

HIGHLANDS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

January 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 3:05 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2008 in Conference Room 3 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida.

Supervisors present: Gregg Hartt, Ida Jackson and Wayne Zahn

Supervisors absent: John Causey and Charlie Filler

Staff present: 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, Leroy Crockett and Paul Orth

This is a summary of Financial Statement for December 27, 2007.

DEPOSIT:

No deposits were made to the General Fund

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Check 1306 for \$80.00 to Comcast for internet service.
 Check 1307 for \$425.00 to Julie B. Irvin for professional services for audit prep.
 Check 1308 for \$58.00 to Polston Engineering for copies.

HSWCD balances as of December 27, 2007

Highlands Independent Bank	Checking	\$ 5,140.66
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

Beginning balance as of November 26, 2007	\$317,743.41
Three deposits were made	94,865.98
Interest earned	976.40
Check # 96 to Total Site Solutions for Lake Jackson Project	<u>84,951.00</u>
Ending Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$328,634.79

Lake Okeechobee Storage and Treatment

Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$319,065.00
Interest	1,016.04
Checks 104 & 105	<u>1,841.83</u>
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$318,284.21
Balance as of December 27, 2007 (Regular Checking)	\$528.62

Avon Park Air Force Range Grant

Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$264,457.51
Interest	<u>853.39</u>
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$265,310.90

FHREDI Contract

Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$ 0.00
Deposit and Check written	<u>9,469.63</u>
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$ 0.00

MiniFARMS Contract #012056

Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$ 0.00
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Ag Stormwater Systems #12941

Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$147,938.32
Deposit – State of Florida	324,600.80
Checks 509-511	<u>349,169.60</u>
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$123,369.52

BMP Contract #12942

Balance as of November 26, 2007	\$ 26,258.40
Dep – State of Florida	50,000.00
Checks 620-631	<u>75,918.80</u>
Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$ 339.60

Concentrated Feed Operations #12943

Balance as of December 27, 2007	\$ 127,353.41
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Minutes of December 4, 2007 were approved as written.

The audit is still in progress. A letter has been received from the Audit General's Office in Tallahassee stating HSWCD will be audited.

The Envirothon team from Avon Park will be representing Highlands County at the State Competition in April at Myakka State Park.

The Contract Activity Report was reviewed. Jackie explained there was little activity this month; she received only two reimbursements from FDACS. Clell explained the hold up on the Avon Park contract was due to permits needed from DEP.

Leroy Crockett, Resources Conservation and Development (RC&D) introduced himself to the Board. He informed us that his agency would like to assist Highlands County with their conservation needs. He shared ideas for projects and funding options for the county. The most discussed idea was perennial peanuts as turf grass.

Lake Manager's Report – Clell stated that much of his time was spent on the request for deviation for Lake Istokpoga; this is a big concern for the citizens of the County. Senator J. D. Alexander agreed to submit legislation funding for the Residential Canal Maintenance project. A request was received from Congressman Mahoney for federal project to be funded in F/Y2009. Lake August Hydrilla treatment project is completed; hydrilla is dying and no other aquatic plants were affected. The Code Enforcement Department asked for our help with groundwater monitoring. Planning and Zoning asked for our help with lake water level delineation.

Lake Manager Assistant Report – In February, it will be decided what kind and how many plants will need to be planted for the Lake Jackson Shoreline Restoration project. FFWCC and Parks and Rec. are going to be applying additional herbicide treatment. The Lake Denton committee took their recommendations to the BCC, which approved to temporarily reopen the area. The committee will continue to meet to reach long range goals for safety issues. Erin is also beginning work on the Lakes Management’s new project Ridge Residential Canal Maintenance Program.

District Conservationist Report – Larry’s retirement party was earlier today. NRCS and County employees wished him well as did producers and friends. Scott Kuipers has been named acting DC until a replacement is hired. Jennifer reported that at this time Highlands County has received no funding for EQIP. Four people were served through conservation planning, three people were served through conservation application and eighteen people were served through inventories and evaluations.

Natural Resources Specialist Report – Corine informed the Board that we were awarded an educational grant from SWFWMD. The funds will be used to replace high volume showerheads with restricted flow showerheads. Corine handed out an update of the, “What Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District Does” brochure she designed. The purpose of the brochure is to educate the public on what HSWCD does for the community.

The next board meeting was set for February 5, 2008 in Conference Room #3 at 3p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Recording Secretary

Chairman