

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

February 5, 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 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, February 5, 2008 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: Charlie Filler, Gregg Hartt, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

Supervisors absent: John Causey

Staff present: Jackie Bailey, Office Manager
 Corine Burgess, Natural Resources Specialist
 Clell Ford, Lakes Manager
 Erin McCarta, Lakes Manager Assistant

Guests: Linda Crane, Leroy Crockett, Scott Kuipers and Paul Orth

This is a summary of the Financial Statement for January 29, 2008

DEPOSIT:

One deposit was made totaling \$4,860.30.

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1309 for \$300.00 to Petty Cash
 Check 1310 for \$130.00 to Sweet Street for Larry's cake.
 Check 1311 for \$80.00 to Comcast for internet service.
 Check 1312 for \$397.25 to EHS Publishing for composter wheels.
 Check 1313 for \$1,000.00 to D & G Catering for Larry's retirement.
 Check 1314 was voided
 Check 1315 for \$11.94 to Florida Department of Revenue for sales tax collected

HSWCD balances as of January 29, 2008

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 8,081.77
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 December 27, 2007		\$328,634.79
One deposit was made		1,906.90
Interest earned		1,010.19
Check # 97 to NCT Group for professional services		<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Ending Balance as of January 29, 2008		\$326,551.88

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$318,284.21
Interest	<u>1,067.52</u>
Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$319,351.73
Balance as of January 29, 2008 (Regular Checking)	\$528.62

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$265,310.90
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Interest	<u>884.73</u>
Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$266,195.63
 <u>FHREDI Contract</u>	
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$ 0.00
Deposit and Check written	<u>5,161.22</u>
Balance as of January 29, 2008	0.00
 <u>MiniFARMS Contract #012056</u>	
Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$ 0.00
 <u>Ag Stormwater Systems #12941</u>	
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$123,369.52
Check 512 – 513	117,333.84
Check 513 to HSWCD	<u>4,512.84</u>
Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$ 6,035.68
 <u>BMP Contract #12942</u>	
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$ 339.60
Two deposits from State of Florida	67,267.50
Checks 632-644	<u>56,786.86</u>
Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$ 10,820.24
 <u>Concentrated Feed Operations #12943</u>	
Balance as of January 29, 2008	\$ 127,353.41

Minutes of January 8, 2008 were approved as written.

The audit is still in progress. During the audit the bank received a letter from the IRS stating that our tax identification number was inactive. A new number has been issued and Jackie is informing all entities affected by the change.

Staff, supervisors and friend celebrated Larry's retirement on January 8, 2008.

Cheryl Moffat contacted the office and asked for our support for the Envirothon Team. Gregg Hartt made a motion that we sponsor the Avon Park team representing Highlands at the state competition with a donation of \$500.00. Ida Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The County Fair is fast approaching; the storyboard was displayed at the meeting. The judges for the Speech Contest have been selected.

Jackie informed the supervisors that office staff is in the process of reviewing and updating the Long Range Plan. The new plan will be for 2009-2014. Supervisors asked if funding was a consideration during the updating of the plan. A draft copy will be presented at the next meeting.

Staff members would like professional shirts to wear when represented the District. Jackie will research costs, styles and quality and bring the information to the next meeting.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie spoke with Benita Whalen. Benita stated the permits for Avon Park Bombing Range should be received from DEP soon. Linda Crane stated that FDACS has been working with landowners to apply for Water Use Permits.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell stated that many of the lakes are at record low levels. The Army Core of Engineers approved the request for deviation for Lake Istokpoga; the gates have not been opened yet. Clell and Erin are helping Park Elementary with a Splash Grant from SWFWMD to educate students about water quality in Highlands County Lakes. At the Decision Makers Forum on the Lake Okeechobee Watershed; consensus among the members was that agriculture and natural resources are the economic engine for this area. The Natural Resources Department is reviewing and commenting on land development permits for the County.

Lake Manager Assistant Report –The Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration project. A request will be made to DOT to extend our permit; because of low water level the installation of aquatic plants will be postponed. Many good plants are sprouting. The contractor will apply herbicide periodically to control unwanted vegetation. FWCC will contribute plants when installation begins. Lake Blue's transparency has improved. Erin and Corine are helping Sebring High School with a Splash Grant from SWFWMD to design ponds and wetlands. Erin attended meetings to approve the Planning Dept's Evaluation and Appraisal Report for the Planning and Zoning Department.

District Conservationist Report – Jackie informed the supervisors Jennifer had won the Black History Month poster contest and was at a luncheon in Gainesville to receive her award. Her poster will be used at all NRCS Black Emphases programs for the next year. Scott Kuipers, Okeechobee's DC is our acting DC until Larry's position is filled. He is willing to help us and also send staff member to help until the DC position is filled. Scott stated the process to fill the vacant position will probably take three months. He reported that Highlands County has 12 EQIP plans and was awarded 1.1 million dollars for the projects. Ten people were served through conservation planning, six people were served through conservation application and thirteen people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine informed the Board that she is now writing articles for the Heartland Sun Times giving us more exposure to the citizens of the county. She has also submitted an article to the Florida Water Resources Journal. Corine and Erin are preparing a presentation about composting for the Master Gardeners. At the next composting workshop composter kits will be sold.

Leroy Crockett, RC&D informed us he had found some perennial peanuts rizons for us.

The next board meeting was set for March 4, 2008 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman