



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: _____

10402 Grove Lane Odessa Fl 33556

Mailing Address: _____

813-389-3359

Telephone Number: _____

<http://tampabayaquaticpreserves.org/>

Website Address (required if applicable): _____

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)

To support the management of Tampa Bay's Aquatic Preserves through community/local support of the protection, conservation and restoration of coastal and aquatic resources within the preserves and watersheds as well as fostering public awareness and stewardship within these areas.

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 group has created an "adopt an acre" program as a fundraising effort. We are actively working on developing a beneficial relationship with the Clearwater Historical Society which houses the new office for the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves. Participated in several outreach/educational events with our AP staff which included:

- Florida Birding and Nature Festival St.
- Petersburg Boat Show
- Tarpon Springs First Friday Shark Con

We have maintained a social media presence with our Facebook page – currently over 900 people following. Instagram – currently over 500 people following.

FTBAP coordinated with Aquatic Preserve staff to participate in the Great American Teach In for over 120 students at Academie Da Vinci Charter School for the Arts and Technology. We have started work on developing a quarterly newsletter.

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

- We are actively working on the Living Waters Clyde Butcher exhibit which will run during the summer of 2024. This exhibit is our first partnership with the Clearwater Historical Society and is expected to result in increased public awareness of our Aquatic Preserves and their importance.
- Working on a 55th Anniversary celebration for Boca Ciega Bay Aquatic Preserve - late summer 2024.
- We will continue to make efforts to increase active membership - helping to provide a volunteer base for AP staff. We plan on hosting events that will engage potential new members.
- Continue to make efforts to develop local school curriculum and bring awareness of our aquatic preserves to both elementary and middle school students.

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership:

Total Number of Board of Directors:

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors:

ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

Do not duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Below, describe the relationship.

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

Provide your perspective on

- Changing developments of the managed area 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 the ORCP team and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

Despite being relatively young, the Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves has stepped up to provide valuable support for the program through outreach, volunteer coordination and fundraising efforts.

Because of TBAP's small staff, having knowledgeable volunteers to help staff major outreach events like the boat show, First Fridays, SharkCon, etc. greatly enhances the reach and accuracy of TBAP's messaging.

In addition to providing volunteers directly from their ranks, the CSO has committed to playing an increasing role in coordinating individuals from the community who would like to volunteer for activities like habitat restoration. While TBAP would continue to coordinate directly with established groups like college service/learning teams, the recruitment and coordination of individual volunteers is a big help.

One of the major developments of this year has been the finalization of the lease agreement to move the program to buildings managed by the Clearwater Historical Society. The CSO has been a big help in that move and transition. While the intent was to establish the TBAP office location, the CHS has turned out to be a very supportive partner. A working relationship has developed between the CSO and the Historical Society that has created a synergy of support much greater than we had expected. The closeness with which these two nonprofits have been working together to promote the work of TBAP, and coastal conservation, in general, is evidenced by their collaboration in bringing the Living Waters display of Clyde Butcher photos to the Clearwater Historical Museum. The collaborative effort on logistics, associated events and other outreach is a truly exciting indication of much more to come.

In summary, TBAP is thrilled to have the support of its CSO, and the potential for the organization to grow will help TBAP to increase in effectiveness and efficiency on behalf of the local community and natural resources.

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?

A positive working relationship has been formed between our CSO and AP staff. Our CSO has a tremendous respect and appreciation for Dr. Runnels and his staff. We understand the value of their efforts that are made to protect and restore both our pristine areas as well as our more urban/stressed resources. The president of our CSO has worked in some capacity with Dr. Runnels for almost 30 years and believes that our relationship helps to further the benefits achieved between our two entities - CSO and AP staff.

We are hoping to grow our CSO so as to provide a more consistent volunteer base as well as function as a supplementary funding source for needed resources by the AP staff.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT AP(S) SUPPORT & REVENUES:

Program Services are costs related to providing your organizations' programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and provide expenses that directly support the AP(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expenses of the organization. For the last calendar year provide the total \$ for each that apply. **Do not use commas.**

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.)	\$
ORCP employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition)	\$
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$
Preserve exhibits, displays, signage	\$
Preserve publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$ 494.00
Other program services	\$
Total Program Service Expenses	\$ 0494.00

Visitor Services Revenue are revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on preserve property. **Do not use commas.**

Preserve gift shops, craft stores, and concession sales	\$
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$
Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$
In-preserve donation boxes	\$
Other visitor services revenue	\$
Total Visitor Services Revenue	\$ 0

NET ASSETS: \$

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

CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:

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

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** (9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

CONFIRM ATTACHMENTS:

- Code of Ethics
- 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.

2024 CSO Legislative Report Acknowledgment

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes

Signature: _____

Printname: Rose Poynor _____, CSO President

_____, Inc.

Date: 5/30/2024 _____

Signature: _____

Print name: Randy Runnels _____, AP Manager

Date: 5/30/2024 _____

**Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc.
CODE OF ETHICS**

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the conduct and operation of the Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. (herein “FTBAP”) that 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 FTBAP 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 FTBAP. 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 Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, 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 FTBAP board members, officers, and employees.

1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No FTBAP 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

Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. Code of Ethics – Sept. 2020

action, or judgment of the FTBAP board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

No FTBAP 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 FTBAP board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

3. Salary and Expenses

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

4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

A FTBAP 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 FTBAP 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

Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. Code of Ethics – Sept. 2020

A person who has been elected to any FTBAP board or office or who is employed by the FTBAP may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the FTBAP 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 FTBAP employee and a FTBAP board member at the same time.

8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

A FTBAP 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 FTBAP 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 FTBAP 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 Code of Ethics

Failure of a FTBAP 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 FTBAP to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the FTBAP.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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

2023

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2023 Calendar year, or tax year beginning 2023-01-01 and ending 2023-12-31

B Check if available

- Terminated for Business
- Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less

C Name of Organization: FRIENDS OF TAMPA BAY AQUATIC

PRESERVES INC

10402 Grove Lane, Odessa,
FL, US, 33556

D Employee Identification

Number 84-3755324

E Website:

F Name of Principal Officer: Rose Poynor

10402 Grove Lane, Odessa,
FL, US, 33556

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.