

[EXTERNAL] Fwd: OMB Control Number 1018-Friends

Cece Trainor <cecetrainor@gmail.com>

Fri 1/8/2021 2:11 PM

To: Info_Coll, FWHQ <info_coll@fws.gov>

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From: **Cece Trainor** <cecetrainor@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 11:36 AM

Subject: OMB Control Number 1018-Friends

To: <InfoColl@fws.gov>

My name is Cece Trainor and I am on the Board of the Friends of Eastern Neck (FoEN). I am responding to "1018-Friends" on their behalf. Eastern Neck NWR is part of the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

FoEN does not have the manpower to supply the information you have requested. We are an all volunteer organization and until the arrival of our new biologist late in 2020, we have been tasked with keeping this refuge open, as there were no NFW employees assigned here. We received a lot of help from NFW employees from the Blackwater Refuge and it has been critical, but they have their own refuge to run. We can not add this paperwork to our ongoing tasks of running the bookstore, arranging maintenance for the complex, caring for the butterfly garden, conducting bird counts, contracting local farmers to plant, harvest and mow the fields.

Secondly, we have already supplied this information. We hold monthly Board meetings with detailed reports on our finances and two NFW employees from Blackwater routinely attend these meetings. These meetings include detailed reports from our Treasurer that summarize our finances. Copies are given to the Blackwater personnel. As a 501 (c)3, FoEN solicits donations from our community, and has recently used this money to make repairs on the roof of the bookstore, to paint the bookstore door and to hire a landscaper to improve the Butterfly Garden. We allocated funds to reprint a History of our Refuge, which is sold at the Bookstore. In the fall, we voted to contribute money to paint a house on the refuge that our newly appointed NFW biologist will reside in with his family. We should not be responsible for these items, but your organization is failing to supply the necessary funding. All expenditures that I am aware of have been used to support the refuge and NFW is well informed of our actions. Our IRS tax forms are available to you if you need them.

Sincerely,

Cece Trainor

Board Member, Friends of Eastern Neck