



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

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Estero Bay Buddies, Inc.

Mailing Address: 700-1 Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

Telephone Number: 239-530-1005

Website Address (*required if applicable*): www.esterobaybuddies.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: The Estero Bay Buddies (EBB) are a not-for-profit Citizen Support Organization (CSO) for the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and Estero Bay Preserve State Park. The mission of the EBB is to support the further protection, conservation, restoration, management, and the enhancement of the natural and cultural resources of the coastal and aquatic ecosystems of the Estero Bay estuary and watershed for the enjoyment and appreciation of current and future generations.

Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained: Due to the virus, Covid -19, this has been our most unusual year to date. Because of social distancing there have been limited coastal cleanups, no educational workshops or outreach programs. The Buddies have been able to support service-learning students from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) via Zoom, email and photos for small coastal clean ups and web site support so the students could earn their required service-learning credits. The Buddies continue to support the ORCP office by providing financial support as well as supporting the Estero Bay State Park with funding for small projects.

Describe the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years: Estero Bay Buddies will resume and continue to support the ORCP office with funding, supporting events to promote the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve through public events and programs as soon as it is safe to gather in groups. Partnerships will continue with FGCU, Florida South Western State College, Keep Lee County Beautiful and Lee County Schools as well as other local service groups.

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: 67

Total Number of Board of Directors: 6

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors 120

ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP: The EBB like to think we have a healthy and very good working relationship with the ORCP office. We can call and email the office and get a prompt and efficient response to any questions or ideas. The Buddies never have to couch request and we believe the ORCP office does the same in response. We are open and transparent with each other.

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 Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve office and the Estero Bay Buddies work well together and coordinate closely to both accomplish the goals set out in the EBAP Management Plan and to fulfill the EBB mission. The nature of this CSO also fosters additional coordination with DRP which supports more holistic management of the aquatic preserve and the adjacent upland preserve that is located within the AP watershed. EBB provides support for EBAP programs and uses its unique role in the community to educate the public about EBAP and the state's aquatic preserve program. During the past year the CSO board of directors rose to meet the challenges of not being able to have in-person meetings or educational/outreach opportunities by adapting their university service-learning opportunities to be socially-distant and/or virtual, and their meeting style to utilize virtual meeting technology so that EBB board members, ORCP and DRP staff could attend CSO meetings. EBB has maintained successful communication and close coordination with ORCP despite the difficulties of the past year.

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

As stated above we have a very, very good working relationship and I see no changes needing to be made on the ORCP for Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve's part. I believe we feel we can call and email each other at any time with ideas or request and get good solid conversation back in return.

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

Program Service Expenses

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.)	\$200.61
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	\$200.00
Total Program Service Expenses	\$400.61

Total Operating Expenses (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) **\$806.77**

Visitor Services Revenue

Managed area 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.)	\$25.00
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$
Donation boxes	\$
Other visitor services revenue	\$
Total Visitor Services Revenue	\$25.00

Other Revenue

Public Interest Funding	\$
Other Revenue	\$116.10

Balance

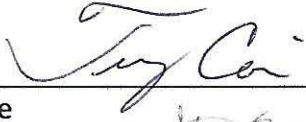

Beginning Net Assets	\$9,092.07
Ending Net Assets	\$8,426.40

CSO AUDIT:

Total of Last Calendar Year's Expenses (including grants) \$806.77

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	Terry Cain		05/20/2021
ORCP Site Manager	Stephanie Erickson		05/19/2021

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.

**ESTERO BAY BUDDIES
CODE OF ETHICS**



PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of the Estero Bay Buddies (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 Estero Bay Buddies 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 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.

10. Certification of Compliance

Annually, after the end of each fiscal year each board member shall certify compliance with this policy by signing the form prescribed by the treasurer.

Confirmation

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

- **Organization Name:** ESTERO BAY BUDDIES INC
- **EIN:** 650902021
- **Tax Year:** 2020
- **Tax Year Start Date:** 01-01-2020
- **Tax Year End Date:** 12-31-2020
- **Submission ID:** 10065520210394313245
- **Filing Status Date:** 02-08-2021
- **Filing Status:** Accepted

MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS



Confirmation

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MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS