

**South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021
Video Conference**

I. Opening

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:05 AM via Zoom by Allen Conger, the SCMA President.

Attending:

Allen Conger	Daniel Johnson
Tara Alden	Kristin Knight-Meng
Tommy Cousins	Sydni Redmond
Doug Hughes	Jack Smith
Adrienne Graham	Ryan Smith

II. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Sydni Redmond made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021. Daniel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March Quarterly Meeting. Tommy Cousins seconded the motion, which carried.

III. Financial Report

Mr. Conger noted Ross Nelson's comment that slow payments by membership continue to be a concern. Adrienne Graham sent reminders to all members with outstanding invoices. The financial report was accepted.

IV. Quarterly Meeting

- The Executive Committee agreed the March meeting went well. Raleigh West's presentation was very useful. Mr. Conger noted that Mr. West's role will likely expand with the Department of Commerce.
- The Executive Committee will plan the June Zoom Quarterly meeting at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

V. Member Care

- Ms. Graham shared the current membership list. She will send the current 2021 list as well as the unpaid past members to the Executive Committee.
- Ms. Graham shared that the SCMA can now accept credit card payments. The payment form will be posted online and will be sent to unpaid members next week. This may facilitate payment.
- The Committee agreed that unpaid/non-members will have to pay to attend the June meeting.

VI. Old Business

- After the last Executive Committee meeting a letter was drafted to follow up with the USACE. The Executive Committee then agreed that it would be better to reach out personally to follow up. Mr. Conger spoke to Amanda Heath, who said she would contact David Wilson to get the letter out immediately. The SCMA received a response two days later. This response has been shared with

the Executive Committee and published on the website. The SCMA will plan to meet in person with Ms. Health, Mr. Wilson, Travis Hughes and the new Colonel.

Mr. Johnson commented that he has received very little feedback from the USACE and the DNR on conducting the proposed stakeholder workshop. He would like to attend this meeting to promote this workshop and the SCMA's interest in communication, outreach, coordination and the involvement of stakeholders in any process.

The Committee felt the response received from the USACE indicated little will change from the current situation. The letter noted many of their own policies to support the District's positions. A future in-person meeting is encouraging though. The inability to enact change may come from resource issues on their end. Mr. Wilson seems to be the only one assigned to mitigation for the District. Ms. Heath is aware of resource issues; two staff were previously assigned to mitigation, but only one is now. It is a difficult area to staff due to the complexity of mitigation policy. The Executive Committee discussed working with our local congressional delegations to urge more resources for the USACE, especially with the upcoming infrastructure bill. Constraints on mitigation are expected to continue with priorities on projects and permits; however, permits need efficient mitigation to be able to move through the process.

Jack Smith suggested gathering metrics and trends on where the projects are anticipated to be and how they might be affected to take to our congressional delegation. It is important to help the USACE find solutions, since the problems have already been identified.

Mr. Conger will choose three or four members to attend a meeting with the USACE and communicate this with the Executive Committee.

- Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that the USACE is less than optimistic about the SQT phasing and implementation plan and is, therefore, hesitant about participating in a workshop or even in a more general mitigation workshop. Their participation is imperative. Mr. Johnson, with Ryan Smith's input, will draft a white paper on the SCMA's position on the SQT to keep members and regulators aware of the SCMA's position on this.

Mr. Cousin's and Mr. Hughes said they are using some aspects of the SQT to justify net improvement factors; this was encouraged in their past communications with Mr. Wilson, USACE.

- The Partnership Committee recommended participating in two conferences:
 - The National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference in Raleigh, NC, July 18-23, 2021. The exhibit booth is \$1,750 and includes one complimentary registration and one registration at a 20% discount.
 - The South Carolina Water Resources Conference, date pending, is \$1,500 for a booth, which includes two registrations.

Any member representing the SCMA at these or other conferences is there for the SCMA, not their individual organization. They will report back to the SCMA and present at meetings as appropriate.

A motion was made by Kristin Knight-Meng that the SCMA should sponsor a booth at the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference in Raleigh and at the SC Water Resources Conference if the date allows. Ryan Smith seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Conger reminded the Committee to continue to recommend conferences and meetings the SCMA should attend.

VII. New Business

- The **Partnership Committee** met in April and discussed members attending conferences as a SCMA representative. The details will be finalized at their next meeting. Ms. Redmond and David Lach are updating the education and marketing materials. Bob Perry has reached out to the SC Land Trust Network to offer to speak at their next meeting.
- Ms. Knight-Meng reported that the **Technical Committee** meets regularly. They have asked for reports on those using the SQT and new JD rule in the field to monitor how those are working.
- Mr. Conger reported the **SCDOT Committee** met March 24th. They are excited about the possible infrastructure legislation. This will move some projects up.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: Executive Committee, May 11, 2021