



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR)

Mailing Address: 180 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004

Telephone Number: 954-290-7673

Website Address (*required if applicable*): www.floridareef.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: Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit citizen support organization dedicated to conserving and protecting over 100 miles of vital coral reefs (directly offshore SE Florida between Miami-Dade and Martin Counties) by enhancing and complementing the critical efforts, programs and activities of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained: 2020 marked FOFR's 5th full year as a CSO for the DEP CRCP and its regional partners raising approximately \$13,000. FOFR updated its By-Laws and added one board director. Scott Sheckman also stepped down as president and Melissa Sathe was elected FOFR's second president. Although it did not happen in the 2020 calendar, it is worth mentioning that one of our founders, Kevin Senecal, suddenly passed away in March 2021. Kevin will be deeply missed by all. As in previous years, FOFR participated jointly with the DEP CRCP or separately at multiple education & outreach special events before the Covid pandemic hit in Southeast Florida, while also working year-round to promote activities and learning opportunities via our public website and social media platforms. One of the highlights was participating in the Superbowl LIV Pre-Game expo in January and February of 2020 at the launch of the Governor's Florida's Coral Reef announcement. During this unique year FOFR was able to transform Ocean Day (a pandemic canceled in-person event) to a very well attended webinar series. Along with partner agencies, Ocean Day was revamped into 3 webinars: Coral Reefs, Marine Animals, and Low Nutrient Landscaping and Gardening. FOFR was also able to assist with DEP's free earth month classes on fish, coral and marine invertebrate identification which were also transformed into an online platform during April-June of 2020. With DEP guidance in order to better educate the public about the wonders, beauty, and threats to Florida's coastal water ecosystems, FOFR was able to partner and fundraise to add the first of three large exhibit tanks by the popular "Captain" Sea Turtle Pool at Nova Southeastern University's (NSU) Marine Environmental Education Center (MEEC) at the Carpenter House in Hollywood, Florida. Focusing on Florida's Coral Reef, the first 300+ gallon tank is anticipated to be up and running in 2021. This coral reef exhibit will feature live native corals, fish, and invertebrates.

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

FOFR’s plans for the next 3 calendar years include continued support for DEP CRCP programs as needed including outreach and education, citizen science (e.g. BleachWatch), and reef cleanups. FOFR commits to maintaining significant unrestricted funds available for DEP CRCP should a rapid response need occur. FOFR also commits to promoting the coral program by attending outreach events and giving presentations (both virtual and in-person). FOFR will also seek new and novel ways fundraise and to promote DEP CRCP’s mission and presence in the community including a new partnership with the Martin County Lionfish Round Up. FOFR is now the benefiting charity of this event and hopes to continue this partnership every year. This partnership with strengthen FOFR and DEP CRCP’s mission in the northern reaches of Florida’s Coral Reef.

CSO’s LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: N/A

Total Number of Board of Directors: 10

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors (Work with your ORCP volunteer manager): ~800

ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

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

As FOFR’s Site Manager and Manager of DEP’s CRCP, I am grateful for the continued support and commitment of our Citizen Support Organization. FOFR Board Meetings are held quarterly and meetings are highly productive, focused, and always action oriented. When funds or support for CRCP’s managed area is requested, the CSO President is quick to reach out to board members and a response is generated quickly. I truly value our relationship and the open communication nature.

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

As the CSO president I have open communication with my ORCP Site Manager at FDEP CRCP. My site manager provides timely and helpful support whenever I need it.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, SPECIFIC MANAGED AREA(S) SUPPORT:

Program Service Expenses are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. For CSO’s 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 totals \$ for each that apply.

- Building improvement, construction or renovations \$
- Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation) \$
- Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration) \$
- Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws) \$
- Other facilities and landscape maintenance \$
- Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.) \$
- Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.) \$
- Managed area employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or \$
- Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates \$

Managed area exhibits, displays, signage \$
 Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc. \$
 Programing/interpretation support material purchases \$
 Other program services \$10,254
Total Program Service Expenses \$10,254

Total Operating Expenses (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) **\$1,048**

Visitor Services Revenue

Managed area gift shops, craft stores and concession sales \$ n/a
 Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.) \$ n/a
 Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.) \$ n/a
 Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.) \$ n/a
 Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.) \$ n/a
 Donation boxes \$ n/a
 Other visitor services revenue \$ n/a
Total Visitor Services Revenue \$0.00

Other Revenue

Public Interest Funding \$12,818
 Other Revenue \$1,000

Balance

Beginning Net Assets \$28,903
Ending Net Assets \$30,986

CSO AUDIT: N/A

Total of Last Calendar Year's Expenses (including grants) \$

Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)) when the CSOs annual expenses are \$300,000 including grants. 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.

CSO President	Melissa Sathe	<i>Melissa Sathe</i>	5/26/2021
ORCP Site Manager	Kristi Kerrigan	<i>Kristi Kerrigan</i>	5/28/2021

- 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 990 and schedules.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

for Tax-Exempt Organization not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ

2020

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2020 Calendar year, or tax year beginning 2020-01-01 and ending 2020-12-31

B Check if available

 Terminated for Business Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or lessC Name of Organization: FRIENDS OF OUR FLORIDA REEFS527 NE 16th Street, FORTLAUDERDALE, FL, US,33304

D Employee Identification

Number 47-3822204

E Website:

www.floridareef.orgF Name of Principal Officer: Scott Sheckman527 NE 16th Street, FortLauderdale, FL, US, 33304

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice: We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws.

The organization is not required to provide information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. The rules governing the confidentiality of the Form 990-N is covered in code section 6104.

The time needed to complete and file this form and related schedules will vary depending on the individual circumstances. The estimated average times is 15 minutes.

Note: This image is provided for your records only. Do Not mail this page to the IRS. The IRS will not accept this filing via paper. You must file your Form 990-N (e-Postcard) electronically.

FRIENDS OF OUR FLORIDA REEFS, INC.

CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Our Florida Reefs, 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 Our Florida Reefs, 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. 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 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.

June 10, 2015