

## **South Carolina Mitigation Association**

Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2020

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Mitigation Association was called to order July 14, 2020 at 9:03 AM via Zoom by Allen Conger, SCMA President.

Attending:

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

### **I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Allen Conger referred to the draft Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2020, which were distributed just prior to the meeting. Ross Nelson requested more time to review the minutes. Mr. Conger noted these minutes should go out a week in advance. The Executive Committee agreed more time was needed to review the minutes, therefore a motion would be made via email following the meeting.

### **II. Financial Transition**

- Capitol Consultants has opened the SCMA checking account and received bank statements and reconciliations from December 2019 through June 30, 2020 from Mr. Nelson.
- A financial report and draft budget will be presented to the Executive Committee in August.
- Mr. Nelson noted there was \$3500 remaining in the TD Bank account that he will close next month.

### **III. Quarterly Meeting Dates and Speakers**

- Mr. Conger stated that June Quarterly Meeting held via Zoom went well. Feedback from members was positive. Many had commented that it was a confusing topic, so this shed some light on it.
- Only one question for David Wilson was submitted after the meeting. Mr. Conger will follow up on this.
- The SC Water Resource Conference has been canceled. SCMA may consider exhibiting at this conference in 2021.
- The Executive Committee agreed on October 28 and December 9 for the Quarterly Meetings. Both will be via Zoom at this point. The focus for the October meeting will be partnerships. Mr. Conger will speak to the Executive Committee for potential speakers.
- The June Quarterly meeting, normally for members only, was open to any interested party. Several Executive Committee Members commented that the meeting is a member benefit and should be for

members only. Mr. Conger will reach out to the non-members that attended to encourage them to join or re-join.

#### **IV. Member Care**

- Eco Terra joined as a non-voting member in July.
- Daniel Johnson and Mr. Conger will follow up on the organizations that received new member, lapsed member, and upgrade letters in May.

#### **V. Old Business**

- Mr. Johnson reported that Doug Hughes and Tommy Cousins have compiled discussion points for a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to on-site preservation where there is a reduction in the mitigation requirements for preserving onsite wetlands. Mr. Johnson will try to have a letter for the August meeting.

Mr. Cousins stated this is just a general process letter; there is nothing on Public Notice right now. This letter will address a general practice that seems to be getting approved that allows for onsite preservation for un-impacted wetlands to be used to offset mitigation credits, and then occasionally on top of that 25% reduction if a conservation easement or deed restriction is placed on un-impacted wetlands. The overall mitigation need is being reduced when on-site wetland protection is being used for mitigation credit. As part of the hierarchy of avoidance and minimization, the SOP specifically states this should not be allowed; however, it is being permitted on a regular basis with some large developments.

Mr. Conger acknowledged this is a sensitive issue but that the SCMA needs to speak out. Jack Smith will review the draft letter along with the rest of the Executive Committee.

- Tara Allden joined the call.
- The SCMA did not send a letter on the SCDOT Middle Pee Dee solicitation. The SCDOT communicated that the SCMA's comments were welcome for other solicitations. The solicitation closed on July 9.
- Future solicitations are imminent but there is no set date. These solicitations should reflect more of the type of solicitation discussed in March.
- Mr. Conger noted that the SCMA has not had direct communications with SCDOT since March. He would like to open the dialogue again now that the Middle Pee Dee solicitor has closed. The Executive Committee agreed a Zoom meeting with SCDOT and the SCMA SCDOT Partnership Committee is needed.
- Mr. Nelson noted this was the original intent of the SCMA SCDOT Partnership Committee was to have open dialogue, not presentations. SCDOT would prefer a smaller group meeting to keep the conversation flowing. Prior to the meeting, membership should have the chance to submit questions. The minutes from the meeting should be posted quickly and communicated to members.
- Mr. Conger will call SCDOT and try to coordinate a meeting in August before the next solicitation. Mr. Conger will ask if there is a timeline for future solicitations when he sets the meeting up.

#### **VI. New Business**

- Mr. Smith asked if the SCMA would look at or comment on the Public Notice that came out on July 13 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the navigable waters protection rule new AJD forms. Mr. Conger said he is hearing that it may not be applied consistently. The requirement for the form is on AJD's only and project managers may or may not require it. Mr. Nelson asked if the Technical

Committee could take the lead on this. Mr. Conger will send this to Chris Ryan with RES. Mr. Smith will send his comments to Chris Ryan too.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- Mr. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 AM. Mr. Cousins seconded the motion, which carried.

Next Meeting: August 11, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Kristin Knight-Meng

Approved by: