

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

November 8, 2022

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:02 AM on November 8, 2022, online via Zoom. The following Commission members were present: Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Kim Bragg, Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler and Bodine Sinyard.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA and CPCO representatives, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. Motion was made by Mr. Holley to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and motion passed.
- D. The Commission approved company license applications (see Attachment 2).
- E. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. The UGA Department of Entomology will host the January SPCC meeting in Athens. The Economic Impact Survey was handed out at CPCO's Fall Conference and had a return rate of 33%. The entomology student working on the project will also hand out the survey at GPCA's Winter Conference in January. Dr. Allison Johnson was in attendance and was introduced as the new Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) Coordinator for Georgia.
- F. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He and other staff are attending the fall Pre-SFIREG Meeting being held this week. Pre-SFIREG is a subcommittee of EPA's Region 4 states that get together to discuss current pesticide issues and events. The chairperson will share the information with the full committee in December.
- G. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the compliance and enforcement update. SPD has a vacant inspector position posted. Top violations for routine inspections include concentration of pesticide used and method of application. Top violations in for-cause inspections include wood-to-ground contacts and methods of application.
- H. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the certification and training update. She advises the industry to update their contact information ahead of next year's renewal period. Course renewals will go live in December.
- I. Ms. Nan Collier provided the outreach update. Several SPD staff presented and provided outreach at CPCO's Fall Conference and will do the same at other conferences this fall and winter.
- J. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Honeybee Control and Removal update. After today's company application approvals, there will be four HBR Company Licenses and several Certified Operators. The recent HBR Training in Griffin included 25 participants. Another training is being planned for next Spring. A list of the HBR companies can be accessed online.
- K. The Commission discussed drone pesticide applications and the draft issue paper. It was decided that there is not enough interest to pursue actions at this time (see Attachment 3). Motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to finalize the Issue Paper. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion and motion passed.

- L. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the December Commission meeting and that it will be held in Room 201 of the Ag Building on December 13. Public Notice 22-04 is posted along with Public Notice 22-05 Meeting Schedule for 2023.
- M. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He asked the industry associations to help bring awareness to the industry to expect change in EPA's Certification and Training Rule.
- N. Meeting adjourned at 10:58am. Mr. Sinyard wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	New Company Licenses
Attachment 3	Issue Paper

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Chris Gorecki, Chairman

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Commissioner Gary W. Black, Secretary

## ATTACHMENT 1

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### Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission

Chris Gorecki, Chairman  
Derrick Lastinger, Vice-chairman  
Christy Kuriatnyk, Georgia Department of Public Health  
Dr. Brian Forschler, University of Georgia  
Bodine Sinyard, Adams Exterminators  
Greg Holley, Zone Pest Solutions  
Kim Bragg, Consumer Affairs & Protection Representative

### Agenda

November 8, 2022

**Open** – Vice Chairman Lastinger

#### Minutes

#### Old Business

#### New Business

- a. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates
  - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
  - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
  - Outreach – Nan Collier
- d. HBR Update
- e. UAV Pesticide Applications – draft white paper
- f. Public Notice 22-04 and 22-05
- g. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- h. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- i. Certification Examination Application Review

#### Adjournment

## ATTACHMENT 2

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### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Honey Please, LLC – Swainsboro
- Georgia Bee Removal – Monroe
- Massey Services, Inc – Jacksonville, FL
- First Strike Pest Elimination – Woodstock

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Pro-Tech Pest Solutions – Pierce County (insurance)
- Pest Doctor LLC – Henry County (name change)
- Couey's Pest Solutions – Bartow County (insurance)
- TNT Pest Control & Consulting LLC – Effingham County (insurance)
- Good Bye Bugs.com – Bibb County (insurance)
- Top Dog Pest – Walton County (insurance)

## ATTACHMENT 3

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### **The Issue**

The Georgia Department of Agriculture does not have a license category for the application of pesticides to a structure with an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). Pest control companies have approached the Structural Pest Division (SPD) about the possibility of using UAVs.

The current Aerial Methods subcategory is licensed by the Agricultural Inputs Division Pesticide Program and excludes the structural pest control categories<sup>1</sup>. The Rules of the Structural Pest Control Commission do not explicitly prohibit the use of a UAV to apply a pesticide to a structure.

### **Background**

There are several Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations that must be met before pesticide applications can be made with a drone. The UAV pilot would need to get FAA Remote Pilot Certification by passing the FAA's Part 107 Exam<sup>2</sup>. The UAV pilot would need to apply for an exemption from the applicable hazardous materials FAA regulations<sup>3</sup>. The company would need to hold a Part 137 Aircraft Operations Certificate<sup>4</sup>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Aerial Pest Control as a certification category in the 2017 update to the Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule<sup>5</sup>. This means if a category is created, Georgia's certification standards must meet or exceed the EPA's specific standards of competency for the category or must exclude the application of Restricted Use Pesticides.

At this time, UAVs are primarily used for agricultural pest control. The EPA has not done a risk assessment on using a UAV to apply a pesticide to a structure<sup>6</sup>. One done in the future could ultimately impact future use<sup>7</sup>.

Pest control companies in Georgia are already using drones to inspect structures<sup>8</sup>. Drones specialized for structural pesticide applications are being developed<sup>9</sup>.

### **Options**

Create a new structural aerial applicator category.

Coordinate with the Agriculture Inputs Division to update Rule 40-21-2-.01 and any related regulations to include SPD categories. This would include coordinating to create new training and exams, etc.

Not allow structural pesticide applications with a UAV.

<sup>1</sup><https://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/40-21-2>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial\\_operators/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-14/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-11#11.81>

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.faa.gov/uas/advanced\\_operations/dispensing\\_chemicals](https://www.faa.gov/uas/advanced_operations/dispensing_chemicals)

<sup>5</sup><https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-171>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-03/documents/2018-10-31-ppdc-meeting-transcripts-official.pdf>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/documents/session-3-emerging-application-technologies-l-trossbach.pdf>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.mypmp.net/2018/06/01/drones-pest-control/>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.pctonline.com/article/autonomous-drones-for-pest-control/>