



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
2014 REPORT**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 1194**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Ichetucknee Springs State Park, Inc.  
Mailing Address: 12087 SW US HWY 27, Fort White, FL 32038  
Telephone Number: (386) 935-2453 Website Address (if applicable): N/A

**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 258.015, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit.** In summary, the statute defines a CSO, requires authorization by the Division of Recreation and Parks, and specifies the use of property. This statute authorizes the Partnerships in Parks (PIP) program for state parks, the program's operational parameters, CSO's operational parameters, and donor recognition.

**Brief Description of the CSO's Mission: From our Bylaws:**

To conduct programs and activities; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, invest and administer, in its own name, securities, funds, objects of value, or other property, real or personal; and make expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit of the Ichetucknee Springs State Park or the Florida State Park System.

**Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:**

This is our first year, 6 months so far, we have now 30 members, and have helped the park with volunteer events, and signage, a washing machine, and a golf cart.

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

Support various park events, continue to recruit volunteers, raise funds, create and schedule workdays and projects, help park to acquire general maintenance equipment to support better visitor service and facility maintenance (power/gas tools, hand tools, UTVs), Create/maintain partnerships and involvement with other agencies, organizations, tourism groups (Chamber of Commerce, Fort White Middle School, Suwannee River Valley marketing Group, Visit Florida, etc).

- Copy of the CSO's Code of Ethics attached** (*Model provided; see CSO 2014 instructions*)
- 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**

# **Friends of Ichetucknee Springs CSO Code of Ethics – July 2014**

## **FRIENDS OF ICHETUCKNEE SPRINGS STATE PARK, INC. CODE OF ETHICS**

### **PREAMBLE**

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Ichetucknee Springs State Park, 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 Friends of Ichetucknee Springs State Park, 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.

# **Friends of Ichetucknee Springs CSO Code of Ethics – July 2014**

## **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 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.

*Draft July 15, 2014 / To be adopted at next regularly scheduled board meeting 7/31/2014*