

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

I. Opening

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order at 9:00 AM by Daniel Johnson, SCMA President. A quorum was present.

Attending:

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Ryan Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the January Executive Committee meeting. Allen Conger seconded the motion, which carried.

III. Quarterly Meeting

The choices for the speakers on the bats were not available. Tory Grayson will contact First Tuesday, a political consulting group. They focus on state legislation to protect wetlands. Mr. Smith and Mr. Johnson will invite David Wilson. The SQT is scheduled to go on public notice soon and SCMA would like to review and comment.

IV. Member Care

Mr. Johnson will distribute RIBITS contact information to review for possible membership opportunities.

V. Old Business

Mr. Johnson will follow up with the USACE on a meeting.

VI. Committee Reports

Partnership: Ms. Redmond reported that the Committee met with the SC Chapter of the NAEP to outline the Clay Shoot details. Information was distributed and registration and sponsorships are up on the website. NAEP's participation should increase the participation.

The SCMA task group on the conservation easement will meet the following week.

Ms. Redmond asked the Executive Committee to look around their staff for a social media manager for the SCMA.

Technical: Mr. Grayson reported he is working on the transition with Jonathan Page as the Committee Chair. He mentioned that the USACE may not be in agreement with the SCMA's recommended conversation rate between legacy credits and their new SQT credits. There may have two credit systems, which is concerning. The Committee will set the new meeting schedule.

Government Affairs: The Committee and the lobby team met on February 2. Tara Allden is the Committee Chair.

They identified key issues and goals:

- Adherence to the mitigation rule due to influence of state agencies.
- Create a library for the Committee to share relevant documents and working files.
- Increase state government understanding of the industry. The Committee agreed that DNR should be prioritized. Other key state agencies, offices, and others - DHEC, Forestry Commission, State Historic Preservation Office, Executive Branch, SCDOT and the minerals industry, Office of Resilience, Conservation Bank

The Committee will prepare a concise document to educate legislators and other stakeholders in the industry. This will address the Governor's 4 Es – Economy, Education, Employment, and Environment. From that they will create a one-pager.

The Committee will meet every two weeks during session.

VII. New Business

Mr. Grayson discussed First Tuesday, which was mentioned as a possible presenter at the Quarterly meeting. This group works with Sustain SC and others on legislation to protect wetlands, particularly Carolina bays. Legislation would help insulate SC from the WOTUS interpretations on wetlands. It would be ideal to extend beyond Carolian bays to wetlands in general. He will report back to the Executive Committee on any updates.

Mr. Grayson made a motion for the SCMA to join the Ecological Restoration Business Association for \$3,000 with benefits of quarterly state association roundtable calls (designated representative from state assoc.); representative participation in monthly meetings; access to ERBA professional services for priority legislative and agency response letters; access to ERBA search functions to monitor state specific issues; and the opportunity to partner on regional meetings. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion.

The association discussed joining ERBA years earlier but did not at that time because they were solely focused on national issues and not at the state level. However, ERBA has recognized that it needs to be engaged at the state level to pursue national opportunities. ERBA can provide research and expertise for initiatives at the state level. The lobby team and ERBA will be complimentary with shared resources but the Executive Committee will evaluate this periodically to avoid redundancy, especially in expenses. Mr. Nelson volunteered to take the lead as the liaison with ERBA. At least two other contacts may be provided. The motion carried.

Mr. Grayson made a motion to support conference attendance and outreach on behalf of the SCMA at industry-relevant conferences. The SCMA will establish an annual budget that includes conference fees. Voting members may submit a cost share request to Capital Consultants. Capital Consultants will compile and present the cost-share request to the Executive Committee. The executive committee will vote to approve or deny the application based on the perceived value of the investment. The applicant will document and justify the cost-share request. On behalf of SCMA, Capital Consultants may reimburse a member's cost up to the agreed-upon cost share or directly pay for registration or a portion of the registration costs. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion.

The Committee discussed the fact that past attendance was paid entirely by the SCMA to the National Mitigation and Environmental Conference. Previously, the Committee discussed that just attending the conference was more beneficial than the SCMA sponsoring a booth. Most members are attending this conference; however, there may be smaller companies that cannot afford this. This could also be another voting member benefit. It was also mentioned that if the Clay Shoot nets more than will be spent on the

academic scholarships, a conference scholarship may also come under this budget line item. The SCMA will also request, on a case-by-case basis, that the person's nametag read *Company/SCMA*. The Committee will monitor the budget closely with a negative net. Mr. Nelson will carefully review and work to balance the budget by 2026.

The motion carried.

VIII. Financial Report

Mr. Nelson reviewed the budget with the comparison of the last few years. Voting membership is declining.

Mr. Conger made a motion to approve the budget. Mr. Nelson, Mr. Conger and Mr. Johnson will work on a review of the dues levels as compared with nearby states. Ms. Redmond seconded the motion, which carried.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: Executive Committee, March 12, 2024