

**South Carolina Mitigation Association  
Quarterly Membership Meeting  
December 6, 2023 | 3:00 PM  
Columbia, South Carolina**

**I. Opening**

Ross Nelson opened the meeting at 3:09 PM.

Mr. Nelson welcomed everyone and thanked the sponsors, [River Mechanics](#) and [In-Situ](#). Brad Kingsmore from In-Situ was on hand to talk about his company.

**II. SCMA Advocacy**

Daniel Johnson, SCMA Vice President, introduced the SCMA's advocacy initiative, which includes the hiring of Capitol Consultants as the SCMA lobbyist. Capitol Consultants has been managing the SCMA since March 2020.

Annie Wilson, Partner for Capitol Consultants, introduced the firm. She emphasized that most of their work is behind the scenes. Educating law makers and regulators and building relationships will be the primary focus of the government affairs team now. They will also watch for proposed legislation and policy and send that information to the SCMA Committees/members as directed. Ms. Wilson emphasized the need for quick response when they contact the SCMA about issues and interests. A form will be sent to members to ask about relationships they may have currently with legislators.

The SCMA will create a Government Affairs Committee to work with the lobby team. Tara Allden, Doug Hughes and Bob Perry volunteered to serve on this committee.

**II. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Nelson reported on behalf of Sydni Redmond, Treasurer, that year-ending equity of roughly \$92,000, \$60,000 of which has been moved to a Money Market account with First Bank for long-term management. SCMA accounts have been moved to First Bank to avoid unnecessary fees. Expenses for 2023 are slightly higher than 2022, but this is mainly driven by larger undertakings like the association's membership with Sustain SC and attendance at the National Mitigation and Environmental Markets Conference.

Mr. Nelson reminded the Voting members to take advantage of the half price Business Membership with Sustain SC, an SCMA benefit.

**III. Committee Updates**

**Partnership Committee:**

Mr. Nelson reported on behalf of Ms. Redmond, Partnership Chair.

- Two scholarships were awarded totaling \$5,000 to graduate level students. Their information is available on the website. The 2024 scholarship is on the horizon, please keep that in mind as in interact with statewide universities or students.
- Another successful clay shoot is in the books generating \$5,000 in profit towards next year's scholarship fund; thanks to all that attended and helped make this a fun event!
- We are tentatively planning a joint clay shoot with the NAEP-SC, this has the potential to grow the event and benefit the scholarship funds for both organizations.
- A small working group is in place to improve the Corps of Engineers Model Conservation Easement.
- Outreach efforts currently in the works by the Partnership/Executive Committees include Mitigation 101 style presentations for the SC DNR Board, SC Conservation Bank Board, and other state level representatives.

The ERBA is taking steps to become more involved at the state level. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Johnson will work with them on this.

- **Technical Committee:** The Committee is waiting on the SQT. The SCMA will have the opportunity to comment. Mr. Nelson noted that the regular meetings with the USACE and the SCMA were put on the back burner; partially because there is no Chief. Brice McCorry is Acting Chief now; they are planning on short-term Interim Chiefs until Travis Hughes is back.

Mr. Nelson presented the Mitigation 101 to the USACE, various districts, in conjunction with ERBA members.

The SC DNR may request that the SCMA provide training on the SQT. The Executive Committee may consider this. If the SCMA decides to facilitate a training, Monica Folk suggested that Bronson Forest be considered as a site.

- **SCDOT Committee:** There have not been any meetings due to the open solicitation that closes on December 19.

#### IV. Elections

The slate presented by the Nominating Committee:

Position	Name	Company
President	Daniel Johnson	Wildlands Engineering, Inc.
Vice President	Tory Grayson	Water and Land Solutions
Secretary	Kristin Knight-Meng	KCI
Treasurer	Ross Nelson	American Mitigation Company
EC	Sydni Redmond	Passarella & Associates

EC	Allen Conger	WSP
EC	Monica Folk	Norfolk Southern
EC	Doug Hughes	Weyerhaeuser
EC	Chris Ryan	RES
EC	Ryan Smith	Land Management Group

Allen Conger made a motion to approve the slate as presented. Mr. Perry seconded the motion which carried.

Mr. Nelson presented an award to Ms. Allden for her years of service and dedication to the Association. She will continue to serve on the Government Affairs Committee.

## **V. Brainstorming for 2024**

Mr. Johnson led an open discussion on initiatives for the upcoming year.

### **Government Affairs**

- Capital Consultants will distribute a survey to pair members with their representatives and leverage existing relationships.
- Tara Allden, Doug Hughes and Bob Perry volunteered to serve on this committee.
- The Committee will
  - define and explain mitigation via electronic deliverables (slick sheet)
  - provide an agency flow chart (or identify relevant agencies and agency contacts)
  - define the monetary and economic value of the industry (workforce, etc.) An economic study may need to be commissioned.
- Legislative season starts the second Tuesday in January and runs through May.
- Consider legislative issues extrapolated from the state to the federal level.

### **USACE**

The SCMA will ask how we can be of service to them. Let leadership know that the SCMA is here to help.

### **Speakers**

- Establish a speaker committee (proactive engagement)
- Officer of Resiliency, Ben Duncan (Alex Butler)
- USFWS bat expert
- SCDNR Jennifer Kindle (bat biologist)

Members discussed possibly reducing the number of meetings each year but agreed that a quarterly meeting was valuable. The Association will consider webinars as well.

### **Other Discussion**

- SCMA will continue to track the interpretation and enforcement of jurisdiction (WOTUS, Supreme Court)
- SCMA will continue to track the TNC ILF and adherence to the mitigation hierarchy.
- SCMA will engage the Forestry Commission related to serving as an advocate for mitigation.
- SCMA will consider other outreach initiatives and engagements (e.g., municipal associations, the association of counties, etc.).

**Attachments:**

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

## Attachment B: Attendee List

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Company</b>
Tara	Allden	Kimley-Horn
Robby	Bowen	Aquatics Restoration Inc
Jessica	Clark	KCI Technologies
Daniel	Coggin	Coggin Asset Management, LLC
Allen	Conger	WSP
Tucker	Creed	Sandy Creek Partners
Ward	Elis	Ecosystem Planning and Restoration
Monica	Folk	Norfolk Southern Railway - Brosnan Forest
Adrienne	Graham	SCMA
Tory	Grayson	Water & Land Solutions
Kyle	Halchin	SWCA
Doug	Hughes	Weyerhaeuser
Daniel	Johnson	Wildlands Engineering
Brad	Kingsmore	In-Situ
Kristin	Knight-Meng	KCI Technologies, Inc.
Chris	Muckenfuss	Weyerhaeuser
Ross	Nelson	American Mitigation Company
Bob	Perry	Water & Land Solutions
Christopher	Ryan	RES
Ryan	Smith	Davey Resource Group
Chris	Starker	Upstate Forever
Stuart	White	Congaree Land Trust
Annie	Wilson	Capitol Consultants
G Alan	Wood	AFM