

South Carolina Mitigation Association
Quarterly Membership Meeting
December 7, 2022 | 3:00 PM
Columbia, South Carolina

I. Opening

Ross Nelson opened the meeting at 3:10 PM.

This year was a banner year for the SCMA with new initiatives and continued follow-up on some ongoing issues.

- The Partnership Committee introduced a scholarship program and awarded two \$1,000 scholarships in 2022.
- A successful inaugural clay shoot was held to raise funds for the scholarship program. This is the first fundraising event for the SCMA.
- The Technical Committee has dedicated a great deal of time to the SQT.
- The SCMA hosted a booth at the SC Water Resources Conference. The Association will host a booth at the National Mitigation and Environmental Markets Conference in Jacksonville in May.
- A partnership was created with SustainSC that benefits the SCMA Voting Members.
- The SCMA is active in social media – Instagram and LinkedIn.
- A sponsorship program was introduced for the quarterly meetings.
- A new membership level was created for land trusts to create relationships with this sector.
- The SCMA will present with the SC Conservation Bank in 2023.

Mr. Nelson thanked the sponsors and asked them to introduce themselves and their companies: Passarella & Associates, River Mechanics, and Weyerhaeuser.

II. *South Carolina Department of Transportation, Solicitation for Mitigation Credits*
Jeffrey Sicheloff, Environmental Permits Manger for Traffic Safety, Rural Roads,
and Maintenance Projects

Mr. Sicheloff opened with invitations for everyone with a bank, planning a bank, or with land to please submit bids in the upcoming solicitation for statewide stream and wetland mitigation credits. The low bid will be approached first to supply credits. If you do not have credits when the SCDOT calls for them, they will go on to the next low bid; however, when you have credits, your company will go back to the top of the list if you are the low bid. There are no guarantees to purchase or to deliver. State and federal funds will be used. Needs will be state-wide.

Mr. Sicheloff and Sean Connolly, SCDOT Permits Division Manager, reviewed the [SCDOT Mitigation Forecasting Tool](#) and how it is used for project determination. This tool will be updated twice a year moving forward.

There were several questions on credit availability at the time the SCDOT calls for them. A bank may not be able to sell only part of the credits it is holding if the SCDOT wants them. This would require the SCDOT to move on to the next bid to purchase the balance needed, which would not be at the lowest price and therefore may be a procurement violation.

Once firms are selected under this solicitation, only the price may change each year. Other awards will not be made during the time period. This is why the SCDOT wants banks to put a bid in even if they do not have credits now but may at any time in the life of the contract. The SCDOT will work with the SCMA on refining the solicitation.

Mr. Nelson thanked the SCDOT for presenting. He reminded everyone that the SCMA – SCDOT Committee meets bi-monthly, and members are invited to submit questions and concerns to be discussed during the meetings.

III. Committee Updates

- **Technical Committee:** Daniel Johnson reported that the SCMA met with the USACE the day prior. Nat Ball is presiding over mitigation now. The USACE is working on requirements of new management that may cause further delays but should be remedied quickly. The SCMA has asked the USACE to identify areas that the SCMA may be able to assist with to improve the timeliness. This may include developing templates for the IRT.

The SQT is still under development with the USACE. There is not a formal schedule for the roll out at this time. They continue to work on debit and credit conversion. Another meeting may be held in the first quarter of 2023.

Wetland hydrology will be an area for the SCMA to work with the USACE on next year. The USACE may develop or revise the documentation methods. The SCMA is looking at pros and cons of other approaches in the South Atlantic Division and will prepare a summary of recommendations in layman's terms. The Technical Committee will investigate reaching out to Dr Skaggs (retired from NC State University) on the localization of T25 values tied to the Skaggs method to support wetland hydrology conditions. Localized values may determine more accurately the lateral effect of a single drainage ditch. A proposal may be developed to fund a study on this topic.

- **Partnership Committee:** Sydni Redmond, Chair, reiterated the successful [SCMA scholarship program](#) and the Inaugural SCMA Clay Shoot, November 11 at Hermitage Farms Shooting Sports.

Ms. Redmond invited members to submit information on conferences or meetings at which the SCMA should be present or can be posted on the SCMA website under [Other Notable Events](#).

- **SCMA – SCDOT Committee:** Mr. Connolly informed the membership that the SCDOT Secretary Hall is meeting with Amanda Health and the Lt. Colonel. Mitigation and timeliness are on the agenda. The SCMA will consider sending another letter similar to the one sent to the USACE in December 2020 on timeliness.

The SCDOT has also expressed their concerns to the USACE on the SQT.

III. Open Floor

Allen Conger invited members to consider serving on the Executive Committee. Elections will be held in December 2023.

Mr. Nelson presented the Chairman's plaque to Mr. Conger for his service 2020-2021.

Adjourn: 4:15 PM

Attachments:

Attachment A: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Attachment B: [Recording of the Meeting](#)

Attachment C: Attendee List

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First name	Last name	Company
Tara	Allden	Kimley-Horn
Michael	Beinenson	Eco Terra
Shane	Boring	JMT
Robby	Bowen	Aquatics Restoration Inc
Jason	Claudio-Diaz	Kimley-Horn
Daniel	Coggin	Coggin Asset Management, LLC
John	Collum	JMT
Allen	Conger	WSP USA
Sean	Connolly	SCDOT
Cole	Cook	Environmental Consulting
Kip	Dillihay	Sandy Creek Partners
Ward	Elis	Ecosystem Planning and Restoration
Monica	Folk	Norfolk Southern Railway - Brosnan Forest
Josh	Gilman	Stantec
Adrienne	Graham	SCMA
Daniel	Johnson	Wildlands Engineering, Inc.
Brendon	Kelly	WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc.

First name	Last name	Company
Kristin	Knight-Meng	KCI Technologies
Mary Claire	Martinson	Capitol Consultants (Guest)
Emory	McClary	American Mitigation Company
Ross	Nelson	American Mitigation Company
Jonathan	Page	River Mechanics
Bob	Perry	Water & Land Solutions
Caitlin	Ramsey	Passarella and Associates, Inc.
Sydni	Redmond	Passarella and Associates, Inc.
Chris	Ryan	RES
Jeff	Siceloff	SCDOT
Ryan	Smith	DRG
Matthew	Thomas	JMT
Norton	Webster	Eco Terra
G Alan	Wood	AFM