



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2019 REPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF 20.058 F.S.**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc.
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
N/A New CSO; no 990 pending F1023 completion.

**Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida
Annual Report
2018-2019**

Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) held two general meetings and the president, vice president, 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. In June 2018, Patricia Smith was elected Secretary.

Aquatic Preserve Society – Alliance President and board members participated in monthly conference calls with the Aquatic Preserve Society (APS). The Alliance hosted the 2019 APS annual board meeting held at the Enterprise Museum so APS board members could view the *Living Waters and the Florida Landscape* exhibit. Alliance member Deborah Shelley was elected as the APS Vice President at the annual meeting. Board members participated in APS conference calls with DEP related to proposed changes to Chapter 18-20 F.A.C., Aquatic Preserve Rules. Assisted APS with drafting letter submitted to DEP detailing concerns related to proposed rule changes.

Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc. (FOWR) - Alliance VP serve as liaison with the citizen organization and attended eight meetings. VP gave a presentation on riverine resources and challenges at the FOWR annual *Wekiva River Camp Out* that was held in November 2018.

Living Waters Exhibit - Alliance members coordinated with the Enterprise Museum in Enterprise, Florida as a venue for a joint exhibit with the Alliance and Pastel Society of Central Florida. The *Living Waters and the Florida Landscape* exhibit was held from February 12 to April 18, 2020. The exhibit featured 29 large format photographic images by Clyde Butcher and 52 original pastel paintings created specifically for the exhibit by 22 Pastel Society artists. Over 750 visitors viewed the exhibit. A signed, framed Clyde Butcher image and two original pastel paintings, each valued at \$125, were donated for a chance drawing. \$300 was raised in the drawing and was distributed equally between the Alliance, Pastel Society, and Enterprise Museum, all 501c3 Not for Profit organizations. Enterprise board members sponsored refreshments at the exhibit reception totaling approximately \$125.

Algae Survey - Board members and volunteers continued monthly algae sampling at 14 stations in the Wekiva River. Alliance board member applied for and received a grant for \$4950.00 thru the Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc. to continue the survey for two more years and fully replicate a survey conducted by the aquatic preserve from 1999-2000.

Friday Night Naturalist Program - Assisted the Aquatic Preserve Manager who presented information on the Aquatic Preserve and an update on the ongoing toll road and Wekiva River bridge construction. 72 people attended the presentation at Trout Lake Nature Center.

Natural History Festival at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach – the Alliance shared a booth with Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserve and spoke with over 250 visitors who attended the event.

Wekiva Case Study: Collaborating to Manage Ecosystems – Alliance VP Deborah Shelley served as instructor for the annual University of Florida Natural Areas Training Academy's 7-hour field class. Twenty six students participated. Deborah updated the 40-minute online lecture/presentation component well in advance of the classroom section and full-day field trip. CSO President (Dean Barber) met the class at one of the stops and spoke on how to set up a CSO.

Wekiva Promise Magazine - Alliance member coordinated the reconvening of Wekiva Promise Committee to work on revisions and reprinting the Wekiva Promise magazine. The magazine, first printed in 2011, included articles about local parks, flora and fauna, water quality, algae issues, septic systems, and most importantly the magazine focused on how residents and visitors can practice stewardship of the riverine environment. 12,000 copies of the 44-page full color magazine were printed in 2011 and several recent reviewers assisted with determining that the articles and information are still relevant today. The revised edition will include several new articles, some revisions to existing articles, and an interactive online version of the magazine. The on line version will also include links to sponsors web pages, a survey, and other social media functions. Other partners include South Seminole Rotary, Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve, FOWR, and the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Ambassador. Alliance board members and partners serve as editors, coordinators, or fundraisers for the magazine revisions.

Volusia County Water Symposium, Deland - Alliance VP participated in a panel discussion and presented information on the Aquatic Preserve and the Citizen Support Organization to over 100 attendees.

Eco-Paddle - Eighteen participants enjoyed the Wekiva River Eco-Paddle program conducted in cooperation with Seminole County, UF/IFAS, and AP CSO board members. A local vendor donated the paddle craft and an indoor presentation room utilized prior to the paddling portion of the program.

Alliance VP and Aquatic Preserve Manager toured two potential locations for a Freshwater Research and Education Station. It was determined that neither of the locations was suitable for the purpose.

Event Planning - CSO Board member/archaeology professor met with Aquatic Preserve Manager to discuss research opportunities and educational field trips. The aquatic Preserve manager participated on a conference call with board members to discuss potential future events and activities.

Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida
Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained
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Alliance members and volunteers paddled 8 miles of Rock Springs Run and five miles of Black Water Creek and reported locations of snags and exotic plants to local agency staff.

Alliance president assisted the AP with vessel and vehicle repairs and maintenance.

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.



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EIN	Organization Name	Tax Year	End Date	Created On	Status	Submission ID	Action
47-2140025	AQUATIC PRESERVE ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA INC	2017	12-31-2017	08-09-2018	Accepted	10065520182212247152	
47-2140025	AQUATIC PRESERVE ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA INC	2018	12-31-2018	05-13-2019	Accepted	10065520191332928650	

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- **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:** Accepted

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- **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

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