

**South Carolina Mitigation Association  
Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2022  
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 Ross Nelson, the SCMA President. Mr. Nelson noted a quorum was present.

**Attending:**

Ross Nelson, President	Allen Conger
Daniel Johnson, Vice President	Tommy Cousins
Sydni Redmond, Treasurer	Doug Hughes
Kristin Knight-Meng, Secretary	Chris Ryan
Tara Alden	Ryan Smith
Adrienne Graham	

**II. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Allen Conger made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022. Chris Ryan seconded the motion, which carried.

**III. Financial Report**

Sydni Redmond reviewed the 2021 year-end financials noting a positive net of \$2,586. She stated that the increase in membership allowed the positive year-end even with additional expenses such as a professional management firm and the sponsorship of the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference.

The Executive Committee will start reminding previous members to renew later this month.

**IV. Quarterly Meeting**

1st Quarter: March 9, Charleston

Mr. Nelson reported the meeting will be held at the SC Ports Authority. Daniel Johnson is working on a speaker for the meeting. Allen Conger is in touch with Ethel Bunch to speak at a meeting later this year. Tara Alden suggested the Federal Highways Liaison. She will provide more information on this.

Time will be allocated during the meeting for committees – member recruitment, strategy, and tasks. Mr. Nelson is very interested in hearing member priorities and what they would like to see the SCMA do as an association. He will also remind members to read the SCMA emails and provide feedback when requested.

The Executive Committee should send any agenda items to Mr. Nelson.

**V. Member Care**

S&ME had informed the association they would be renewing at a non-voting level instead of voting. WSP emailed that they were not renewing this year. Mr. Nelson will reach out to both companies to ask the reasons. It is important that the SCMA provide value.

A subcommittee will be created to discuss a new dues option for state agencies and non-profits. Adrienne Graham will coordinate a call with Mr. Nelson, Mr. Conger, Tommy Cousins and Bob Perry next week.

## **VI. Old Business**

USACE said they are open to regularly scheduled quarterly meeting with the SCMA. Mr. Nelson is working to secure a date, ideally before the March 9 Member Meeting.

Mr. Johnson is working with Will Harman on a one-day workshop in June. This technical workshop on the SQT will also allow for critique of the instruments. Kristin Knight-Meng is registered for the Clemson University's Stream Restoration Workshop and Training April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

**Partnership:** Ms. Redmond reported an eblast was sent with new sponsorship opportunities. River Mechanics has paid for a December sponsorship and American Mitigation will sponsor the March meeting. The goal is to raise at least \$750 per meeting.

The Partnership Committee will have a scholarship application ready in March with the goal of making an award by August. The committee will need assistance with circulating the information and for a selection committee.

A clay shoot is tentatively being planned as a scholarship fund raiser with a goal of \$3,000-\$5,000 for 2023 scholarships.

The Partnership Committee will consider outreach activities for the year including conferences and meetings. Please send any suggestions to Ms. Redmond.

**Technical:** Mr. Ryan reviewed a written report from Tory Grayson, Chair.

The USACE reminded the committee of the Clemson University stream workshop focused on the SQT (led by DNR and USACE) on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The SCMA received this information from Clemson University and distributed it to membership on January 31.

The next iteration of the South Carolina mitigation guidelines is still under development. The USACE requested assistance with coming up with the "conversion rate" between old stream credits and "new stream credits". They would likely accept the SCMA's recommendations. It is the opinion of the Technical Committee that this is a high priority. It should be the goal of the SCMA to push the ratio to the highest old credits per new credits as we can. This will increase demand for existing and future banks, help the market to process aging inventory, correct for any "under mitigation" that would otherwise happen in South Carolina, and help to subsidize the increased work associated with generating and monitoring "new" stream banks. The Technical Committee will work on a conversion rate and rationale for presentation and member input at the March member meeting.

The Technical Committee goals for 2022:

- to generate a list of South Carolina nurseries and native seed mixes for temporary and final stabilization. This could be a great resource for practitioners and support the local growers.
- to review any changes proposed on the wetland side of mitigation and permitting. They will continue to speak with the USACE about getting an early look.
- to host a SCMA stream workshop. This could be a positive way to become more of an active participant in the SQT and future SOP conversation.

- To get technical participation from environmental construction groups. It would be great to have some experienced PMs on the implementation side to give their perspective on what works (and doesn't work) in terms of wetland and stream restoration.

**SCDOT:** Mr. Nelson reminded everyone of the SCDOT meeting on 2/8/2022.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 9:00 AM

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: Executive Committee 3/8/2022