

South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:04 AM via Zoom by Allen Conger, the SCMA President.

Attending:

Allen Conger	Sydni Redmond
Kristin Knight-Meng	Jack Smith
Ross Nelson	Ryan Smith
Adrienne Graham	

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Jack Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of November 10, 2020. Ross Nelson seconded the motion, which carried.
- Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept the minutes of the October Quarterly Meeting. Sydni Redmond seconded the motion, which carried.

II. Financial Report

Mr. Nelson noted that the SCMA is in a solid financial position.

III. Quarterly Meeting

- Mr. Conger thanked Mr. Smith for arranging the DHEC speakers for the December 9 meeting, Myra Reece, Christopher M. Stout and Charles Hightower. SCDOT will also provide an update.
- There may be questions on jurisdictional determinations, specifically with reductions in jurisdictional calls in South Carolina. Are the OCRM and the Coastal Zone going to require mitigation for these areas of wetlands that are no longer considered jurisdictional? It would be good to know what coordination the DHEC has with the Corps. As a mitigation association, the SCMA should consider what we can do to encourage forthcoming changes that are not being called jurisdictional. The SCMA will need to focus on this in early 2021.

IV. Member Care

- Mr. Conger will notify the membership at the December 9 meeting that 2021 non-voting dues are \$400 and voting membership dues remain the same. The Executive Committee will discuss the registration fee for non-members at the January meeting.
- Adrienne Graham will draft an email to go to all non-voting members notifying them of the change and the reasons behind it. This will be shared with Mr. Conger, Mr. Nelson and Kristin Knight-Meng.
- Ms. Graham will send Mr. Conger suggested dates for 2021 Quarterly Meetings.
- Invoices will be sent in December.

V. Old Business

- Two letters went out in November, prior to the close of the comment period: SCMA Response to NWP regional conditions (11-12-2020) and the SCMA Response to SCDOT ILF Prospectus (11-17-20).
- These letters have been posted in the member area of the website. The Executive Committee advised that these letters and other communications from the SCMA will also be posted on the public area of the website moving forward. It is important for the all to see the activities of the SCMA.
- Mr. Conger will collect comments on the letter to the USACE, *Charleston District Interagency Regulatory Team, Mitigation Banking and Regulatory Compliance*, drafted by Daniel Johnson and others. Comments are due to Mr. Conger by Friday, December 11. This letter will be posted in the public area of the website as well.
- Mr. Johnson spoke to the Georgia Mitigation Association again but no action is being taken by the southeastern mitigation associations as a group on the new Nationwide Permit (NWP). The SCMA did submit a letter to the Charleston District, USACE, in support of the Charleston District's proposed Regional Conditions for the Nationwide Permit (NWP) Reissuance as described in the District's Public Notice (PN) date September 29, 2020. The Charleston District did separate some from the headquarters' changes, especially on the stream length limits for NWPs.
- Mr. Nelson pointed out that too many of the responses and communications fall back on the Executive Committee. The Technical, Partnership and SCDOT committees need to be in front of these issues and leave the Executive Committee to review and approve. The committee roles and the process of monitoring and responding will be discussed at the first Quarter meeting in 2021.
- Mr. Nelson informed the Committee that the DNR did send out a version of the SQT for review and comment. It went to a few Executive Committee members. The turnaround time is quick. Ms. Knight-Meng said the Technical Committee is reviewing this and circulating a response.

VI. New Business

- Mr. Conger shared an email with a request from the DNR, Lorianne Riggins, to support a workshop in 2021. The options included:
 - *Option 1: Lump Sum Cost of \$36k for in-person course. SC DNR and MBA would host, which means providing space, assistance with site selection, and registration. Class limit is 33 people. Given the pandemic, seems like this would be next fall at the earliest. Class is 4.5 days with a field day.*
 - *Option 2: We can do a modified version of 1 where you guys host and guarantee a certain number of spots, say 15ish, and then I use an open enrollment to fill the rest. Your cost would be \$1100 per person. Open enrollment cost is \$1400/person.*
 - *Option 3: Online Course. Cost is \$1,000 per person. I would probably open this to people outside of SC too, but use the SC SQT as the example. This option is 3.5 days with no field day.*
- The Executive Committee commented that we thought this would be a one-day workshop to roll out the SQT and have a chance to interact with regulators. Would DNR still consider this? A one day event, even via Zoom, may be done earlier in the year since this multi-day training is not tentatively scheduled until the fall.
What is the \$36,000 budgeted to cover?
The Executive Committee would like to see an agenda or outline of the program before making any decision.

Option 2 seems more realistic and the Executive Committee may consider a sponsorship that would allow branding opportunities and also allow voting members register at a reduced rate. It was mentioned that the first registration per company could register at a reduced rate while other would be at the standard rate. The SCMA could do a membership survey to ascertain interest in the training and their willingness to pay.

Any multi-day training should involve a field day.

This activity can definitely be a membership promotion.

Ms. Graham will communicate these questions and comments to Mr. Johnson for the DNR's consideration.

- Ms. Graham requested the Executive Committee review the Membership Survey. This will be distributed the end of the week.
- Committees Reports:
 - Mr. Conger will speak to Sydni Redmond on the Partnership Committee
 - The Technical committee documents were shared with the Executive Committee. The Technical Committee is now reviewing the SQT as previously mentioned. It would be helpful for the membership to see the USACE COVID-19 issues and the issues associated with the new permits and the Navigable Waters Protection Rule points. It is important for the membership to see the Technical Committee's work
 - Mr. Conger will firm up the SCDOT meeting dates. This meeting group will stay with the number of six or seven.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2020, 9:00 AM - Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: