



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

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc.

Mailing Address: c/o Scott Taylor PO Box 1479 Sorrento, FL 32776-1479

Telephone Number: 407-381-1144

Website Address (*required if applicable*): AquaticPreserveAlliance.org (site is under development)

Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website. (site is under development)

**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 Alliance mission is to promote and support charitable, educational, and scientific activities that directly and indirectly benefit the Wekiva-Middle St. Johns and Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserves. The organization is dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public about the Wekiva-Middle St. Johns and Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserves' ecosystems.

**Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained:** *List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions.*

Please see attached report on Page 4.

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

The Alliance will continue to support AP volunteer resource management and education/outreach activities; continue to conduct fundraising to support aquatic preserve activities; and "To better serve the needs of basin researchers and the public, a Freshwater Research Center with an education component is envisioned at a direct river access location." *Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, 2014*. The Alliance is working with partners to acquire a suitable location for the Freshwater Research and Education Center. The Alliance will continue to participate in inter-agency working groups and support local environmental organizations on projects and issues which affect the aquatic preserves and surrounding areas. Outreach was curtailed due to Covid-19 but will become more active and in-person as conditions permit.

**CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:**

**Total Number of CSO General Membership: 12**

**Total Number of Board of Directors: 8**

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 655**

**ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:**

**Site 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 ORCP and CSO What went well? Are there areas of improvement?*

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) was extremely effective in supporting the managed area in 2020. Prior to the national Covid-19 shutdown (and online afterward), the Alliance performed outreach, education, restoration and technical advising through a basin tour, progress on the Wekiva Promise magazine's second edition, participation regarding the restoration of the Little Wekiva River and meetings with local environmental groups. The Alliance also facilitated the transport and display of the APS' *Living Waters* exhibit and assisted with online activities for the Wekiva River's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Wild and Scenic River. However, their major accomplishment for 2020 was partnering with the City of DeBary on the inclusion of 170 riverfront acres into the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway for AP office relocation, a berm trail and creation of a Freshwater Research and Education Center, a goal in the Wekiva-Middle St. Johns AP Management Plan and an Alliance mission. This achievement has added many new items to the Annual Program Plan, to be approved at their next meeting.

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

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

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (ORCP) work well together to accomplish mutual goals. The Alliance works closely with the AP Manager on numerous projects and activities. Two Alliance Board members serve on the Board of the Aquatic Preserve Society (APS) and the Alliance VP is also the VP of the APS. They attend monthly teleconference meetings with APS which are also attended by the AP Manager, ORCP liaison, and often by the ORCP Director. ORCP is consulted where Alliance issues require interaction with ORCP, as in the Boundary Amendment submitted to Division of State Lands for inclusion in a Florida Forever project. ORCP provides assistance to the Alliance as needed and we believe we have an excellent working relationship with the AP Manager and the Tallahassee team.

**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	\$ 0
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$ 0
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$ 0
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$ 0
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$ 0
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$ 0

Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.) \$ 0  
 Managed area employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or \$ 0  
     Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates \$ 0  
         Managed area exhibits, displays, signage \$ 200  
     Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc. \$ 0  
     Programing/interpretation support material purchases \$ 0  
         Other program services \$ 0  
**Total Program Service Expenses \$ 200**

**Total Operating Expenses** (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) **\$ 465**

**Visitor Services Revenue**

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

**Other Revenue**

    Public Interest Funding \$ 0  
     Other Revenue \$ 3000

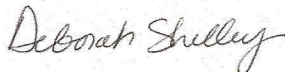

**Balance**

**Beginning Net Assets \$ 2891.44**  
**Ending Net Assets \$ 5891.44**

**CSO AUDIT:**

**Total of Last Calendar Year's Expenses (including grants) \$465**

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.

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes			
Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President	Deborah Shelley		30 May 2021
ORCP Site Manager	Barbara Howell		30 May 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.

## Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida

### Annual Report January – December 2020

#### **Brief Description of the Alliance Results Obtained:**

The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida (Alliance) did not convene general meetings in 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions. President Dean Barber, Vice President Deborah Shelley, and other board members met with each other, the Aquatic Preserve (AP) Manager or volunteers two to three times monthly by phone or in person to discuss or implement various planned activities and events.

Aquatic Preserve Society – Alliance President and Vice President (VP) participated in monthly conference calls with the Aquatic Preserve Society (APS). The Alliance VP continued to serve as the VP of the APS.

Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc. (FOWR) - Alliance VP served as liaison with the citizen organization FOWR and attended ten online meetings via Zoom. Alliance Board members coordinated with and advised residents along the Little Wekiva River regarding the sand deposition that has filled in parts of the river. Board members reviewed current permits, draft legislation, and participated in several stakeholder meetings related to the issue.

Presentation to FOWR - Alliance VP gave a 45-minute presentation titled *A Brief History of (the many attempts to protect) the Wekiva River*. The presentation provided a summary of the 50-year history of resource management, preservation and protection activities in the Wekiva Basin and was an excellent precursor to the Wekiva Rock Springshed Tour and primer for new members.

Wekiva Rock Springshed Tour - FOWR sponsored a bus tour of the Wekiva Basin for members and local residents. Alliance VP Deborah Shelley coordinated and led the event and provided a historic perspective, FOWR Board Member Mike Cliburn spoke about water quality issues and the AP Manager and the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Ambassador discussed the Wekiva Parkway Construction and Wild and Scenic River programs and projects, respectively. Twenty-four people participated in the half-day tour.

Living Waters Exhibit - Alliance VP coordinated with the City of Tavares, Florida for an Exhibit at City Hall. The *Living Waters and the Florida Landscape* exhibit was held from June 23 to October 30, 2020. Alliance Board members and volunteers set up the exhibit which featured 29 large-format photographic images by Clyde Butcher and 29 original pastel paintings created specifically for the exhibit by 12 Pastel Society artists. Viewing of the exhibit was open to the public during regular city business hours from 9:0A.m. to 5:00p.m. Monday thru Friday. It is estimated that a minimum of 10 visitors per day viewed the exhibit for a total of approximately 800 visitors for the four-month period. Due to Covid-19, the customary Artists Reception was not held.

Alliance VP gave a 45-minute online presentation to the general public via Zoom as part of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration activities. The presentation highlighted the 35-year *History of the Wekiva River* with info about management planning, the Wekiva River Protection Act and other Wekiva Specific legislation, resource management, research, and other river related topics. Alliance VP attended two Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Advisory Management Committee meetings, and prepared materials for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic documentary.

Wekiva Promise Magazine - Alliance members continued coordinating with the Wekiva Promise Committee on revisions and reprinting of the Wekiva Promise magazine until early March 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions prevented in person meetings. The Alliance VP prepared and submitted several grant requests to various funding sources. The Alliance received a \$2,500 grant from the Felburn Foundation to be used for printing or online publication of the magazine. As reported in the 2020 annual report, the first printing of the of the 44-page full color magazine in 2011 included 12,000 copies. Topics included local parks, flora and fauna, water quality, algae issues, septic systems, and focused on how residents and visitors can practice stewardship of the riverine environment. Numerous reviewers assisted with determining that the articles and information are still relevant today. The revised edition will include several new articles, some revisions to existing articles, and an interactive online version of the magazine. The online version will also include links to sponsors' web pages, a survey, and other social media functions. Alliance board members and partners serve as editors, coordinators, or fundraisers for the magazine revisions. Other partners include South Seminole Rotary, Wekiva River AP, FOWR, and the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Ambassador.

The Alliance and partner, the City of DeBary, and in consultation with the AP Manager and ORCP, prepared and submitted a Boundary Amendment package to the Division of State Lands for consideration by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) at their December 2020 Public Meeting. The DeBary City Manager and Alliance VP spoke in support of the project. The Boundary Amendment to the Wekiva Ocala Greenway Project was approved by ARC December 11, 2020 and by the Board of Trustees May 4, 2021, making the parcel eligible for Florida Forever funding. Matching and other funding information was sought by the partners in anticipation of approval. Alliance VP and DeBary Public Information Officer attended a Florida Community Trust webinar to learn about their grants process. Alliance VP attended a webinar sponsored by the group *Raise* to learn about effective fundraising strategies. The DeBary City Manager will apply for Volusia Forever funding when available.

Alliance President and volunteers assisted the AP with vessel and vehicle repairs and maintenance.

**The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, Inc.**  
**CODE OF ETHICS**

**PREAMBLE**

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, 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 The Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, 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. 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.

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 less

**C** Name of Organization: **AQUATIC PRESERVE ALLIANCE OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA INC****P O Box 1479, Sorrento, FL,  
US, 32776****D** Employee Identification  
Number **47-2140025****E** Website:**F** Name of Principal Officer: **Scott B Taylor****P O Box 1479, Sorrento, FL,  
US, 32776**

**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.

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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 less**C** Name of Organization: **AQUATIC PRESERVE ALLIANCE OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA INC****P O Box 1479, Sorrento, FL,  
US, 32776****D** Employee IdentificationNumber **47-2140025****E** Website:**F** Name of Principal Officer: **Scott B Taylor****P O Box 1479, Sorrento, FL,  
US, 32776**

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## Confirmation

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

- **Organization Name:** AQUATIC PRESERVE ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA INC
- **EIN:** 472140025
- **Tax Year:** 2020
- **Tax Year Start Date:** 01-01-2020
- **Tax Year End Date:** 12-31-2020
- **Submission ID:** 10065520211274608220
- **Filing Status Date:** 05-07-2021
- **Filing Status:** Accepted

**MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS**