Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: **Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves**

Mailing Address: **13013 Seminole Blvd. #1036 Largo FL 33778**

Telephone Number: **813-389-3359**

Website Address *(required if applicable)*: **https://www.tbapfriends.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.

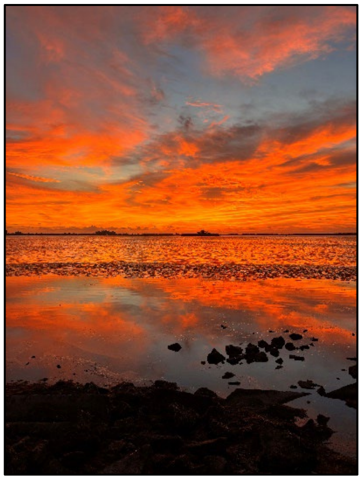
Section 20.058, F.S., Citizen support and direct-support organizations. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements to submit an annual report each year for each designated CSO and to post that information on the Departments website.

YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
CSO's Mission: (Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws)
The mission of the Friends of the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. is to support the management of Tampa Bay's Aquatic Preserves. This will be accomplished 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.

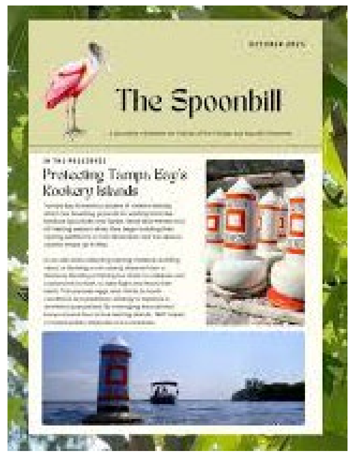
Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained: Brag! (List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions. Cite specific support from last calendar year's Annual Program Plan.)

- **FTBAP held our annual student photo contest. Students in K-12 submitted photos from the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves**.
- **CSO provided funding for spoil island kiosk lumber purchase.**
- **Funded First Aid Training Course for AP staff.**
- **Contributed towards funding for booth at annual Shark Con.**
- **Contributed towards funding for annual St. Petersburg Boat Show**
- **Funding provided to outfit necessary equipment for newly acquired AP Vessel**

- **Sponsored/volunteered at Tarpon Springs First Friday events to help bring awareness/exposure of the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves to local communities.**
- **Sponsored/organized a well- attended talk on native and invasive plant species for the local community.**
- **Initiated work on native plant garden.**
- **Sponsored/funded refreshments for AP staff-contractors meeting – post hurricanes.**
- **Creation and development of a quarterly newsletter – The Spoonbill to help bring awareness to our local communities about the Aquatic Preserves and our CSO.**



Winning Student Photo



The Spoonbill Quarterly Newsletter

Acquired a Debit Card to expedite purchases for AP needs
CSO created an Excel spreadsheet for AP staff to request purchases

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

We have just elected several new Board Members – including a new President and Vice President. Incorporating new visions and ideas is expected to lead to a new focus on priorities and strategic plans to accomplish this.

The main goal will be to implement a growth strategy - increase membership and our volunteer base.

Our group will develop programs that appeal to and engage younger demographic.

Use our quarterly newsletter to reach out to a broader audience and foster supporters for our organization.

Provide volunteer opportunities with Aquatic Preserve staff to help in maintenance/restoration opportunities as well as provide exposure to the public about our Aquatic Preserves.

Develop/create comprehensive environmental curriculum materials for K-12 students that promote understanding of our aquatic preserve ecosystems. The goal is to generate and foster awareness and appreciation of our Aquatic Preserves and associated resources which will in turn support the stewardship of these ecological assets.

<u>CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:</u>

Total Number of CSO General Membership: 32

Total Number of Board of Directors: 6

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 328

<u>ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:</u>

<u>(Do not duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained.) Below, describe the relationship.</u>

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?

The Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves (the CSO) has increased and enhanced the program's capacity in a number of ways. A key strength of this CSO is that it includes several former DEP staff, and a few of them are former staff of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves who still contribute their knowledge and enthusiasm to achieving the program's goals. This familiarity with the TBAP program and its managed areas is especially valuable in the outreach events the CSO helps staff with knowledgeable advocates. In addition to that increased capacity, the CSO is becoming increasingly active in recruiting outside volunteers for habitat restoration projects, program maintenance and repair needs and other tasks.

As has been mentioned in previous reports, the CSO has formed, and continues to cultivate, a productive working relationship with the Clearwater Historical Society, from which DEP leases office and storage space for the TBAP program. These organizations continue to collaborate on events that combine history and natural history of the area in a truly synergistic dynamic. As TBAP manager, I continue to be amazed at how the two organizations take an idea and run with it. That partnership genuinely adds value to the program in achieving its goals. The CSO has taken on a life of its own, and it continues to align with our program goals.

With its new officers, the CSO is poised to continue to grow and bring in new enthusiasm to support our conservation and public outreach goals. The former officers are committed to supporting the new leadership, and it is exciting to move the TBAP program forward with this important bridge to the community. We are truly fortunate to have the CSO, its dedicated members, and the additional partnerships it is forming in the community.

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?

The CSO and Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves Staff have developed a collaborative and effective relationship. We look to Dr. Runnels and his staff to help to provide guidance in achieving their desired goals. Communication between the CSO and staff is consistent and productive. Although our budget is relatively small at this time – we have made efforts to help fund some of the needs that the staff has had. We have also contributed our time and efforts to educational outreach and on the ground restoration activities. The CSO directors and membership have a tremendous respect for the work that the Aquatic Preserve Staff are undertaking. We understand the need to continue to make efforts to grow our membership, increase our volunteer base and expand our funding efforts to better support Dr. Runnels and his Staff.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT AP(S) SUPPORT & REVENUES: Program Services are costs related to providing your organization's 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.

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.)	$ **584**
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	$ **674**
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	$ **1,102**
Other program services	$ **245**
Total Program Service Expenses	$ **2,605**

Visitor Services Revenue are revenues and the resources generated from fundraising on preserve property.

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, Wi-Fi, etc.)	$
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	$
In-preserve donation boxes	$
Other visitor services revenue	$
Total Visitor Services Revenue	**$**

NET ASSETS..$ 4,024

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) ....$ 2,996

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.**

2026 CSO Legislative Report Acknowledgment

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

Signature:

Print name: Rose Poynor, CSO President, Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc.

Date: May 31, 2026

Signature:____

Print name: Randy James Runnels

AP Manager Date:6/1/2026

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 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**

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.

Form **990-N**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Electronic Notice (e-Postcard)

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

OMB No. 1545-2085

2025

Open to Public Inspection

Information Copy. Do not send to IRS

A For the **2025** Calendar year, or tax year beginning **2025-01-01** and ending **2025-12-31**

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**
2878 Deer Hound Way, Palm Harbor, FL, US, 34683

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.