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June 9, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Adam J. Teitzman
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket Nos. 20250011-EI, Petition by Florida Power & Light Company for Base Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

On behalf of Intervenor Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida ("ECOSWF"), I have enclosed the testimony and exhibit of Becky Ayech. Please file these documents in Docket No. 20250011-EI. Please contact me if there are any questions regarding this filing.

/s/ Bradley Marshall
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*Counsel for League of United Latin
American Citizens of Florida, Florida
Rising, and Environmental Confederation
of Southwest Florida*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy and correct copy of the foregoing was served on this 9th day of June, 2025, via electronic mail on:

Florida Public Service Commission Office of the General Counsel Shaw Stiller Timothy Sparks 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399 sstiller@psc.state.fl.us tsparks@psc.state.fl.us discovery-gcl@psc.state.fl.us	Office of Public Counsel Mary A. Wessling Walt Trierweiler c/o The Florida Legislature 111 West Madison Street, Room 812 Tallahassee, FL 32399 wessling.mary@leg.state.fl.us trierweiler.walt@leg.state.fl.us
Florida Power & Light Company John Burnett Maria Moncada Christopher Wright 700 Universe Boulevard Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420 maria.moncada@fpl.com john.t.burnett@fpl.com christopher.wright@fpl.com Kenneth A. Hoffman 134 West Jefferson Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301 ken.hoffman@fpl.com	Walmart Inc. Stephanie U. Eaton Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC 110 Oakwood Drive, Suite 500 Winston-Salem, NC 27103 seaton@spilmanlaw.com Steven W. Lee Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC 1100 Bent Creek Boulevard, Suite 101 Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 slee@spilmanlaw.com
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Florida Energy for Innovation Association D. Bruce May Kevin W. Cox Kathryn Isted Holland & Knight LLP 315 South Calhoun St., Suite 600 Tallahassee, FL 32301 bruce.may@hklaw.com kevin.cox@hklaw.com kathryn.isted@hklaw.com	

DATED this 9th day of June, 2025.

/s/ Bradley Marshall
Attorney

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Florida)
Power & Light Company)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 20250011-EI

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

BECKY AYECH

ON BEHALF OF

ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION

OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

JUNE 9, 2025

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 **A.**Becky Ayeach.

3 **Q. Where do you live?**

4 **A.**421 Verna Road, Sarasota, FL 34240.

5 **Q. What organization are you a member of?**

6 **A.**The Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida.

7 **Q. How long have you been a member?**

8 **A.**Over 40 years.

9 **Q. What is your position in the organization?**

10 **A.**President.

11 **Q. What is your source of income?**

12 **A.**Social Security income.

13 **Q. Are you a customer of FPL? If so, for how long?**

14 **A.**Unfortunately, yes. I have been a customer for about 48 years.

15 **Q. What do you think of FPL?**

16 **A.**I do not like FPL at all. Over the years, FPL has become less interested in

17 providing quality service to its customers. In the past, meter readers would come

18 to my house, and I would be able to ask them questions. Since the meter readers

19 became remote, I have no longer had direct interactions with representatives

20 from FPL. When problems arise, I usually have to reach out to FPL numerous

21 times before it resolves the issue. For example, when my transformer was

22 spilling coolant, I had to reach out to the Public Service Commission again and

23 again before it cleaned up the hazardous waste. In the past, I would experience

24 brownouts at my home every evening because there wasn't enough electricity in

25 the area where I live. FPL has cut my power without telling me in advance,

1 which risks the wellbeing of my farm animals. I rely on an electric pump to get
2 water on my property; therefore, when FPL cuts my power without telling me, I
3 am not able to prepare by filling containers of water for my animals in advance.
4 FPL often does not fulfill its promises. When I expressed to FPL that it overly
5 damaged the trees it cut when it installed its power lines, FPL told me that it
6 would install the power lines underground. However, FPL never did this.
7 Overall, FPL has not been adequately responsive to the issues I face relating to
8 electricity provision. Most recently, I had to call FPL about a branch that was on
9 the powerline to my home. It took three phone calls to even get anybody to
10 respond. I find it disconcerting that they put commercials on television regarding
11 the solar and nuclear they are going to use, and other potential sources that will
12 allegedly reduce the cost of my electricity. Yet I have never seen the cost of my
13 electricity reduced.

14 **Q. How much does your FPL bill usually cost each month?**

15 **A.** It costs around \$135, and I don't even have air conditioning.

16 **Q. How do you feel about the current price you are paying for your electric**
17 **utility?**

18 **A.** The current price I pay is already too much. I have taken every practice and
19 precaution to try to keep my electric bill low—I don't even use air conditioning
20 or central heat on my property. My base rate charge in 2012 for the first 1000
21 kWh was \$0.03907 and over 1000 kWh was \$0.04907. Now, even before the rate
22 hike, the base energy charge is \$0.07164 for the first 1000 kWh and \$0.08170 for
23 over 1000 kWh. I still have not begun any significant electricity-consuming
24 practices on my property.

- 1 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, the base rate for electricity is**
2 **projected to increase by about 22.5% by 2027. How would this rate increase**
3 **impact you?**
- 4 **A.** I am on a fixed Social Security income, which certainly would not increase by
5 22.5% even over the next decade or two. My electricity not only provides lights
6 and powers my appliances, but also provides my drinking water through an
7 electric pump on my well. My well not only provides water for myself and my
8 husband but is also the sole source of water for my 32 sheep, 8 chickens, 2 cats,
9 and my dog. If my rate was to increase by 22.5%, it would place an inordinate
10 burden on me and my lifestyle and jeopardize me and my husband's health,
11 safety and welfare as well as my animals’.
- 12 **Q. As a Floridian, are you concerned about climate change?**
- 13 **A.** Yes. I have grown crops for many years and have noticed that the climate is
14 getting hotter and dryer. Because of this, the growing season is shorter, which
15 means that there is less of an opportunity to grow crops. This year was the worst
16 yet.
- 17 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, part of this rate increase includes**
18 **approximately 230 million dollars for upgrades to its generating fleet,**
19 **including its existing fossil fuel plants. Do you believe this will have an**
20 **impact on the climate?**
- 21 **A.** Yes. Continuing to fund gas power plants will contribute to global warming, and
22 FPL knows that too.
- 23 **Q. In light of that, how do you feel about contributing your own money to those**
24 **projects through your FPL bill?**
- 25 **A.** I feel as though I am being robbed. I do not want to pay for FPL’s continued

1 investment in power-generating plants that will significantly contribute to climate
2 change, which adversely affects me.

3 **Q. What organization are you speaking on behalf of?**

4 **A.** The Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida.

5 **Q. How would FPL's proposed rate increase impact the members of your**
6 **organization? How do you know?**

7 **A.** Many members of ECOSWF are customers of FPL. Some of the individual
8 members, like me, would not be able to afford the rate increase. I know
9 ECOSWF members will be affected because I talk to them.

10 **Q. Is your organization concerned about climate change?**

11 **A.** Yes. ECOSWF is concerned about protecting Southwest Florida's natural
12 resources, like water, soil, and flora and fauna, which climate change
13 significantly harms.

14 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, part of this rate increase will pay**
15 **upgrades to FPL's fossil fleet. Does your organization believe this will have**
16 **an impact on the climate?**

17 **A.** Yes. ECOSWF believes that such power plants will contribute to climate change.

18 **Q. What is the mission of your organization?**

19 **A.** The mission of ECOSWF is to conserve, maintain, and protect the air, water,
20 soil, wildlife, historic and architecturally significant structures, flora and fauna,
21 and other natural resources of Southwest Florida, the State of Florida and of the
22 United States of America.

23 **Q. How is the purpose of your organization being served by participating in**
24 **this proceeding?**

1 **A.** By participating in this proceeding, ECOSWF can help combat investments in
2 fossil-fuel generation, which contributes to climate change. Climate change alters
3 the very nature of Florida, starting with the soil, where microbes and fungi have
4 adapted over millennia to certain climate patterns. The adverse effects on these
5 organisms then impact living things up the food chain, all of which form part of
6 Florida's natural resources. This is just one example of how climate change is
7 negatively affecting Southwest Florida's natural resources, which ECOSWF
8 seeks to protect. Given the adverse impacts on Florida's natural resources, the
9 members of ECOSWF do not want to pay for continued fossil-fuel generation
10 because it runs counter to the purpose of our organization.

11 **Q. What does ECOSWF's membership consist of?**

12 **A.** We have member organizations and individual members.

13 **Q. How many of those would you estimate are FPL customers?**

14 **A.** Probably about 70% of members are FPL customers.

15 **Q. How do you know that most of your members are FPL customers?**

16 **A.** I ask members from different counties if they are FPL customers, which tells me
17 whether other members in those particular counties are FPL customers.

18 **Q. Will a substantial number of your organization's members be substantially**
19 **affected by the Commission's decision in this proceeding? How do you**
20 **know?**

21 **A.** Yes. Many members of ECOSWF are customers of FPL and will have to pay
22 much more for their electricity if the base rate is increased. If the Commission
23 approves FPL's rate increase, it will allow FPL to increase its contribution to
24 greenhouse gas emissions, which will worsen the impacts of climate change that
25 ECOSWF members are already experiencing.

1 **Q. How is the subject matter of this proceeding within your organization’s**
2 **general scope of interest and activity?**

3 **A.** ECOSWF does not support investments in fossil-fuel generation because it
4 contributes to climate change, which adversely affects Southwest Florida’s
5 natural resources by changing the ecosystem starting with the micro-organisms
6 and fungi in the soil. This causes effects throughout the food chain, as many
7 species rely on the food chain, including humans and their ability to produce
8 food. Climate change affects rainfall and heat patterns, storm surges, the strength
9 of hurricanes, and occurrences of flooding by elevating the temperatures. Our
10 organization tries to prevent harm to these resources, and the greenhouse gases
11 that will come from the gas plants FPL continues to invest in—using our
12 money—constitute such a harm. The mission of our organization, as stated in
13 Exhibit BA-1 below, is “to conserve, maintain, and protect the air, water, soil,
14 wildlife, historic and architecturally significant structures, flora and fauna, and
15 other natural resources of Southwest Florida, the State of Florida and of the
16 United States of America.”

17 **Q. Why is the relief requested in this proceeding appropriate for your**
18 **organization to receive on behalf of its members?**

19 **A.** ECOSWF does not want its members to pay a much higher rate for electricity
20 when electricity is already expensive and when the increase in their payments
21 continues to fund fossil-fuel generation.

22 **Q. How has your organization engaged with utility matters in the past?**

23 **A.** ECOSWF has intervened or participated in numerous proceedings at the Public
24 Service Commission in order to try to stop unnecessary investments in fossil-fuel
25 generation and unnecessary rate increases. These include *In re: Petition for*

determination *cf* need for Glades Power Park Units 1 and 2 electrical power plants in Glades County, by Florida Power & Light Company, Docket No. 070098-EI; and *In re: Petition for determination cf need for Okeechobee Clean Energy Center Unit 1*, by Florida Power & Light Company, Docket No. 150196-EI as full parties, in both cases trying to stop unnecessary investments in fossil-fuel generation. ECOSWF also intervened in the 2021 FPL Rate Case: *In re: Petition for Rate Increase*, by Florida Power & Light, Docket No. 20210015-EI. ECOSWF has also participated in *In re: Petition for approval cf demand-side management plan and request to modify residential and business on call tariff sheets*, by Florida Power & Light Co., Docket No. 20200056-EG and *In re: Proposed amendment cf Rule 25-17.0021, F.A.C., Goals for Electric Utilities*, Docket No. 20200181-EU, and intervened in *In re: Commission Review cf Numeric Conservation Goals (Florida Power & Light Company)*, Docket No. 20240012-EG, to advocate for expanded energy efficiency options in the State and specifically in FPL's service territory in order to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and to decrease any need to invest in new fossil-fueled power plants, thereby helping to save the planet from climate change.

Q. Why has it done so?

A. Because we live here and love it. ECOSWF has done so to fight unnecessary investments in fossil-fuel generation because climate change is negatively affecting its members and the environment it aims to protect.

Q. Does that conclude your testimony?

A. Yes, it does.

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State of Florida



Department of State

I certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the Articles of Incorporation of ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC., a corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Florida, filed on March 26, 1984, as shown by the records of this office.

The charter number of this corporation is N02181.



GER-101

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the

27th day of March, 1984.

George Firestone
Secretary of State

P. 001
P. 1/15

TO: 19506918020

TX DATE/TIME JAN-20-2012 11:11:47

JAN-19-2012 06:56:56 FROM:

JUN-19-20 FRI 07:12 AM BECKY AYECH

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ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned subscribers, all being of full age, have associated themselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation not-for-profit, without capital stock, under the provisions of Chapters 607 and 617, Florida Statutes, and we do hereby accept all of the rights, privileges, benefits and obligations conferred and imposed by said law, and we do hereby make, subscribed, acknowledge and file these Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE I

NAME - The name of this not-for-profit corporation shall be the ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

ARTICLE II

CORPORATE PURPOSES - The general purposes of this corporation are to engage in any activity which the laws of the State of Florida allow a not-for-profit corporation to engage in. Specifically, the corporate purposes of this not-for-profit corporation are to conserve, maintain, and protect the air, water, soil, wildlife, historic and architecturally significant structures, flora and fauna, and other natural resources of Southwest Florida, the State of Florida and of the United States of America.

This specific description of corporate purposes above shall not restrict the corporation's involvement in other social and environmental issues of local, state, national or international significance.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP - Membership shall be open to persons, corporations, and associations, as set forth in the By-Laws of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IV

TERM OF EXISTENCE - The term of existence of this corporation is perpetual.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT - The officers of this not-for-profit corporation shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer.

The Management of this not-for-profit corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of at least three (3) and not more than 50 directors.

ARTICLE VI

SUBSCRIBERS, INITIAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - The subscribers, initial officers and directors who are to serve until the first election under these Articles of Incorporation are:

Ellen Peterson, President	P. O. Box 345 Estero, Florida 33928
Creighton L. Sherman, Vice-President	P.O. Box 446 Boca Grande, Florida 33921
Jean Slocum, Secretary	2816 Casey Key Road Nokomas, Florida 33555
Ruth Clinesmith, Treasurer	258 Southeast Beoney Road Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

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ARTICLE VII

BY-LAWS - The Bylaws of the Corporation shall be made, altered or rescinded by a majority vote of the voting membership present or voting by proxy at any regular meeting or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors; provided that notice thereof, which shall include the text of the By-Laws change, has been furnished in writing to each voting member of the Corporation at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which such By-Law alteration is to be voted upon, whether it be a membership meeting or a Board of Director's meeting.

The Articles of Incorporation of this Corporation shall be amended or additional provisions added or adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Board of Directors present or voting by proxy at any meeting thereof; provided that notice thereof, which shall include the text of the Articles of Incorporation change, has been furnished in writing to each voting member of the Corporation at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which such Articles of Incorporation change is to be voted upon, followed by the compliance with the Florida Statutes regarding amendments to articles of incorporation of corporations not-for-profit.

ARTICLE VIII

GENERAL - All income and assets of the Corporation above necessary expenses shall be administered solely and exclusively for the corporate purposes selected by the Board of Directors.

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This Corporation shall have no capital stock and shall pay no dividends to its subscribers, officers or members. In addition, no part of the income of the Corporation shall be distributed to its members, directors, officers or subscribers; provided that the Corporation may pay compensation in a reasonable amount to its members, directors and officers for services rendered and may confer benefits upon its members in conformity with its purposes.

ARTICLE XI

INDEMNIFICATION - The Corporation shall indemnify any officer, director or employee of the Corporation, or any former officer, director or employee of the Corporation, to the full extent permitted by and as set forth in the Florida General Corporation Act.

ARTICLE X

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES - The Corporation shall not:

1. Attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities.
2. Allow any part of its net income to inure to the benefit of officers, directors or members of the Corporation or to any other individuals, except in the furtherance of its charitable purposes.
3. Participate to any extent in any political campaign for or against any candidate for public office.
4. Conduct any activities not permitted to be carried on by organizations exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and its

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WEEKLY MEETING

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regulations as they now exist, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such Code and regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.


ARTICLE XI

DEDICATION OF ASSETS - The Corporation dedicates all assets which it may acquire to the charitable purpose set forth in Article II hereof. In the event that the Corporation shall dissolve or otherwise terminate its corporate existence, subject to the provisions of Chapters 607 and 617, Florida Statutes, the Corporation shall distribute all its existing assets to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law, or to the Federal government or to a state or local government for exclusive public purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have subscribed their names under seal this 2nd day of March, 1984.


ELLEN PETERSON


JEAN SLOCUM


CREIGHTON L. SHERMAN


RUTH CLINESMITH

JUN-15-98 FRI 07:14 AM BECKY ATCH

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F.W.V

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Sumter

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared JEAN SLOCUM, to me well known and well known to me to be the person described in and who subscribed her name to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, and who acknowledged before me that she executed the said Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the aforesaid County and State this 10 day of March, 1984.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:

Notary Public, State of Florida
My Commission Expires July 24, 1988
Recorded here from Public Records, Inc.

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Alachua

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared RUTH CLINESMITH, to me well known and well known to me to be the person described in and who subscriber her name to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, and who acknowledged before me that she executed the said Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the aforesaid County and State this 3rd day of March, 1984.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:

DESIGNATION OF REGISTERED AGENT

The ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.,
hereby designates Thomas W. Reese, 123 Eighth Street North,
St. Petersburg, Florida, 33701, as its registered agent.



A handwritten signature of Thomas W. Reese in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Thomas W. Reese
THOMAS W. REESE

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JUN-19-2012 05:59 FROM:
JUN-19-2012 07:16 AM BECKY RYCH
RE Date/Time
JAN-20-2012 08:47

ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

ECOSWF

BY-LAWS

AS ADOPTED 26 JANUARY, 1985
AS AMENDED JANUARY 18, 1986
AS PRINTED JULY 18, 1986
AS AMENDED JANUARY 18, 1992
AS AMENDED JANUARY 22, 1994
AS AMENDED JANUARY 25, 1997
AND, AS AMENDED JANUARY 23, 1999



ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC. (ECOSWF)

ECOSWF is a non-profit Confederation of organizations, corporations, groups, business entities, governmental agencies, and individuals devoted to the general purposes of conservation of the natural resources of Florida. Specifically, the corporate purposes are to conserve, maintain, and protect the air, water, soil, wildlife, historic and architecturally significant structures, flora and fauna, and other natural resources of Southwest Florida, the State of Florida and of the United States of America. ECOSWF is committed to encourage and promote the dissemination of educational and scientific information pertinent to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of those natural resources; and engaged in cooperating with all organizations having the same or similar objectives

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY Any responsible organization, corporation, group, business entity, or governmental agency approving of the objectives of ECOSWF shall be eligible for membership, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Any individual approving of the objectives of ECOSWF shall be eligible to become an affiliate of ECOSWF, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Dues, rights, privileges and obligations of member organizations and affiliates shall be subject to ruling of the Board of Directors and may be changed at any time by majority vote of that Board.

SECTION 2. THE CABINET. Each member organization or group shall name a single representative to the Cabinet and each Cabinet member will represent his/her organization or group in the Cabinet, and cast one vote. Each member organization is entitled to a single representative on the Cabinet, which is the body solely composed of the representatives of the member organization. Each representative is entitled to participate in all meetings of the Cabinet and is entitled to cast one vote.

Each member organization shall name its Cabinet member on or before January 31 of each year and shall register his or her name with the Secretary. All officers of ECOSWF and members of the Board of Directors shall be selected from the membership of the Cabinet organizations and/or affiliates in good standing.

SECTION 3. THE AFFILIATES. Individuals having an interest in the principles of ECOSWF may become affiliates of ECOSWF. They will be entitled to no vote, but shall have the right to attend and to participate in the Annual Meeting and all other meetings of ECOSWF. In addition, affiliates are eligible to be nominated for and elected to the Board of Directors, including the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATION

The affairs of ECOSWF shall be managed by the Board of Directors who shall be responsible for all business of the Confederation and who shall determine all matters of policy. The Directors shall be elected by the Cabinet and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. The Cabinet and Board of Directors shall also elect at said Annual Meeting a President, Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and all four officers so elected shall by virtue of their offices be members of the Board of Directors.

Each officer shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

At the first annual meeting following the initial adoption of these by-laws, seven (7) Directors shall be elected; Two for a term of one (1) year, two for a term of two (2) years, three for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, positions will be filled for three (3) year terms.

The Board of Directors will thus include four (4) elected officers of ECOSWF and a minimum of seven (7) at-large members. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to maintain equitable and reasonable geographical distribution of membership on the Board.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1. **PRESIDENT.** The President of ECOSWF shall be automatically Chairman of the Board of Directors. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Cabinet and of the Board. The President shall appoint any committees required by action of the Cabinet or of the Board, and shall make a report of stewardship at the Annual Meeting. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

2. **VICE PRESIDENT.** The Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President at any time the latter is unavailable to perform the duties of the Presidency, and shall be Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall be in charge of the Annual Meeting and responsible for creating committees for same, planning and implementing with the assistance and guidance of the Board of Directors the program for same, and carrying out the theme and purpose of the meeting.

3. **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings, and shall have custody of such books, documents, and papers as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Secretary shall keep an orderly record of the Cabinet members and affiliates and shall make such mailings to the Cabinet members and affiliates as these by-laws may require or at the request or direction of the Board of Directors.

4. **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds belonging to ECOSWF. The Treasurer shall collect all dues and pay all bills authorized by actions of the Cabinet or the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall make regular reports to the Board of Directors, and an annual report at the Annual Meeting.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

a. **FUNCTIONS.** The Board of Directors shall be responsible for all business of the Confederation and shall determine all matters of policy.

b. **NUMBER.** The Board shall be composed of a minimum of eleven (11) members: the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer elected annually, and seven (7) other members at large each elected annually for staggered terms of three (3) years, by the Cabinet and Board of Directors. If the need occurs, the Board may increase (or decrease) the number of its members until the next Annual Meeting at which time any new members shall be elected for the remainder of the three (3) year term. The total number of Board members shall always be odd.

c. **VACANCIES.** If a vacancy occurs, the Board of directors may fill such office with an individual of their choice until the next annual election, at which time a person shall be elected to complete the unexpired term.

d. **DISMISSAL.** The Board may dismiss, or revoke the membership of, any officer or member who exhibits behavior inconsistent with or detrimental to Article I. Such action shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board members in good standing.

e. **DELEGATIVE RIGHTS.** At its will and pleasure, the Board may appoint an Executive Director, Executive Secretary or other staff, paid or voluntary, who may constitute required personnel to carry out the business affairs and implement the policies of the Confederation.

f. **COMPENSATION.** No member of the Board of Directors shall receive any compensation from the Confederation; provided, that a member of the Board of Directors may receive reasonable compensation from the Confederation for services actually rendered to the Confederation by such member of the Board of Directors after authorization by the Board of Directors; and further provided, that the directors may be reimbursed for any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in furtherance of their duties as directors upon authorization by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. At least sixty (60) days preceding the date of the Annual Meeting of ECOSWF, the Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee which shall prepare nominations for the officers of ECOSWF and at large members of the Board of Directors. The report of the nominating committee shall be delivered to the Secretary thirty (30) days preceding the date of the Annual Meeting, and the report shall be included in the mailing notice for that meeting.

SECTION 2. The nominating committee shall nominate at least one person for each office to be filled at the Annual Meeting, and nominate more than one, at its pleasure.

Nominations may also be made by letter to the Secretary provided such letter has been signed by at least five (5) Cabinet members eligible to vote at said meeting, and provided same is filed at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. In such case, the consent of the nominee must be obtained in writing before being presented as a candidate. Any such nominations must be part of the Annual Meeting notice.

SECTION 3. Elections shall be by majority vote of the Cabinet members and Board of Directors voting at the Annual Meeting and all persons elected to office shall be members of a Cabinet organization and/or affiliates in good standing. Each individual entitled to vote in the election shall have but a single vote.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

SECTION 1. THE ANNUAL MEETING of ECOSWF shall be held in January of each year, at a convenient and proper location designated by the Board of Directors.

The newly elected Board of Directors shall meet no later than thirty (30) days after the date of their election.

Other meetings of the Cabinet and of the board of Directors may be held at the call of the President, and the President shall call a meeting of the cabinet when so requested in writing by any five (5) Cabinet members.

SECTION 2. NOTICE. Notice of any meeting of the Cabinet shall be sent to all members of that body not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of said meeting. Preliminary notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all Cabinet members and affiliates not less than thirty (30) days prior to its date. Reasonable notice shall be given for all meetings of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. QUORUMS - THE CABINET. Twenty-five per cent (25%) of the membership of the Cabinet shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Cabinet of ECOSWF.

QUORUMS - BOARD OF DIRECTORS. A minimum of five (5) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by that Board. The quorum shall increase by one (1) for every additional two (2) members over eleven (11).

SECTION 4. PROXIES. The Board of directors may make provisions for the utilization of proxies to vote on any question which may come before the Cabinet at the Annual Meeting, or at any specially called meeting. No Proxies may be used to vote on any question before the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

The dues of each Cabinet organization and of each affiliate member shall be \$25.00 per calendar year. Dues may be changed by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting. Any proposed change shall be included in the notice of the Annual Meeting sent to all Cabinet members and affiliates.

ARTICLE VIII

FISCAL POLICIES

SECTION 1. SOURCES OF FUNDS. Funds shall arise from the payment of dues and donations by members and affiliates. When so authorized by the Board of Directors, funds may be received from any responsible source.

SECTION 2. FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

SECTION 3. DEPOSITORIES. The Board of Directors shall establish accounts in reputable fiduciary institutions as it may deem practical and appropriate, and may invest at its discretion any accumulation of funds not required for current commitments.

SECTION 4. DISBURSEMENTS. Disbursements shall be made by the Board of Directors in accordance with a general annual budget prepared by the Board of Directors and accepted by majority vote of the Cabinet at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX

RULES OF ORDER, AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. RULES OF ORDER. *Robert's Rules Of Order* - latest revision - shall govern the conduct of all meetings of the Cabinet and of the Board of Directors, and in all cases where applicable and where not inconsistent with the by-laws herewith.

SECTION 2. COMMITTEES. The Board of Directors and/or the President shall appoint all committees required to conduct the affairs of ECOSWF, and each committee shall make a report to the Annual Meeting, except as otherwise provided in these by-laws.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Any member of the Cabinet in good standing, or any ten (10) or more affiliates acting in concert, may submit a proposal or motion to amend these by-laws, and such proposal or motion shall be considered by the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting. If the majority of the Board so votes, the subject matter of the proposal or motion shall be incorporated in the next Annual Meeting notice, and the decision to accept or reject shall be made by the Cabinet and Board of Directors at such meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those attending and voting shall be required to make any proposed change effective.

- END -

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TO: 183066810020

P. 015

JAN-20-2021 06:47

FROM: JAN-19-2012 06:01A

RE: 06:01A