



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT  
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

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

Mailing Address: 144 BayMar Drive, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

Telephone Number: 239-530-1005

Website Address (required if applicable): [www.esterobaybuddiess.org](http://www.esterobaybuddiess.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, for the end of last year the Buddies did not hold any educational outreach programs. If we thought Covid 19 gave us our most unusual years to date, we were wrong. Hurricane Ian in September has devastated our area and continues to do so. The Buddies continue to recover from losing all our outreach materials including printed material, maps, backdrops, a table, t-shirts, and much more. We would like to initiate cleanups in Estero Bay, but it is still unsafe as houses, cars and anything on the island washed into the bay and Gulf of Mexico. We are hoping to continue our outreach program in the very near future. 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 continue to support the ORCP office with funding, support events to promote the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and resume a public outreach program. Purchasing our needed supplies for educational outreach is essential for the next few months. Partnerships will continue with FGCU, Florida Southwestern State College, Keep Lee County Beautiful and Lee County Schools as well as other local service and not for profit organizations.

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

**Total Number of CSO General Membership: 52**

**Total Number of Board of Directors: 5**

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 120**

**ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:**

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

Despite ongoing impacts from the Covid 19 virus and continuing recovery challenges from Hurricane Ian, the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and Estero Bay Buddies have continued to work well together and coordinate closely to both accomplish the goals set out in the EBAP Management Plan and to fulfill the EBB mission. While EBB uses its unique role in the community to educate the public about EBAP and the state's aquatic preserve program through outreach materials such as their EbbTide newsletter, the majority of these materials were lost in the recent hurricane and replacement efforts are ongoing. Additionally, outreach event opportunities have been limited due to the devastating impact of the hurricane on local communities. Despite these unique and difficult hurdles, the Buddies have employed lessons learned from the challenges of the Covid 19 virus and have successfully utilized virtual platforms to maintain effective coordination and collaboration. During the past year the CSO has also supported multiple EBAP programs by providing the ability for staff and volunteer to attend required training opportunities. Throughout recent difficulties EBB has continued to support EBAP programs and has maintained successful communication and close coordination with ORCP despite the challenges of the recent years.

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

Estero Bay Buddies continue to have a great working relationship with the ORCP office. When any of the board members call or email the office, we always get an immediate or prompt response. Any comments or ideas are graciously accepted. This is an open and transparent relationship, and we see it continuing as such into the future.

**SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT SUPPORT & REVENUES:**

**See document below.**

**SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT SUPPORT & REVENUES:**

**Program Service Expenses** are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and 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 description and total \$ for each that apply. Replace examples with your information.

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)	\$	134.85
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	\$	
Managed area exhibits, displays, signage	\$	
Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$	
Programming interpretation support material purchases	\$	100.00
Other program services	\$	
<b>Total Program Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>234.85</b>

**Visitor Services Revenue**

Describe revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on managed area property. Replace examples with your information.

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.)	\$	
Managed area donation boxes	\$	
Other visitor services revenue	\$	
<b>Total Visitor Services Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>0</b>

**NET ASSETS: \$ 10,862.62**

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

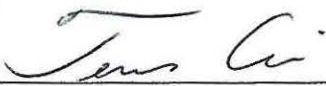

**CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:**

Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants) \$ **510.95**

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

**CONFIRM ATTACHMENTS:**

- 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 complete 990 and schedules.

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes			
Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President	Teresa Cain		6/2/2023
ORCP Manager	Stephanie Erickson		6/1/23



**ESTERO BAY BUDDIES  
CODE OF ETHICS  
2023**

**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 is not 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.



# Estero Bay Buddies Inc.

EIN: 65-0902021 | Estero, Florida, United States

## Other Names

ESTERO BAY BUDDIES INC

## Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Organizations who have filed a 990-N (e-Postcard) annual electronic notice. Most small organizations that receive less than \$50,000 fall into this category.

### ^ Tax Year 2022 Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

**Tax Period:**

2022 (01/01/2022-12/31/2022)

**EIN:**

65-0902021

**Organization Name (Doing Business as):**

ESTERO BAY BUDDIES INC

**Mailing Address:**

20600 Park Place  
Estero, FL 33928  
United States

**Principal Officer's Name and Address:**

Reginald McNeill  
20600 Park Place  
Estero, FL 33928  
United States

**Gross receipts not greater than:**

\$50,000

**Organization has terminated:**

No

**Website URL:**

Toadfish10@comcast.net

## Confirmation

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

- Organization Name: ESTERO BAY BRIDGES INC
- EIN: 650902001
- Tax Year: 2022
- Tax Year Start Date: 01-01-2022
- Tax Year End Date: 12-31-2022
- Submission ID: 10085520230446155517
- Filing Status Date: 02-13-2023
- Filing Status: Accepted

**MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS**