



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2020 REPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF 20.058 F.S.**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida

Mailing Address: c/o Scott Taylor PO Box 1479 Sorrento, FL 32776-1479

Telephone Number: 407-381-1144 Website Address (if applicable): N/A

Statutory Authority:

Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships.

In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

Brief Description of the CSO's Mission:

To promote and support charitable, educational and scientific activities that directly and indirectly benefit the Wekiva-Middle St. Johns and Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserves. This organization is dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public about the Wekiva-Middle St. Johns and Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserves' ecosystems.

Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

Please see attached report.

Brief Description of the CSO's Plans for Next Three Fiscal Years:

- *Continue to support AP volunteer resource management and education/outreach activities.
- *Conduct fundraising to support aquatic preserve activities,
- *"To better serve the needs of basin researchers and the public, a Freshwater Research Center with an education component is envisioned at a direct river access location." Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, 2014.

Copy of the CSO's Code of Ethics attached

Certify the CSO has completed and provided to the Department the organization's most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N/Annual Financial Statement

**Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida
Annual Report
2019**

Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

Note: As per new legislation adopted in 2019, the Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) has changed from fiscal year to calendar year reporting. Activities conducted from 1 January to 30 June 2019 were summarized in the 2018-2019 report submitted July 2019. This report summarizes activities from 01 July 2019 through 31 December 2019.

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) President, Dean Barber, Vice President (VP), Deborah Shelley, and other Board members met with each other, the Aquatic Preserve (AP) Manager or volunteers two to three times monthly to discuss various ongoing activities and events.

Aquatic Preserve Society (APS) – Alliance President and Vice President participated in monthly conference calls with the APS. Alliance VP served as the APS Vice President. Alliance President serves as a Board member to the APS.

Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc. (FOWR) - Alliance VP served as liaison with the citizen organization, attended eight meetings, and reviewed several documents related to springs and water quality. Alliance VP created several handouts about upcoming presentations that were distributed at the FOWR weekend campout event that was held November 2019.

Living Waters Exhibit - Alliance members coordinated with the Indian River Lagoon AP and the Environmental Learning Center in Wabasso, Florida as a venue for an exhibit of the *Living Waters* collection. Alliance members reviewed and edited several contract documents used for the Living Waters exhibit. Alliance VP coordinated with the City of Tavares as a venue for the *Living Waters* collection from May to July 2020.

Algae Survey - The Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve Intern, board members, and volunteers completed monthly algae sampling at nine stations in the upper Wekiva River and began sampling four stations in the lower Wekiva River. Grant funds received thru the Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc. continued to provide a monthly stipend to the AP intern. When the survey is completed in May 2020, it will have fully replicated a survey conducted in the aquatic preserve from 1999-2000. The AP Intern gave a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the survey results at a monthly Friends of the Wekiva meeting.

Recreational Use/Capacity Study of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System - Board members reviewed and commented on two versions of the document.

Promise to the Wekiva River magazine – Alliance Board members continued to partner with the AP Manager, FOWR, Seminole County South Rotary Club, and the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Ambassador to update and create a second edition of the magazine. Participated in six meetings, several conference calls, prepared a budget, reviewed and edited articles. Alliance VP prepared and submitted two grants to fund the initiative. To date \$2500 in grant funds has been received.

Dr. Daniel E. Canfield, Jr. Volunteerism Award - Presented to the Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Florida Lake Management Society and accepted by Alliance President Dean Barber. The award is given to a volunteer organization or outstanding volunteer for significant contributions to the research, restoration and/or preservation of Florida's water resources. The award is named after Dr. Daniel Canfield, founder of Florida LAKEWATCH, the pioneering citizen-volunteer water quality monitoring program involving over 1,200 lakes statewide, and now emulated across the United States.

Wekiva Case Study 2019 - VP Deborah Shelley and AP Manager Barbara Howell participated as instructors for the field trip segment of the course *Collaborating to Manage Ecosystems* which is part of the UF/IFAS Certification for Natural Lands Management certification. Participants were also required to view a 40-minute online presentation on the history and challenges facing the Wekiva River, prepared for the course by Deborah Shelley. The class of 19 participants consisted of state and local government land managers from around the state and two current rangers from Wekiwa Springs State Park (WSSP). The case study included discussions about the karst terrain of the springshed, water quality, wildlife, land use planning and several other topics. The group experienced the Wekiva Basin first-hand via a bus tour around the springshed with stops at Wekiwa Springs, Rock Springs and Wilson's Landing on the Wekiva River. Expressway construction and wildlife underpasses were observed and discussed. Guest speaker Mike Cliburn, a FOWR board member, spoke to the group at Rock Springs about springs issues and Ashley Konon, Wekiva River Wild and Scenic River Ambassador, discussed ongoing river projects and provided a brief history of the Wild and Scenic River and Partnership Rivers programs at Wilson's Landing.

Alliance VP and Aquatic Preserve Manager toured a potential location on the St. Johns River, suggested by the City of DeBary, for a Freshwater Research and Education Station. It was determined that the location was not suitable for the purpose. The Alliance will continue to coordinate with the city on other potential locations.

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc.

CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc. (herein "CSO") that its board members, officers, and employees be independent and impartial and that their position not be used for private gain. Therefore, the Florida Legislature in Section 112.3251, Florida Statute (Fla. Stat.), requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of CSO board members, officers, and employees in situations where conflicts may exist.
- (2) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no CSO board member, officer, or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties for the CSO. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people in Citizen Support Organizations, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc. board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.

STANDARDS

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Stat., and are required by Section 112.3251, Fla. Stat., to be observed by CSO board members, officers, and employees.

1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the CSO board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when the person knows, or, with reasonable care, should know that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the CSO board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

3. Salary and Expenses

No CSO board member or officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a CSO board member or officer, as provided by law.

4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

A CSO board member, officer, or employee shall not corruptly use or attempt to use one's official position or any property or resource which may be within one's trust, or perform official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption.

5. Prohibition of Misuse of Privileged Information

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of one's official position for one's own personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

6. Employment Restrictions

A person who has been elected to any CSO board or office or who is employed by a CSO may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the CSO of which he or she was a board member, officer, or employee for a period of two years after he or she vacates that office or employment position.

7. Prohibition of Employees Holding Office

No person may be, at one time, both a CSO employee and a CSO board member at the same time.

8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

A CSO board member or officer shall not vote in official capacity upon any measure which would affect his or her special private gain or loss, or which he or she knows would affect the special gain or any principal by whom the board member or officer is retained. When abstaining, the CSO board member or officer, prior to the vote being taken, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the CSO board member or officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

9. Failure to Observe CSO Code of Ethics

Failure of a CSO board member, officer, or employee to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the removal of that person from their position. Further, failure of the CSO to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the CSO.



Confirmation

[Home](#) | [Security Profile](#) | [Logout](#)

Your Form 990-N(e-Postcard) has been submitted to the IRS

- **Organization Name:** AQUATIC PRESERVE ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA INC
- **EIN:** 472140025
- **Tax Year:** 2018
- **Tax Year Start Date:** 01-01-2018
- **Tax Year End Date:** 12-31-2018
- **Submission ID:** 10065520191332928650
- **Filing Status Date:** 05-13-2019
- **Filing Status:** Pending

Note: [Print](#) a copy of this filing for your records. Once you leave this page, you will not be able to do so.

MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS