

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
April 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the Supervisors of the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Interim Chair Wayne Zahn at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2008 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: John Causey, Charlie Filler, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

Supervisors absent: Gregg Hartt

Staff present: Scott Kuipers, Interim District Conservation
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, June Fisher, Julie Fowler and Brian Quinlin

This is the Financial Statement for March 28, 2008.

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made totaling \$1,385.95. \$1,375.75 was admin fees and \$10.20 was reimbursement for postage.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1319 for \$300.00 to Petty Cash to general petty cash.
Check 1320 for \$162.90 to Positive Promotions for Earth Day educational materials.
Check 1321 for \$300.00 to Petty Cash for the composting workshop.
Check 1322 for \$604.65 to Bagwell Lumber for supplies for the composting workshop.
Check 1323 for \$3,294.72 to AM Conservation Group for showerheads.
Check 1324 for \$128.30 to AM Conservation Group for shipping charges for showerheads.
Check 1325 for \$300.00 to Petty Cash for the composting workshop.
Check 1326 for \$80.00 to Comcast for Internet services.
Check 1327 for \$64.81 to Jackie Bailey for reimbursement for composting workshop materials.

HSWCD balances as of March 28, 2008

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Highlands Independent Bank | Checking | \$ 3,572.34 |
| 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

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Balance as of February 25, 2008 | \$343,991.62 |
| Two deposits were made totaling | 16,437.98 |
| \$10,384.48 admin fees, \$ 6,000.00 donation from FLMS, \$ 53.50 sales | |
| Interested earned | 867.27 |
| Adjust made | .05 |
| Check # 99 for \$1,546.15 to AM Conservation for showerheads | <u>1,546.15</u> |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$359,750.77 |

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Balance as of February 25, 2008 | \$320,382.59 |
| Interest | <u>815.88</u> |

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|---|-------------------|
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$321,198.47 |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 (Regular Checking) | \$528.62 |
| <u>Avon Park Air Force Range Grant</u> | |
| Balance as of February 25, 2008 | \$267,053.42 |
| Interest | <u>680.07</u> |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$267,733.49 |
| <u>FHREDI Contract</u> | |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$ 0.00 |
| <u>MiniFARMS Contract #012056</u> | |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$ 0.00 |
| <u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u> | |
| Balance as of February 25, 2008 | \$274,675.76 |
| DEP – State of Florida | 266,246.56 |
| Check 520-525 | <u>337,858.56</u> |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$203,063.76 |
| <u>BMP Contract #12942</u> | |
| Balance as of February 25, 2008 | \$10,820.58 |
| Two deposits from State of Florida | 60,657.53 |
| Checks 645-650 | <u>45,217.32</u> |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$26,260.79 |
| <u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u> | |
| Balance as of March 28, 2008 | \$ 127,353.41 |

The Agenda and Minutes of March 4, 2008 were approved with corrections.

Julie Fowler from the NCT Group, spoke briefly about the audit and the findings. Julie explained that the procedures for reporting finding had changed from last year; some comments that were oral comments last year are recorded as written comments this year. The most significant comment was concerning internal controls because of limited staff. This comment will be placed in the management letter. The suggestion is to hire a bookkeeper to assist with reconciliations, journal entries and financial statements. The final audit will be ready soon.

The latest draft copy of the Long Range Plan was in the meeting packet. The objectives and goals reflect more involvement with other county departments. A view of lakes management shifts from individual water bodies to the protections of the entire watershed. Staff would like Supervisors to comment on the document and give guidance to office staff. One suggestion was that a page of acronyms definitions be included.

A Land Management Review of state owned lands will be taking place at Highlands Hammock State Park on April 16 and 17th. By state mandate the local SWCD should have a member on the review team. Gregg Hartt will participate in the review.

Staff members participated in the Lake Jackson Clean up on April 2; over 1,200 pounds of trash was removed from the lake. The Speech Contest will be this afternoon, and the area contest will be held on May 6. The State Environthon contest is on the 12th. Earth Day will be in Lake Placid on April 26 and we will demonstrate the showerhead display. The Butler Oaks Farm Tour will be on April 30th. The next home composter workshop will be held on May 8, 2008.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie stated that Bonnie Wolfe from FDACS would be at the FECLOG meeting to discuss replacement of structures on Fisheating Creek near SR 70. Linda Crane mention the urgency of landowners renewing their Water Use Permit applications to SFWMD on/or before June 30, 2008 to avoid fines. Linda also informed the district that a new contract from SFWMD for \$175,000 would be coming our way.

Lake Manager's Report – DEP approved the use of drying beds at City of Sebring WWTP for processing alum floc from the Little Lake Jackson Alum Plant. Staff collected water quality samples from Veterans Beach and conducted more extensive analyses that typically performed. Results show bacteria is not of human origin. Staff has identified eligible canals for the Ridge Residential Canal Evaluation and Maintenance project. Clell stated that Congressman Mahoney would like to see Highlands County involved with Bio-Fuel Plants. The department is working on next F/Y year's County budget.

Lake Manager Assistant Report –Erin and Corine finished the assessment of Lake Ruth. The lake was 24 feet deep and has good water quality. Site visit to the Lake Jackson project reveals native plants are growing from the seed bank in good numbers. Commissioner Bates has requested a Lake Denton Watershed Master Plan be created.

District Conservationist Report – There are a total of 13 EQIP conservation plans approved this year. Jennifer is the Earth Team volunteer coordinator for Area IV. Eight people were served through conservation planning, seven people were served through conservation application and four people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – 974 low-flow showerheads have been distributed to the citizens of Highlands County through the SWFWMD Education Grant. Corine and Clell will be reading for Ag in the Classroom – Ag Literacy Day. The Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon will be held tomorrow. Corine is helping the 4H Coordinator with the upcoming day camp.

A letter was received from Florida Farm Bureau Federation asking for support of the CARES program which recognizes area farmers and ranchers for their commitment to Florida's environment. Charlie Filler made a motion that we donate \$100.00 to the program. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting was set for May 6, 2008 in Conference Room #3 at 2p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman