

**South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023
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 Ross Nelson, the SCMA President. A quorum was present.

Mr. Nelson will reach out to the Executive Committee Members on their plans to run for re-election.

Attending:

Ross Nelson, President	Allen Conger
Daniel Johnson, Vice President	Tory Grayson
Kristin Knight-Meng, Secretary	Doug Hughes
Sydni Redmond, Treasurer	Chris Ryan
Adrienne Graham	

II. Approval of Minutes

Allec Conger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 12. Chris Ryan seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the Quarterly Membership Meeting of September 20. Daniel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried.

III. Financial Report

Ms. Redmond reported that the Association is in a good financial position. She and Mr. Nelson will work on the bank and interest-bearing instruments. The December Quarterly meeting has one sponsor, River Mechanics, but two more can join. Funds are coming in for the Clay Shoot.

IV. Quarterly Meeting

Mr. Nelson will speak with US Fish and Wildlife Service on presenting on the northern long-eared bat. The Executive Committee would also like Brad Cary, Special Projects Lead, and David Wilson to speak with us.

V. Member Care

Chris Ryan made a motion to approve the non-voting membership applications for Great American Insurance Company and SWCA. Kristin Knight-Meng seconded the motion, which carried.

Membership invoices will be sent in December.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Nelson is working on setting a date for the SCMA – USACE meeting. He will invite them to the December Meeting too.

There have been movements on bank approval; USACE is more responsive lately.

VII. Committee Reports

Partnership: Ms. Redmond encouraged everyone to sign up for the Clay Shoot and donate to the raffle.

Mr. Nelson, Mr. Conger and Bob Perry will set up a meeting with the Land Trust before the end of the year.

The Executive Committee agreed that the Partnership Committee could move forward in planning a joint fund-raising event with the NAEP-SC in 2024; arrange to present a Mitigation 101 to the NAEP membership; and to share social media posts. The SCMA will maintain its own identity and the revenue share will be reflective of the work/coordination efforts of the event.

Mr. Nelson will speak to Mr. Perry about presenting at the South Carolina Conservation Bank December Meeting.

A Board member of the SCDNR requested more information about mitigation. Mr. Nelson, Mr. Conger and Mr. Perry will reach out to Robert Boyles and Lorianne Riggins about a Mitigation 101 presentation. Mr. Nelson will schedule a call with the Executive Committee and Partnership Committee to develop the talking points. Tory Grayson also suggested that SCMA present a clear organization goal to target the Board. The SCDNR seems to slow down the approval process in some cases. How can the SCMA and the SCDNR work together?

Adrienne Graham will distribute the SCDNR Board Meeting recording to the Executive Committee.

Technical: Tory Grayson reported that six banks were approved this year, which is the most since 2008. The USACE Special Projects Chief is not prioritizing the SQT.

Tory Grayson made a motion to send the SCMA Comment Letter on Site Selection Criteria to the USACE. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Nelson thanked everyone involved in putting the letter together.

SCDOT: Mr. Nelson will work to set up a meeting and will request an update by the SCDOT at the December Meeting.

VIII. New Business

As a follow up to a conversation at the September Quarterly Meeting, the Executive Committee discussed and decided against forming a special committee to review projects with large economic impacts, i.e., the Scout Project. These projects may involve members and therefore conflicts of interest. The SCMA will continue to review and comment on projects as needed. Members are always welcome to present their concerns.

Capitol Consultants Lobbying Proposal Discussion: Ms Graham left the call to allow the Executive Committee to discuss the proposal for lobbying services that was provided by Capitol Consultants. Mr. Johnson described the scope of the proposal and the task items to the committee. There was agreement from the Executive Committee that the proposal was comprehensive and the fee was reasonable. Mr. Conger indicated that he supports the proposal, but he asked if other bids had been received. Mr. Johnson responded that no other bids were received. However, the CMA previously solicited proposals for lobbying services prior to hiring Capitol Consultants to manage the Association, and the proposed fee in the recent proposal was less than the bids previously received. Mr. Nelson confirmed that the fee was equal to or less than bids received from 3 firms several years ago. Mr. Conger noted that the SCMA

should make sure that becoming a registered lobbying group would not affect our ability to interact and engage with State and Federal agencies. Mr. Johnson agreed and noted that he would discuss this with Capitol Consultants. Mr. Hughes expressed support for the proposal and felt that this was good value to be added by the Association. Mr. Johnson noted that this benefit should be specific to voting members. A request was made that, if the proposal is accepted, Capitol Consultants should attend the December membership meeting and provide an overview of their lobbying services. All agreed. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to accept the proposal and hire Capitol Consultants to provide lobbying services for SCMA. A second was received from Mr. Grayson. Additional discussion regarding evaluating the SCMA fee structure next year and regarding the impact of becoming a registered lobbying group on our relationships with various agencies. The motion was amended to accept the proposal pending a discussion with Capitol Consultants regarding the impact on the structure of the association. Mr. Grayson affirmed that he stills seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: Executive Committee