

**South Carolina Mitigation Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2023
Video Conference**

I. Opening

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

Attending:

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nelson noted a quorum was not present at the March meeting and therefore the minutes from February had not been approved, and there were no March minutes to approve. Allen Conger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February. Doug Hughes seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of the March Quarterly Meeting. Chris Ryan seconded the motion, which carried.

III. Financial Report

Ms. Redmond reported the association is in a good financial position. Adrienne Graham will follow up on outstanding dues this month and resend the A/R to Ms. Redmond and Mr. Nelson at the end of the month.

IV. Quarterly Meeting

The Committee agreed that with the new restrictions and keys on the Northern Long-Eared Bat; US Fish and Wildlife or DNR may be able to provide speakers. Ms. Redmond and Kristin Knight-Meng will look for a contact.

Mr. Nelson will contact Eric Krueger of The Nature Conservancy to speak later in the year on their proposed in-lieu fee (ILF) program.

The December meeting will be held in Columbia. This is an election year.

V. Member Care

Upstate Forever has joined as a non-voting member.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Nelson will request a May meeting with the USACE.

The SQT will go on public notice at some point this year. There was a meeting with the SQT on April 13 with the USACE and DNR. The agenda includes finalizing the SQT add-ons including how to entice landowners and banks to add additional upland buffers to increase the amount of watershed protection using the SQT tool. There will be a bit of a credit bump for protecting additional areas. They also will

work to finalize the legacy credit ratio. The SCMA is pushing for a higher ratio and the SCDOT is pushing for a lower ratio. The USACE will provide a draft of a stream policy document and update the timeline of the implementation of the SQT.

Mr. Wilson said that credits may be generated from preservation, but it may never exceed 50% of the restoration credits. The public notice should include the stream policy document that should also explain this.

VII. Committee Reports

Partnership: Ms. Redmond reported that the scholarship information has been distributed and is on the website. The date for the 2nd Annual Clay Shoot is November 3 at the same venue. Sponsors are needed.

Technical Committee: The Committee did not meet in March.

SCDOT Committee: Mr. Nelson reported that the Committee met April 4. The statewide solicitation is coming out soon. The SCMA was not able to review it as previously planned. There was discussion about being able to annually add service areas and credits, credit prices may be reduced but never increased, and available credits must be sold to SCDOT per the commitment. The Technical Committee may need to review the solicitation quickly upon its release and respond with comments.

New Business

Ms. Graham will research the agenda item, Sustain SC and SCDOT involvement in a proposed registry of mitigation banks. Mr. Nelson will speak to Sean Connolly at SCDOT and Mr. Hughes will contact Ethel Bunch at SustainSC.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng, Secretary

Approved by: