June 25, 2007	\$328,169.09
Interest June 29, 2007	<u>1,086.40</u>
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$329,255.49
Balance as of July 30, 2007(Regular Checking)	\$528.62

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of June 25, 2007	\$259,959.67
Interest June 29, 2007	<u>860.59</u>
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$260,820.26

Phosphorus Control #11526

Balance as of June 25, 2007	\$72,810.92
Check 570 – 574	<u>34,943.57</u>
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$38,317.35

Lake Okeechobee #11528

Balance as of June 25, 2007	\$ 4,572.15
Dep State of Florida	285,119.00
Check 1029 - 1034	<u>226,443.52</u>
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$ 63,247.63

CNMP #11529

No Activity	
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$29,682.95

Engineering and Design 11791

Balance as of June 25, 2007	\$257,548.05
Dep State of Florida	145,154.98
Check 116 - 123	<u>401,311.02</u>
Balance as of July 30, 2007	\$ 1,392.01

Minutes of July 3, 2007 were approved as written.

Joan Hartt's letter of resignation was presented at the meeting. In her letter she recommended her son, Gregg Hartt be appointed to the board. Charlie Filler made a motion that we appoint Gregg Hartt to Seat # 4. John Causey seconded the motion. Joan abstained from voting. Motion passed.

Jackie checked with Highlands Independent Bank about investment options. They offer a money market account with no fees and six transactions per statement cycle. The interest rate is 4.16%. The SBA investment account through the state is paying 5.36% and their monthly fee is 1.2% of the average monthly balance. Charlie Filler made a motion that we place our money in the money market account at Highlands Independent Bank, leaving \$5,000 in the general fund. John Causey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

HSWCD is in the process of hiring a contractor for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project this month. In a previous meeting the Board approved buying liability insurance for the Avon Park Bombing Range Project which has been put on hold; but should be finished within a year. We may want to buy the liability insurance now. Charlie Filler made a motion to purchase the insurance at this time so the policy would be enforce for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration Project. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

HSWCD received a request for donation from Ag Venture. Last year we donated \$500 and the year before we donated \$350 plus purchased activity books. Last year we had a booth at the event and found it to be a very exciting and a worthwhile hands-on event for the third grade students in the County. John Causey made a motion that we donate \$500 to Ag Venture this year. Gregg Hartt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Brittney Gaudino will represent our area at the state speech competition which will be held at the Association of Florida Districts conference in West Palm Beach on August 10th and 11th. Jackie will attend the conference. John Causey would like to attend if he is available at that time. Jackie spoke to the Board about expenses that might be incurred at the conference and the speech contest. Charlie made a motion that \$750 be made available for the AFCD conference and the Speech Contest. Motion seconded by John Causey. Motion passed unanimously.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie explained why the contract balance and the checking account balances are sometimes different. She also explained that next month all of last F/Y contacts will be at a zero balance. Linda Crane commented that she had heard nothing from Tallahassee about the Conservation Tech Contract.

District Conservationist Report – Larry Sharpe stated that this month several EQIP practice application have had their final construction checks. Seven people were served through conservation planning, nine people were served through conservation application and eleven people were served through inventories and evaluations. There was one conservation application from Roscoe Bass to develop a conservation plan on 1218 acres of range and pasture land. John Causey made a motion that we approved the conservation application for Roscoe Bass. Motion seconded by Charlie Filler. Motion passed unanimously.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – The report was in the package. The Board was interested in the composter project. Corine will be designing a composter and organize a workshop for the citizens of the County to make their own composter. We will partner with the Extension on this project.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – The Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration project’s pre-bid meeting was held on Aug. 1st. Seven prospective bidders attended. The bids are due and will be opened on Aug. 14th; board members are welcome to come to the meeting. The agreement between the County and our Board is at the lawyers being reviewed. The lawyer also suggested he look over the bids before any decisions are made. Seed packets have been donated from Florida Wildflowers as give aways to announce our project.

Lake Manager’s Report –Alum will be delivered in two weeks for the Little Lake Jackson Alum System. SWFWMD final approval of the permit is awaiting a letter revision reflecting operational ownership by the City of Sebring. Lake August contractor has been hired to treat hydrilla. Lake Blue’s seepage meters have been installed; meteorological monitoring equipment will be installed in August. Clell helped the Spring Lake Improvement District obtain permits from SFWMD if pumping water into Lake Istokpoga is necessary this year.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman