

**South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021
Video Conference**

I. Opening

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:02 AM via Zoom by Allen Conger, the SCMA President.

Attending:

Allen Conger	Kristin Knight-Meng
Tara Allden	Ross Nelson
Doug Hughes	Sydni Redmond
Adrienne Graham	Jack Smith

II. Approval of Previous Minutes

Doug Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2021. Jack Smith seconded the motion, which carried.

III. Financial Report

Mr. Conger noted membership dues are the primary source of income and we must follow up with lapsed members. The financial report was accepted.

IV. Member Care

- The Executive Committee reviewed the list of lapsed members and past inactive members. Mr. Conger asked that individuals follow up with these companies and report back to Adrienne Graham. She will make notes on the membership spreadsheet and send an updated version to the Committee.
- Given feedback from one past member, SCMA should consider being more geographically diverse, i.e., holding meetings in the upstate.
- Non-members must pay \$100 to attend the Quarterly Member's Meetings.

IV. Quarterly Meeting

- Sydni Redmond is working to contact Dr. Althea Hagan, a professor at Clemson University of Restoration Ecology to speak at the June meeting. She would focus on state of the science update on restoration ecology for wetlands and streams and on outreach with students.
- The Partnership Committee also recommended a mid-year update at the June meeting. Mr. Conger has contacted Amanda Heath at USACE to have her or David Wilson present.
- The SCMA will continue to hold virtual meetings for now. The trend is that meetings are still virtual and companies are limiting travel unless it is business critical. Capitol Consultants will watch the trends and follow the science and let the SCMA know when in person may be possible.

VI. Old Business

- Mr. Conger has communicated with Amanda Heath, USACE, to request an in person meeting with a small group of SCMA representatives. Ms. Heath has received the letter but not committed to a

date or format, virtual or in person. Mr. Hughes commented that the USACE seems to be more cognizant of dates/timelines.

- Mr. Hughes reported that David Wilson, USACE, informed his company that they will implement the SQT in the next round. The SQT will be used for linear feet calculations and to calculate credits. Mr. Hughes raised questions on the fact that there is no credit calculation in the SQT. Many questions remain on this tool.
- Mr. Hughes will reach out to Daniel Johnson on the SQT whitepaper to raise our concerns and ask for clarification.
- Mr. Conger will follow up on the SC Water Resources Conference.
- Ms. Graham reported the SCMA is second on the waiting list for the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference in Raleigh. She will follow up on the status.

VII. New Business

- **Partnership Committee:** Ms. Redmond reported she followed up with Ethel Bunch on the SC Watershed Resources Registry. She will get technical language to us on the Registry to distribute to our members.
 - Ms. Redmond and David Lach are finalizing the educational materials.
 - Bob Perry is working with SC Land Trust to speak at their annual meeting.
 - Tara Alden spoke to Carolina Wetlands Association, on which she is on the Board. This is an awareness and education association. Corporate sponsorship is \$500 annually. Benefits include being on their website, member highlights on social media and newsletter which reaches 750 people. Membership may increase awareness of the SCMA and increase traffic to our website. She will follow up with them on negotiating a lower rate for an allied, non-profit organization. Ms. Redmond made a motion to join Carolina Wetlands Association for a membership fee up to \$500. Jack Smith seconded the motion which carried.
 - Ms. Redmond will reach out to Ms. Graham on the SCMA social media presence.
 - The Committee will establishing scholarships and research grants. They are soliciting assistance from the Executive Committee from anyone that has experience in this area. The goal is to encourage the training of the next generation in restoration ecology to expand the skill resources.
- The **Technical Committee** did not meet this last month.
- Mr. Conger reported the **SCDOT Committee** will meet May 26. The SCMA posted and sent an eblast on the SCDOT's cancelation of the South Fork Edisto Mitigation Credit Solicitation and the issue of the new solicitation.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: Executive Committee, June 8, 2021