

**South Carolina Mitigation Association  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2023  
Video Conference**

**I. Opening**

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:00AM via Zoom by Ross Nelson, the SCMA President. A quorum was present.

**Attending:**

Ross Nelson, President  
Sydni Redmond, Treasurer  
Tara Allden  
Allen Conger  
Adrienne Graham

Doug Hughes  
Chris Ryan  
Ryan Smith

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Allen Conger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April. Sydni Redmond seconded the motion, which carried.

**III. Financial Report**

Ms. Redmond reported the association is in a good financial position. Membership dues coming in this month and a new AR will be shared the end of May. At that point, Mr. Nelson and other Executive Committee Members will follow up by phone.

**IV. Quarterly Meeting**

The June 14 quarterly meeting will be virtual. Mr. Nelson will reach out to Melanie Olds to speak about the Northern Long Eared Bat protection. A second option may be financial assurances. Mr. Nelson asked that the Committee start thinking about the September speakers.

**V. Member Care**

Ms. Redmond reported that the National Mitigation Conference in Jacksonville the previous week was a great success. There was interest in membership as well as sponsorship and participation in the clay shoot.

Mr. Nelson asked that the Committee continue to encourage land trusts to participate.

**VI. Old Business**

Brad Carey has reportedly been named Head of Special Projects. SCMA members should reach out to Mr. Carey to encourage him to follow procedures in place for mitigation. Mr. Nelson will follow up again on a meeting with the USACE.

The Committee discussed the continued decline in communication and timeliness with USACE. Only one bank was approved last year and none so far this year. Credits are tied up and this reflects poorly on the mitigation industry. The Department of Commerce, SCMA and USACE need to meet and communicate.

Mr. Nelson will request a meeting with Mr. Carey and Amanda Heath. Then he will try to get a meeting with the Colonel.

There is no update on the SQT.

Mr. Nelson will speak to Sean Connolly and Doug Hughes will try to reach Ethel Bunch on Sustain SC and SCDOT involvement in a proposed registry of mitigation banks.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

**Partnership:** Ms. Redmond reported that she had a good list of contacts from the National Mitigation Conference for membership and the clay shoot.

Mr. Nelson noted that Monica Folk had discussed a project that Clemson University is interested in doing research on a Norfolk Southern property. There is a sponsor to help fund. Ms. Folk will set up a call with the sponsor, Ms. Redmond and Mr. Nelson. The SCMA would need a formal proposal.

**Technical Committee:** The Committee continues to discuss the SQT.

**SCDOT Committee:** The Committee has not met since February. There is no update on the new round of solicitations.

## **New Business**

The Committee discussed how to improve the timeliness of mitigation bank approvals in SC.

The roll out of the SQT may further hinder the timeliness issue since the USACE is adding uncertainty and a new process to an inefficient system. It may be in the SCMA's best interest to halt the SQT, but going against the USACE may do more harm than benefit to the process.

Ms. Allden suggested speaking with Jack Smith about this. Since the SQT has not been approved and implemented, harm cannot be shown. However, it should be discussed at the USACE meeting with Mr. Carey and Ms. Heath.

Mr. Nelson will form a small group and contact Mr. Smith on how to best proceed.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng, Secretary

Approved by: Executive Committee, June 13, 2023