

**South Carolina Mitigation Association
Virtual Membership Quarterly Meeting
October 12, 2022 | 10:00 AM**

I. Opening

Ross Nelson opened the meeting at 10:05 and thanked everyone for their time.

The next Quarterly Membership meeting will be December 7 in Columbia with a holiday social following. More information will be shared soon.

The SCMA is sponsoring a Clay Shoot on November 11 at Hermitage Farms Shooting Sports in Camden. Proceeds fund the scholarship program with a goal of funding research as well.

II. Discussion on the Stream Quantification Tool (SQT)

Will Harman, PG., Principal Fluvial Geomorphologist, Stream Mechanics

Mr. Harman reviewed the SQT concepts, history, processes, scoring, development, and use of reference curve. He noted that he was not covering SC mitigation policy, the debit tool, and any SC specifics. (The presentation and recording are linked in the attachments.)

Mr. Nelson noted that the crediting and debiting tools should roll out in early 2023 for public notice.

III. Committee Updates

- **Technical Committee:** Tory Grayson, Chair of the Technical Committee, reported the SCMA has been working with the USACE and IRT on the industry perspective on how the SQT will impact the mitigation marketplace. The Committee has focused on the conversion of the legacy SOP credits and debits to the new SQT credits. He presented the calculations used. The Committee also showed calculations for cost increase due to increased design, monitoring and other factors. The ratio is approximately 1 SQT credit to 10-12 legacy SOP credits. The Committee continues to work on the increased cost factors. They have not finalized the preservation procedure, which could have a large effect on the ratio. The Committee is communicating this information to the regulators.

Members are invited to submit data on projects with legacy credits converted to SQT. More examples will strengthen the discussions with the USACE.

The Committee is also discussing any changes in wetland techniques that may be changing in wetland debit and credit systems.

- **Partnership Committee:** Sydni Redmond, Chair, reported that two scholarships were awarded under the new [SCMA scholarship program](#). Jessica Clark, Clemson University Master's student, is researching wetland ecology and focusing on comparing the vegetative community and soil profile of two wetlands. Ansley Williamson is a master's student at the College of Charleston. Her research focuses on songbird and anuran biodiversity in ephemeral wetlands.

The Inaugural SCMA Clay Shoot, November 11 at Hermitage Farms Shooting Sports, will help fund the scholarship program. There are opportunities to shoot and sponsor.

The SCMA will host a booth at the SC Water Resources Conference in Columbia October 19-20. Ms. Redmond requested that any member that may be interested in assisting with the booth please contact her. Josh Gillman recommended offering the open registration to one of the scholarship students.

- **SCDOT Partnership Committee:** Mr. Nelson reported on the meeting with the SCMA and SCDOT on October 11. The SCDOT was satisfied with the new procurement process for wetland credits. Members should expect this format in future procurements.

The SCDOT will likely issue a state-wide mitigation credit procurement.

The bulk of discussions with the SCDOT revolve around the SQT since the SCDOT is the largest purchaser of mitigation credits.

The SCDOT now has a board position on the Sustain SC and has requested that the SCMA also have a board position. Mr. Nelson reminded the SCMA voting members that they can get 50% off their own corporate membership in Sustain SC.

III. New Business

Mr. Nelson noted that Travis Hughes, Regulatory Division Chief, has been transferred temporarily. In his absence, Amanda Heath has stepped up as Interim Chief. The USACE Charleston District is hiring to fill Ms. Heath's former position as Regulatory Project Manager. The SCMA continues to work with the USACE to improve the timeliness of responses.

Reminders:

Clay Shoot – November 11

December Quarterly Meeting – December 7, Columbia

Holiday Celebration – December 7, Columbia

Adjourn: 11:39 AM

Attachments:

Attachment A: Speaker Bio

Attachment B: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Attachment C: [Recording of the Meeting](#)

Attachment D: Attendee List

Attachment A: Speaker Bio

Will Harman, PG, Principal Fluvial Geomorphologist, Stream Mechanics.

With 30 years of experience in fluvial geomorphology and stream restoration, Mr. Harman has designed hundreds of projects throughout the United States, which represent a wide range of conditions and challenges.

Mr. Harman spent the first half of his career working for North Carolina State University's Cooperative Extension Service where he served as the state's first Natural Resources Extension Agent. Later, he worked on campus where he co-founded the NC Stream Restoration Institute, now the NC Stream Restoration Program. At the university, Mr. Harman co-developed the River Course workshop series, led applied research projects, and completed stream restoration demonstration projects throughout the state.

Mr. Harman has spent the second half of his career in the private sector as a practitioner and educator. He has completed watershed assessments, stream assessments, and design projects throughout the United States, including Alaska. Mr. Harman is currently the owner of Stream Mechanics where he focuses on improving stream restoration and mitigation through the development of assessment and design-review tools. He developed the Stream Functions Pyramid Framework, which is being used by federal and state agencies, and private companies throughout the nation to implement function-based restoration projects. More recently, he co-developed a Stream Quantification Tool (SQT) to measure functional lift from stream restoration projects and functional loss from permitted impacts. The SQT is being used by mitigation programs to determine debits and credits.

Mr. Harman has a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University in Geography and a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Geography. He is a licensed geologist in North Carolina.

Attachment D: Attendees

First name	Last name	Company Name
Tara	Allden	Kimley-Horn
Shane	Boring	JMT
Robby	Bowen	Aquatics Restoration Inc
Gary	Brown	Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC
Jason	Claudio-Diaz	Kimley-Horn
Daniel	Coggin	Coggin Asset Management, LLC
John	Collum	JMT, Inc. - Charleston, SC
Allen	Conger	Wood
Lyles	Cooper	Pee Dee Land Trust
Rheta	Dinovo	RES
Ward	Elis	Ecosystem Planning and Restoration
Monica	Folk	Norfolk Southern Railway-Brosnan Forest
Ben	Furr	Davey Resource Group
Josh	Gilman	Stantec
Tory	Grayson	Water and Land Solutions
Andrew	Harlan	Pee Dee Land Trust
Will	Harman	Stream Mechanics
Josh	Hoke	Terracon
Daniel	Johnson	Wildlands Engineering
Kristin	Knight-Meng	KCI Technologies, Inc.
Jake	Maschoff	Kimley-Horn
Emory	McClary	American Mitigation Company
Ross	Nelson	American Mitigation Company
Jamey	O'Shaughnessey	Eco Terra
Jonathan	Page	River Mechanics PLLC
Russell	Parr	Resource & Land Consultants
Sydni	Redmond	Passarella & Associates
Andy	Ruocco	Terracon
Chris	Ryan	RES
Marcus	Sizemore	Stantec

First name	Last name	Company Name
Ryan	Smith	Davey Resource Group (Formerly LMG)
Chris	Starker	Upstate Forever
Matthew	Thomas	JMT
Amanda	Voges	Stantec
G Alan	Wood	American Forest Management