

**South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021
Video Conference**

Opening

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:02 AM via Zoom by Allen Conger, the SCMA President.

Attending:

Allen Conger	Kristin Knight-Meng
Tara Allden	Ross Nelson
Tommy Cousins	Sydni Redmond
Daniel Johnson	Jack Smith
Adrienne Graham	

I. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Jack Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of January 12th. Sydni Redmond seconded the motion, which carried.
- Ross Nelson made a motion to accept the minutes of the December Quarterly Meeting. Kristin Knight-Meng seconded the motion, which carried.

II. Financial Report

- Ross Nelson referred to the financial statement previously distributed.
- The Committee reviewed the proposed budget. The external workshop/conference support is an unknown factor. Related to this, Daniel Johnson commented that he has spoken to the DNR about the SCMA's support of the SQT workshop. The workshop will likely be pushed to 2022. The DNR expects SQT tool for credit generation to be rolled out this month; the manual will be published in June. The debit tool will be published in the 4th quarter. The DNR prefers to hold off on any training until debit and credit tools are published. The DNR realizes the Corps has the authority to adopt or ignore the tool and is therefore subjected to the Corps approval.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the SCMA hosts a Zoom meeting to engage stakeholders for preliminary feedback on the tool in or around June; he would like IRT to participate. The DNR can introduce the tool and remaining roll out; the Corps could provide their input on the tool. The meeting could include breakout discussions. This may be appropriate for the June Quarterly Meeting.

- The SCMA will discuss participation in the National Mitigation Conference in July in Raleigh, NC.
- Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried.

III. Quarterly Meeting

- Mr. Conger will follow up with Tara Allden on content for the March Quarterly Meeting on March 17th.
- Mr. Conger referenced a presentation from the Upstate Forever to the Environmental Technical Committee of the SC Chamber of Commerce. They had a positive message with the exception of their views on energy policy; they spoke out against new pipelines, new fossil fuels, and their cumulative impacts. Upstate Forever discussed the footprints of the new plans from Dominion and Santee Cooper. This may affect the cost of mitigation because of the demand for land. The change in the WOTUS rules have opened up some property, especially outside the coastal zones that are no longer regulated.
- At the January meeting, SCDOT mentioned they would like the SCMA to interact with Palmetto Green on the Water Resource Registry. The Executive Committee agreed the SCMA Partnership Committee should meet with Palmetto Green but not commit to any sort of support.

IV. Member Care

- Mr. Conger asked all Committee members to follow up on their dues invoice.
- Mr. Nelson and Adrienne Graham will track the membership payments and follow up as necessary the end of February. Mr. Nelson requested to be informed if any members changed levels or decided not to renew.

V. Old Business

- The USACE has not officially responded to the letter submitted December 22. Amanda Heath did acknowledge receipt.
- Mr. Nelson commented that the SCMA's top priority this year should be to work with the USACE to identify ways to improve the approval process for mitigation projects. Ms. Heath did comment on the lack of manpower; they do have the ability to fill recently vacated positions but not necessarily fund new positions. Tommy Cousins asked about the SCMA funding a position by a person familiar with mitigation banking. This has been done in other districts. Mr. Nelson will research this. Mr. Johnson has some preliminary data on this that he will share. Mr. Smith wondered about an expedited fee to guarantee a time frame for a response. Lobbying at the state level may also help with this. At the very least, it may spark more conversation with the Corps to solve the problem.

VI. New Business

- The Partnership Committee will meet on February 10 at 2:00 pm.
- The SCDOT meeting went very well. This committee is keeping the lines of communication open.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2021, 9:00 AM - Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: