

**South Carolina Mitigation Association  
Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 10, 2021  
Video Conference**

**I. Opening**

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:00 AM via Zoom by Allen Conger, the SCMA President.

**Attending:**

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

**II. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Tommy Cousins made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2021. Sydni Redmond seconded the motion, which carried.

**III. Financial Report**

Mr. Conger reviewed the financial report.

**IV. Quarterly Meeting**

- David Wilson, USACE, has confirmed he will speak at the October 13 meeting.
- Kat Hoenke with the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) has indicated their willingness to present. Ross Nelson will follow up with them and potentially consider also inviting Trout Unlimited or other partners.

**V. Member Care**

- The SCMA currently has 15 non-voting and 20 voting members.
- Mr. Conger will share contacts made at the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference (NMEBC) in July as potential new members.
- Daniel Johnson sent a list from RIBITS. Adrienne Graham and Sydni Redmond will work together on a new member letter. The list contains some old and incomplete information. Mr. Conger shared with the Executive Committee and asked them to review the list.

**VI. Old Business**

- Mr. Conger discussed the preservation issue as part of the timeliness issue in the 2008 guidelines. The USACE had said they do not want the credits distinguished as preservation vs. non-preservation. However, this does not seem to be the case, the USACE continues to request this information on ledgers. Doug Hughes recommended commenting on it in the individual permit period. The USACE may address this in the SOP. It was recommended that Mr. Conger follow up with David Wilson and offer the SCMA as a resource to review the SOP.
- Mr. Cousins will follow up with Tory on a stream as acreages issue. That public notice indicated it was a coastal county and some of the non-connected wetlands based on the Nav Waters Protection

Rule were not getting mitigated for and OCRM was not stepping in. OCRM does have the ability to require mitigation in coastal counties but they cannot do anything until it gets to the coastal zone consistency certification. They do seem to be requiring appropriate mitigation for coastal zone consistency.

Mitigation of the non-jurisdictional wetlands of the coastal plain are not portrayed in the public notice from the USACE but do come into play in the Coastal Consistency. Jack Smith noted this policy goes back to the Coastal Zone Management Program approved in 1979 and little has been done to update since then. There is not a clear mitigation requirement, but no one has taken the time to challenge it. Opining this legislation may have benefits and disadvantages. The SCMA should continue to track onsite preservation in the Coastal Zone.

- Doug Hughes discussed that as a follow-up on the USACE meeting, the SCMA met with David Olsen at the NMEBC on WRDA 214. Mr. Olsen was not optimistic on this mechanism of funding for USACE resources; they have not been able to participate in the past. The SCMA met with a lobbyist for the Ecological Restoration Business Association (ERBA) on the upcoming meetings on WRDA changes that may include allowing support for liaisons on mitigation projects. The ERBA has a session in October. The Conservation Bank could help with sponsoring a liaison to work with the USACE regulatory division to assist with bank permitting. Mr. Hughes will draft a memo on ideas necessary for timeliness and what the SCMA can do for ERBA. Mr. Conger will reach out to Representative Clyburn. The SCMA should only approach its Congressional delegates in an educational fashion. We are not lobbying on specific legislation as an association, but one may lobby on behalf of their own business. The SCMA members should not mention the ERBA or WRDA 214. Mr. Nelson would also like to participate in Congressional meetings.
- Mr. Conger reported that John Cullum with ACEC approached him about the Mitigation Workshop under discussion. The ACEC would like to co-sponsor and participate in the workshop. Mr. Conger will follow up again with Sean Connelly at the SCDOT and then Mr. Johnson will firm up details with David Wilson on their participation and possible dates. There is some hesitation on a workshop while many of the issues of SQT and the SOP have not been finalized.
- Mr. Conger introduced the scholarship with the goal of the scholarship is to establish relationships with academia and the SCMA's reputation in the mitigation industry. Sydni Redmond, Co-Chair of the Partnership Committee, noted the Committee is working on a draft to present to the Executive Committee but they are looking at an initial scholarship of \$1,000. The fund may grow with fund raising opportunities.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: The Executive Committee, 9/14/2021