



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2017 REPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF 20.058 F.S.**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Aquatic Preserve Society, Inc.

Mailing Address: 2800 S. Adams St. #5969, Tallahassee, FL 32314

Telephone Number: (850)962-9901 _ Website Address (if applicable):
<https://www.facebook.com/Aquaticpreservesociety/>

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.

Brief Description of the CSO's Mission:

The Aquatic Preserve Society (APS) is a non-profit organization advancing Florida's Aquatic Preserves managed by the Florida Coastal Office (FCO).

Our mission is to protect, conserve and restore these unique natural Florida resources through public awareness and support.

Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

Please see report attached

Brief Description of the CSO's Plans for Next Three Fiscal Years:

The Society will continue to support the Aquatic Preserve Program through education, and advocacy, and will promote communication between all of the citizens' organizations which support the program.

X Copy of the CSO's Code of Ethics attached

X Certify the CSO has completed and provided to the Department the organization's most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N/Annual Financial Statement

Aquatic Preserve Society
Annual Report
FY 2016-2017

The Aquatic Preserve Society operates on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. During the FY 2016-2017 fiscal year the Society accomplished the following:

Meetings:

Ten teleconferences and one face to face meeting were conducted.

The Living Waters fine art exhibit was gifted by renowned photographer Clyde Butcher to the Society. The Society loaned the exhibit to the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve for its 50th year anniversary celebration. Originally the Society had thought to liquidate the exhibit to raise funds for the aquatic preserves. The Society has reconsidered that idea and instead will loan it to support aquatic preserve related education and fund raising efforts. The exhibit has been next reserved for use by Friends of the GTMNERR. The Society is now developing a formal use agreement for use of the exhibit.

Several board members attended the Estero Bay Anniversary Celebration and contributed a gift for their fund raising auction.

The Society was invited to join the Florida Estuary Alliance however, the Alliance will not be a formally incorporated group.

Larry Nall reported on attending the Apalachicola NERR CSO meeting. It looks like they will join the society. Society board members will be attending meetings of other aquatic preserve related CSOs.

Larry Nall represented the Society at Oceans Day which was held March 15 & 16 in the capitol. Three photographs from the Living Waters Exhibit were shown.

The annual public meeting was held March 11 at the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve offices.

The President submitting his budget for FY 2018 with included elimination of the Research Reserves and the Coastal Zone grant funds which support the aquatic preserves. It also eliminated funding for the National Estuary and Sea Grant programs which are also critical to managing the aquatic preserves. The Society sent letters of support for these programs to all members of Florida's Congressional Delegation.

The web site and Facebook page were reviewed and it was decided to only continue supporting the Facebook page The Society has revised its goals for 2017, they are attached.

Aquatic Preserve Support Projects:

A public interest project for \$1820 has been processed for the Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve.

A public interest project for \$2500 is being processed for the Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve which will be used for revegetation.

A public interest project in the amount of \$15,000 is being processed for the Nassau – St. Johns Aquatic Preserve

The Society will hold funds received for eco-tours provided by Big Bend Aquatic Preserve.

The Society is holding funds for the Coastal Office to help support coastal management meetings.

The Society will hold the funds received for these projects until requested for use by the aquatic preserve manager or other responsible party.

Required Actions:

Florida Corporations Report was submitted to Coastal Office, for transmittal to the Division of Corporations.

Board Membership and Officers – The Board voted Terry Cain as president, Liz Donley as Vice President and Larry Nall as Secretary/Treasurer.

The final balance for funds for the fiscal year are

\$388.22	balance for APS
\$332.78	in reserve for Coastal Program
\$125.00	in reserve for Crystal River
<u>\$1810.00</u>	<u>Island Harbor PI Project</u>
\$2,656.00	Total Funds on Hand

The FY 2015-16 990-N report has been filed with the IRS (attached). The FY 2016-2017 taxes cannot be filed until after the fiscal year ends on June 30.

Aquatic Preserve Society

The Aquatic Preserve Society (APS) is a non-profit organization advancing Florida's Aquatic Preserves managed by the Florida Coastal Office (FCO).

Our mission is to protect, conserve and restore these unique natural Florida resources through public awareness and support.

Goals of Aquatic Preserve Society

Educate, Advocate and Coordinate

- Increase statewide awareness of the Aquatic Preserve Program.
- Speak with one voice for all the Aquatic Preserves and their Citizen Support Organizations (CSOs).
- Provide communication and coordination between local CSOs concerning common issues and activities.

Support

- Support existing Aquatic Preserves with CSOs.
- Develop local Aquatic Preserve CSOs where they do not exist.
- Increase membership and volunteerism in the APS and local CSOs.
- Work to raise and disburse funds for Aquatic Preserve and CSO activities.
- Receive and disburse Public Interest funds consistent with the Letter of Agreement with the FCO.
- Support creation or expansion of Aquatic Preserves as identified in Management Plans or supported by local citizenry.

Code of Ethics

AQUATIC PRESERVE SOCIETY, INC. CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of (herein “APS”) 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 APS 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 APS 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 APS. 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 APS 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 APS board members, officers, and employees.

1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No APS 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 APS board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

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

3. Salary and Expenses

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

Code of Ethics

4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

An APS 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 APS 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 APS board or office or who is employed by an APS may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the APS 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 an APS employee and an APS board member at the same time.

8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

An APS 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 APS 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 APS 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 APS Code of Ethics

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



Confirmation

[Home](#) | [Security Profile](#) | [Logout](#)

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

- **Organization Name:** AQUATIC PRESERVE SOCIETY INC
- **EIN:** 471765094
- **Tax Year:** 2015
- **Tax Year Start Date:** 07-01-2015
- **Tax Year End Date:** 06-30-2016
- **Submission ID:** 10065520162020400360
- **Filing Status Date:** 07-20-2016
- **Filing Status:** Accepted

MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS