



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Biscayne Bay

Mailing Address: 1277 NE 79th Street Causeway, Miami, FL 33138

Telephone Number: (786)-543-1926

Website Address (*required if applicable*): <https://friendsofbiscaynebay.org/>

Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website.

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.

Section 20.058, F.S., Citizen support and direct-support organizations. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements to submit an annual report each year for each designated CSO and to post that information on the Departments website.

YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CSO's Mission: (Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws)

The Friends of Biscayne Bay's (FOBB) mission is to support and benefit the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves. FOBB aims to preserve, protect, and enhance the bay and all natural waterways tidally connected to the Bay in an aesthetically natural condition so that its biological and aesthetic values may endure for the enjoyment of future generations.

Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained: Brag! (List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions. Cite specific support from last calendar year's Annual Program Plan.)

The Friends of Biscayne Bay have continued to advocate for policies directed at improving Bay health. FOBB was active in supporting bills beneficial to Biscayne Bay at the state and local level. This includes bills related to stormwater improvements, the creation of a Biscayne Bay license plate, and repealing the state preemption on the regulation of single-use plastics and foam. FOBB filed a legal challenge against the Federal Aviation Administration for modifying flight paths over the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, citing the lack of an environmental impact statement and the failure to address impacts on the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve and the Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area from. FOBB drafted a letter about the changing of Florida's water quality standards, informing municipalities and the County of the change and its potential impact. FOBB also drafted letters in opposition to expanding the Miami-Dade County Urban Development Boundary, particularly in the areas that Biscayne Bay receives water flow from. Finally, FOBB drafted a

letter of support for the Friends of the Everglades in their legal challenge against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Florida Power & Light due to sea level rise concerns and alleged pollutants entering Biscayne Bay and the Biscayne Aquifer from the Turkey Point Nuclear Facility.

In 2021, the Friends of Biscayne Bay hosted several fundraising events to further our goals. Through the ecotour initiative, FOBB uses boat tours to raise money for Bay protection while also demonstrating firsthand the Bay's importance and ecological diversity. FOBB funded the acquisition and implementation of a sonde (detection instrument) in the Little River to better allow the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to monitor pollutant input into Biscayne Bay from the river.

To increase public awareness of seagrasses to Biscayne Bay, FOBB hosted a boat trip down the Mowry Canal with Channel 10 news anchor Louis Aguirre and seagrass scientists from Florida International University. FOBB supported the annual "Baynanza" event, promoting youth involvement in a clean and healthy Biscayne Bay. FOBB also improved youth participation in Biscayne Bay conservation with the support of the Bayologist camps. In addition, FOBB finalized the creation of our website (<https://friendsofbiscaynebay.org/>) to further improve outreach and access to information about the organization and Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves.

Describe the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years:

The Friends of Biscayne Bay (FOBB) plan to continue supporting the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve (BBAP) by advocating for policies beneficial to the Bay's health. Specifically, FOBB will continue to advocate for policies that reduce nutrient runoff into the Bay, including but not limited to transitioning from septic to sewer systems and reducing stormwater runoff in Miami-Dade County. FOBB will support the J. Farina Mangrove Preserve in North Miami by attending and events such as Baynanza. FOBB will defend the BBAP from development threats and land use changes that will negatively impact BBAP. FOBB will spread awareness about the BBAP through education programs for the workers in Biscayne National Park about the preserve, who can then incorporate the information about the BBAP in their tours and talks. In addition, FOBB will continue to update and promote the website with current information about Biscayne Bay and the organization's activities. FOBB will use 2024, the 50 year anniversary of the BBAP, to advocate for the listing of Biscayne Bay on the National Register of Historic Places due to cultural and historical significance. FOBB will work with the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board, the Biscayne Bay Commission, and the Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Restoration project delivery team to develop plans most beneficial to water quality and biodiversity in Biscayne Bay.

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: 0

Total Number of Board of Directors: 7

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 371

ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

Don't duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Describe the relationship here.

Manager's Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:

Provide your perspective on

- Changing developments of the managed area(s) provided by the CSO.
- Effectiveness of the organization in fulfilling their purpose to support the managed area(s).
- Effectiveness of the Board of Directors in completing their Annual Program Plan.
- The relationship between ORCP team and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

The Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Manager resigned prior to being able to fill out this section.

CSO President's Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:

Provide your perspective on the relationship between the ORCP and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

Friends of Biscayne Bay (FOBB) and the Southeast division of the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (ORCP) collaborated on several efforts throughout 2021 to achieve our shared goals of protection and restoration of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve. Laura Eldredge was very helpful in providing input at FOBB meetings because of her perspective and position in the ORCP office. The ORCP assisted FOBB with outreach efforts by providing brochures and other tabling supplies. Since Laura Eldredge has recently left her position in the Department, FOBB will open new lines of communication within the ORCP office so that we stay informed on the ORCP's activities and vice versa.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT SUPPORT & REVENUES:

Program Service Expenses are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and provide expenses that directly support the managed area(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expense of the organization. For the last calendar year provide description and total \$ for each that apply. Replace examples with your information.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Accounting Services | \$ 450 |
| Purchase Monitoring Equipment (sonde) | \$ 16,339 |
| Consulting Services | \$ 13,536.87 |
| T-Shirt Purchase | \$ 89.92 |
| Other program services | \$ 400 |
| Total Program Service Expenses | \$ 30,815.79 |

Visitor Services Revenue

Describe revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on managed area property. Replace examples with your information.

Fundraising \$ 33,543
Total Visitor Services Revenue \$ 33,543

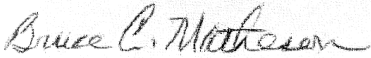

NET ASSETS: \$ 43,427.80

Organizations end of last year's Total Liabilities minus Total Assets. This is not the above's Visitor Service Revenue minus Program Service Expenses.

CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:

Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants) \$ 30,815.79

Are the CSO's annual total expenses \$300,000 including grants? Then Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)). The audit is **due by September 1** (or 9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

| This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Title | Name | Signature | Date |
| CSO President | Bruce Matheson |  | 06/28/2022 |
| ORCP Manager | |  | 6/29/2022 |

- CSO's Code of Ethics is attached
- CSO has attached the most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N receipt. All IRS Form 990's must be *complete* with Part III Program Service and *all* appropriate Schedules (A, O and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent complete 990 and schedules.

Friends of Biscayne Bay, Inc.

CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Biscayne Bay, 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay, 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay, Inc. board members, officers, and employees.

1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No Friends of Biscayne Bay 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay's board or office or who is employed by Friends of Biscayne Bay 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 Friends of Biscayne Bay employee and a Friends of Biscayne Bay board member at the same time.

8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

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