

South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order August 11, 2020 at 9:03 AM via Zoom by Allen Conger, SCMA President.

Attending:

Allen Conger
Tara Disy Allden
Tommy Cousins
Doug Hughes
Daniel Johnson
Kristin Knight-Meng
Ross Nelson
Sydni Redmond
Jack Smith
Adrienne Graham

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Allen Conger referred to the draft Executive Committee Meeting minutes from June 9, 2020, which were distributed just prior to the meeting along with the Quarterly Meeting minutes of June 24. Both documents include changes recommended by Daniel Johnson. Daniel Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes. Jack Smith seconded the motion, which carried.

Daniel Johnson made a motion to accept the Quarterly Meeting minutes. Ross Nelson seconded the motion which carried.

Daniel Johnson made a motion to accept the July 14 Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Ross Nelson seconded the motion, which carried.

II. Financial Report

- Mr. Conger referenced the draft budget with the five year comparison distributed prior to the meeting. He pointed out that generally membership has increased over the years while expenses have been limited with the exception of the website and CPA. In 2020, the CPA filed the 990s for 2013 through 2019 to get SCMA up-to-date, which cost approximately \$4,500 extra; future CPA expenses will be around \$460 annually. A net loss is predicted this year due to catching up on the past 990s.
- The monthly bank statements will be sent to Mr. Conger and Mr. Nelson moving forward.
- Capitol Consultants is authorized to approve payments for normal expenses. These financial reports and a budget will help the Executive Committee control costs and use the assets of the organization to best support the mission.

- Mr. Conger challenged the Board to promote the SCMA and continue to increase membership.
- Tara Disy Allden made a motion to approve the budget. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. He pointed out that while the fee for Capitol Consultant was \$15,500 in 2020, it did not cover a full year, and the annual fee for 2021 and thereafter will be \$18,500. The motion carried.

III. Quarterly Meeting

- Mr. Conger received an email from an archeologist interested in presenting to the SCMA on their work in Kings Grant. The Board agreed this could be kept as an option but would not be a key note.
- The Board discussed creating a sponsorship package for the Quarterly Meetings. Consultants wishing to present should sponsor. Meetings should focus on clients and regulatory presentations.
- Kristin Knight-Meng suggested a presentation on the newly developed stream regional curves for the state as a technical topic. DHEC's Rusty Wenerick and Greg Jennings (consulting engineer) may be able to present on this as well as someone from DNR. Mr. Johnson will contact Lorianne Riggan with DNR. They were the funding source. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Knight-Meng will work on confirming DNR and DHEC for the October meeting.
- Another interesting topic would be the dynamic regulations and potential changes in regulations and how this effects mitigation at the federal level. David Wilson may be the best to present on this at the December Quarterly Meeting.
- The December Quarterly Meeting will focus on regulatory issues.

IV. Member Care

- Resource and Land Consultants and Eco Terra have joined as non-voting members. South Coast Mitigation and Southern Land and Investments joined as voting members. Environmental Permitting upgraded to a voting membership. Stantec committed to sending 2020 membership dues.
- Mr. Conger will continue to follow up with non-member attendees at the last Quarterly Meeting and some lapsed members.
- Executive Committee members should encourage your clients and colleagues to join. Please send any potential new members to Ms. Graham.
- The SCMA dues structure should be reviewed, especially the non-voting level at \$250. It was suggested that non-voting dues could be raised to \$500 or \$750. This increase is justified by the many benefits and may encourage organizations to go to the voting level and to participate more.
- The SCMA needs to be seen as a valuable member of the mitigation community in order to make it worth it for voting members to pay higher dues. We are moving in that direction, but need to continue to build this value. The Executive Committee should propose a new fee schedule in the future.
- Sydni Redmond suggested setting a timeline. Invoices go out in December. The Committee will discuss the issue again in September and propose the fee schedule and verbiage to support the increase.
- A survey with three value-added options will be considered. Many of the value-added aspects of the SCMA come from the ability of the SCMA to review and provide feedback on regulatory issues in South Carolina. This requires change on behalf of the IRT and the Corps to embrace

third-party input. They currently collect the SCMA's comments and respect our input but further work is needed. .

V. Old Business

- The SCDOT Partnership meeting is set for August 11 at 1:00 to reestablish regular communications with the SCDOT. The notes will be circulated to the SCMA Partnership Committee and SCDOT for comments before being posted for membership.

Ms. Allden suggested a discussion point may be that the quantity of desired mitigation credits on the released solicitations seems smaller than what was previously suggested by SCDOT. The projects covered are bridge replacement and not larger projects.

It was thought the Middle Pee Dee was an outlier, but the South Fork Edisto and Salkehatchie solicitations seem to be smaller as well. This has not been discussed with the SCDOT but they have mentioned that there are budget concerns. Mr. Hughes commented that the SCDOT is not committing to anything in lots B and C and are not giving any idea what their needs will be.

Publishing pre-advertisements and demand forecasts would be very helpful. The GIS web tool would go towards transparency and planning. The SCDOT has been working on this for a while. SCMA will encourage the SCDOT to present their project impact information and mitigation needs. North Carolina is doing this now with detail and in a timely manner. This was promised in the December meeting and was mentioned again at the March meeting.

- An award has not announced yet for the Middle Pee Dee solicitation. When reviewing the two new solicitations, the prospectus-level document requirement was removed that was in the Pee Dee, but a delineation on the property was added. Until the SCDOT contracts one of these, it is an unknown on how these contracts will work exactly.
- Mr. Johnson is working on the draft letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to on-site preservation where there is a reduction in the mitigation requirements for preserving onsite wetlands. He will share the draft before the September meeting.
- Mr. Conger spoke to Chris Ryan about the new AJD forms. He has asked for help with the Technical Committee. Ms. Allden said we may see a lot less impact especially in small developments; the adjacent and abutting wetlands could influence jurisdiction quite a bit. Mr. Cousins commented it is having a major impact in the Lowcountry. One site in Savannah district they were looking at \$850,000 in mitigation credits, and with the revised JD process, they now have zero in required mitigation due to the change in jurisdictional status.
- Ms. Allden and Ms. Knight-Meng volunteered to assist with the Technical Committee. Will Rector from Wood will also join the committee.
- Ms. Redmond volunteered for the Partnership Committee.
- Ms. Graham will create an organization chart for review during the September meeting with committees and members.

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at the meeting at 10:15 AM.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: