



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2018 REPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF 20.058 F.S.**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Estero Bay Buddies, Inc.

Mailing Address: 700-1 Fisherman's Wharf Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

Telephone Number: (239) 530-1005 Website Address (if applicable): www.esterobaybuddies.org

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:

The Estero Bay Buddies (EBB) is a not for profit Citizen Support Organization (CSO) for the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and the Estero Bay Preserve State Park. The mission of the EBB is to support the further protection, conservation, restoration, management and the enhancement of the natural and cultural resources of the coastal and aquatic ecosystems of the Estero Bay estuary and watershed for the enjoyment and appreciation of current and future generations.

Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

Estero Bay Buddies annual projects include but are not limited to National Estuaries Day Paddle at Estero River Outfitters; Earth Day and International Coastal Cleanup Events and Monofilament Madness (in partnership with Keep Lee County Beautiful); service-learning cleanups with FGCU students in the Preserve State Park; guided walks in the Preserve State Park; annual meeting and picnic with oyster reef education; monofilament educational outreach tables at Koreshan and Cape Coral Farmers Markets; supporting monthly Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve Wading Trips and annual Ecotour provider education programs; fundraisers such as Brews on the Bay (with the support from Good Time Charters and Point Ybel), FUNdraiser Painting (with support from Vino Picasso), and our new Adopt-a-nest program (supported by Estero Bay Buddies members). We over offered over 200 hours of service-learning to FGCU students, which made all of the aforementioned results attainable.

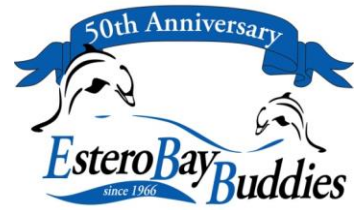
Brief Description of the CSO's Plans for Next Three Fiscal Years:

The Estero Bay Buddies will continue to be involved in local communities, bringing information about Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve to the public through events and organized coastal cleanups. EBB will continue to partner with other not for profit organizations such as Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida SouthWestern State College, Keep Lee County Beautiful, Lee County School students and other local service groups for events and cleanups. The Buddies will continue to set goals to raise funds for the FCO office and other events to promote the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve.

X Copy of the CSO's Code of Ethics attached

X 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

**Estero Bay Buddies
CODE OF ETHICS 2018**



PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of the Estero bay Buddies (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 Estero Bay Buddies 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. Post-Office/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 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.

10. Certification of Compliance

Annually, after the end of each fiscal year, each board member shall certify compliance with this policy by signing the form prescribed by the treasure.

ESTERO BAY BUDDIES, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017

1. ORGANIZATION

Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. (the Buddies) is a not for profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida and is a tax exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the State of Florida's Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free 1-800-435-7352. Registration as a not for profit organization does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendations by the State of Florida.

The Buddies are funded primarily from contributions and membership fees paid by citizens and businesses within the State of Florida, as well as, grants for various services provided by the Buddies such as educational wading trips for the public and estuary clean up and other related activities.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting which approximates the cash basis since the Buddies did not have any revenues or expenses subject to accrual at the year-end and do not own any none cash assets. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues when earned and expenses when incurred.

(b) Basis of Presentation

Net Assets and revenues and expenses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, because none of the Buddies' assets, revenues, and expenses were restricted by donors as of June 30, 2017, all assets, revenues, and expenses are unrestricted.

3. OTHER

The Buddies are presently a small Citizens Support Organization of the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and do not have fixed assets or a facility of their own. We meet in facilities of the DEP. These include

Koreshan State Park in Estero, Florida or the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve offices in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida, respectively. Memberships and affiliations consists of approximately 120 individuals, families, and organizations.



Confirmation

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

- **Organization Name:** ESTERO BAY BUDDIES INC
- **EIN:** 650902021
- **Tax Year:** 2017
- **Tax Year Start Date:** 01-01-2017
- **Tax Year End Date:** 12-31-2017
- **Submission ID:** 10065520181292026754
- **Filing Status Date:** 05-09-2018
- **Filing Status:** Pending

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MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS

Estero Bay Buddies, Inc
Statement of Net Assets
6/30/2016 and 6/30/2017

Account Name	2016	2017
Assets:		.
Petty Cash		\$ 20.00
Cash in Checking - Unrestricted	1,180.36	1,088.18
Cash in Checking - Restricted		
Cash in Savings - Unrestricted	10,659.78	3,774.13
Cash in Savings - Restricted		
Total Current Assets	\$ 11,840.14	\$ 4,882.31
Liabilities:		
None	-	-
Net Assets:		
Available for Operations	11,840.74	4,882.31
Temporarily Restricted		
Permanently Restricted		
Total Restricted Net Assets	-	-
Total Net Assets	11,840.74	4,882.31
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 11,840.74	\$ 4,882.31