

**South Carolina Mitigation Association  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2022  
Video Conference**

**I. Opening**

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:01 AM via Zoom by Ross Nelson, the SCMA President.

**Attending:**

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ross Nelson, President         | Allen Conger                 |
| Daniel Johnson, Vice President | Doug Hughes                  |
| Sydni Redmond, Treasurer       | Chris Ryan                   |
| Tara Allden                    | Ryan Smith                   |
| Adrienne Graham                | Mary Claire Martinson, Guest |

**II. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Sydni Redmond made a motion to approve the minutes of May 10. Ryan Smith seconded the motion, which carried.

**III. Financial Report**

Sydni Redmond reported the financials looked to be in order. She will work with Adrienne Graham on a few items of clarification this week.

**IV. Quarterly Meeting**

The meeting will be held at ReWa in Greenville on June 15. Mr. Nelson thanked Wildlands for the sponsorship. Thirteen members are registered to attend in person and the same virtually. This meeting will focus on a conservation community roundtable and the overlap of mitigation and conservation.

Mr. Nelson noted he attended the last Conservation Bank Meeting and was allowed a few minutes to present the SCMA. The SCMA will be allocated more time in an upcoming meeting.

**V. Member Care**

Allen Conger made a motion to accept SWCA as a voting member. Daniel Johnson seconded the motion which carried.

Mr. Conger and Tara Allden will review the bylaws, including the membership approval section. It may be okay to accept new members by acclimation. Ms. Graham will compile comments on the Bylaws to share with them. The proposed revisions will be shared with members at a membership meeting for approval.

**VI. Old Business**

Mr. Johnson spoke to Will Harman about a SQT Workshop on October 19. There was discussion on a workshop or having Mr. Harmon as a speaker. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Johnson will discuss this with the USACE. The debit tool will be on public notice by October. Mr. Smith suggested a joint workshop with regulators and SCMA members.

The Charleston County Ordinance is slated its first hearing on June 21. Mr. Nelson asked that Executive Committee send comments during the Public Comment period and attend the hearing if possible. In the ordinance, the county is attempting to amend the ordinance so that construction work within the critical

line buffer set back zone established by the county would not require a variance in order to proceed with restoration of tidal salt marsh for approved mitigation projects. Mr. Smith will share this with his team.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

**Partnership:** Ms. Redmond reported the Partnership Committee has a rubric for the scholarship evaluations created by Kip Dillihay. Scholarships information has been shared with many colleges and universities in the state.

Lyles Cooper is working on plans for a clay shoot fundraiser in the fall.

The SCMA will have a booth at the SC Water Resource Conference. We must decide on the representatives. The SCMA has paid its sponsorship with the Carolina Wetland Association.

The Partnership Committee will work on a list of contractors to promote the sponsorships.

Rheta Dinovo, RES, has joined the Committee.

**Technical:** Mr. Johnson reported there will be a follow up meeting on July 11 with the USACE, DHEC and DNR on the SQT. The DNR has proposed to roll out the biological component of the SQT which would include macroinvertebrates and fish. Current discussions include what portions of the SQT will be mandated. Components for physio-chemical will likely be rolled out for that portion of the SQT for credit generation. The remaining metrics for hydrology, geomorphology and hydraulics remain the same as presented in the draft. They are still working on the conversion from legacy credits to new credits. They do not want to penalize new credits. It will cost more to generate new credits so they are looking for a balance. The debit tool may be rolled out this fall for implementation this year. The public notice for the crediting side will go out next year for full implementation by June 2023. Mr. Nelson thanked the Committee for all of the work they are doing on the SQT to assist the industry.

**SCDOT:** A meeting is scheduled for June 14. Mr. Nelson requested that the Committee review the Tennessee solicitation related to credit procurement prior to the meeting. SCDOT is interested in the use of this model in SC. Mr. Johnson is experienced in the method using in Tennessee and would support it with conditions. Mr. Conger noted his company works with TDOT for on-call credit delivery.

## **VIII. New Business**

Mr. Nelson reference SustainSC sponsorship information previously distributed. Voting members would receive a 50% discount on the Business Membership Network as a perk of being a voting member of the SCMA. He emphasized that SustainSC has excellent networking opportunities and is driving the mitigation conversation with the economic development and conservation groups in the state. Doug Hughes made a motion to join SustainSC at the Business Membership level of \$5,000. Chris Ryan seconded the motion. Mr. Hughes, a member of SustainSC, noted that the conversations often emphasize the conservation more than mitigation. The SCMA may be able to steer this conversation in ways relevant to mitigation to change the conversation.

The motion carried. Ms. Graham will proceed with the application and payment.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng, Secretary

Approved by: Executive Committee, July 12, 2022