

**South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024
Video Conference**

I. Opening

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:03 AM by Daniel Johnson, SCMA President.

Attending:

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| Daniel Johnson, President | Monica Folk |
| Tory Grayson, Vice President | Doug Hughes |
| Ross Nelson, Treasurer | Sydni Redmond |
| Allen Conger | Chris Ryan |
| Adrienne Graham | Ryan Smith |

II. Approval of Minutes

Ross Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July Executive Committee meeting. Allen Conger seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Conger made a motion to approve the quarterly meeting minutes. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried.

III. Financial Report

Mr. Nelson introduced the financial report and reported that this is the first time the operating account has dropped below \$20,000. He will analyze methods for generating funding through the Association. The Executive Committee prefers to continue its lobbying efforts. Alternatives may include increasing the membership dues. Mr. Nelson noted that the association was run lean for years, which puts the Association in a position to allocate funding to benefit the mitigation industry.

IV. Quarterly Meeting

The feedback on the July 31 meeting was very positive. Speakers for the December meeting may focus on the advocacy efforts, possibly including Myra Reece from the DES and legislators. Raleigh West, with the Conservation Bank, may also be an appropriate speaker. Mr. Nelson will lead coordination for the 4Q meeting. The Scholarship awardees will be invited to introduce themselves and meet the members.

V. Member Care

Mr. Nelson suggested using the clay shoot to recruit new members.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Johnson will strive to distribute the survey on project timelines to the Executive Committee for discussion in September.

Sustain SC is evaluating the Water Resource Registry tool. The Technical Committee will review it. Mr. Johnson noted that the academia has reviewed the tool and found it immensely valuable. Members expressed concern with the tool at the June Quarterly meeting. From our membership's perspective the Tool does not have a practical use. Tory Grayson reported a tentative meeting in September with the SCMA Technical Committee, Sean Connelly, SCDOI, and one of the creators from Maryland. Sydni Redmond and Mr. Nelson's colleagues will also participate.

Mr. Grayson emphasized that there is concern that the Tool becomes institutionalized in site selection, resulting in a significant increase in the price of land that would be valuable for mitigation. The Technical Committee will look into this.

VII. Committee Reports

Partnership: Ms. Redmond reported that the scholarships have been awarded.

The two title sponsor spots for the clay shoot have been filled. There are five presenting sponsors. The NAEP-SC is holding two happy hours to promote the clay shoot in the next few weeks.

Technical: Mr. Grayson still expects the SQT to be released by September 30. There will be a dual credit system. The SCMA should receive the guidance document for comment before releasing it to the public. The USACE is trying to increase credit production with add-ons to help with the ratio between the legacy bank and the SQT.

SCDOT Committee: Mr. Johnson is actively engaging the USACE to schedule a third and fourth quarter meeting. Mr. Johnson has offered to meet Brad Cary in person in Florida. He is also working to schedule another meeting with the SCDOT.

Government Affairs: Mr. Johnson will contact Tara Allden to arrange a joint meeting with the Executive Committee members and the Government Affairs Committee. Mr. Nelson, Doug Hughes, and Allen Conger are members of both committees.

VIII. New Business

Adrienne Graham introduced an **Antitrust** statement that should be read before the Executive Committee Meetings and Quarterly meetings. Mr. Johnson will send the draft to his legal department and send another version to the Executive Committee before the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson noted that the SCMA **bylaws** state that a special meeting of the Executive Committee requires three days' notice. There is often a need to respond to some issues and activities in the industry quickly. The three-day notice may have been a requirement before email, but the Executive Committee needs to be able to move faster now. The Executive Committee may make and approve a motion but the membership must give final approval to amend the bylaws. Mr. Johnson recommends removing the term "three-day notice." Mr. Nelson motioned to remove the three-day requirement in Article V, Section 9, Special Meetings. Ms. Redmond seconded the motion. Discussion included noting that the bylaws may need to be reviewed in their entirety. Mr. Allden had other comments on the bylaws. Ms. Graham will look in past minutes for other comments on the bylaws. The motion carried. This will be added to the agenda at the December Quarterly meeting.

Mr. Grayson suggested that the SCMA could come up with a list of recommendations and then use the lobby team and ERBA to present solutions to the USACE. Solutions would require funding. Mr. Johnson will draft a list of stressors and solutions. It would help to put data around the timelines. Mr. Hughes noted that the USACE budget was increased a few years ago; the issue is how these funds are allocated. The issue may not just be funding, but leadership, institutional knowledge, and local priorities are also key issues. Mr. Grayson noted that the USACE has lost a lot of experience on the permitting side as well as the mitigation side. Communication, chief-level engagement, management of the IRT, and legal review and chief-level signature are his primary restraints. The SCMA submitted a detailed letter of issues in 2020. Ms. Graham will share the 2020 letter with the Executive Committee. Mr. Johnson noted that we have to standardize the process so it is more efficient in their review and their decision-making. Showing data is the best way to make a change. Mr. Hughes suggested continuing to push with ERBA. They work at the district level too.

There was discussion on a model district (USACE) – one that stands out positively. Chris Ryan will ask around at his company. Mr. Grayson mentioned that the Huntington District seems to work well. It operates in Ohio, West Virginia, and a portion of Pennsylvania.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng, Secretary

Approved by: Executive Committee, 9/10/2024