

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

April 9, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Department of Agriculture on April 9th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Christy Kuriatnyk, Bodine Sinyard, and Kim Bragg. Dr. Brian Forschler attended remotely via Teams.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA, CPCO, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. A motion was made by Mr. Gorecki to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. Jacob Winkles's Economic Impact Study that was recently published is gaining some traction, especially with educators, PMPs, and regulators. Dr. Forschler hopes that this publication will aid in the pest control industry getting the recognition that the industry deserves alongside other agricultural commodities. He also discussed the details regarding the Entomology Department in Athens relocation into the chemistry building and the new plans to share lab space with multiple programs.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He introduced Natalie Adan who was present at this meeting and detailed her vital role as the Deputy Director of Operations at the GDA. He also introduced Randi Balog who is a Field Supervisor with the Plant Protection Division and will be providing an update on the Yellow-legged Hornet later in the meeting.
- F. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He discussed the success of the UGA Termite workshops shown through a comparison of test scores from the pre-test given at the beginning of the workshop and a post-test afterwards which show a 27% improvement. Mr. Taylor also spoke about creating a resource for the monthly job report requirement. He also detailed the success of the UGA Drywood Termite Project and the productive discussions, training, and practical understanding by the inspectors who participated.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. She discussed that SPD is working towards accepting payments with online form submissions, and our IT department hopes to work out a solution with our payment processor soon. Ms. Ikner then yielded the floor to Ms. Adan to speak about the broader the department-wide efforts regarding efficiency and transitioning to electronic forms. Ms. Ikner then discussed the EPA's efforts towards providing guidance on C&T plans, and Georgia's involvement with SFIREG's survey. She also noted that all the CEUs from the GPCA's Winter Conference have now been entered into the system and that an Authorized Submitter Training is coming up at the end of the month.
- H. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the first portion of the Outreach Report. She highlighted that presentations of the School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program were conducted at various elementary schools and were subsequently shared on social media, resulting in an increase in inquiries and requests. She also noted that following the success of the initial

workshop, a second School IPM workshop is now scheduled for April 17th. She also discussed the recent completion of a pesticide safety coloring book that was created via collaboration with Erin White from the GDA's Marketing Division that is in the process of being printed. Several parties expressed interest in obtaining copies and Mr. Lastinger assured those present that copies would be available soon.

- I. Ms. LeAnna Merrit provided the second portion of the Outreach report. Ms. Merrit spoke about the success of the Spring UGA workshops and webinars available through Dr. Suiter at UGA. She applauded the inspectors involved in presenting the School IPM program and pointed out that their work has been frequently highlighted on the GDA's social media channels. Ms. Merrit announced she alongside one of our inspectors will be speaking at the CPCO conference in Savannah this Friday. She also noted that this month is National Pest Awareness Month and Mr. Lastinger added that the Market Bulletin will be running an article about the Economic Impact Study done by Jacob Winkles later this month.
- J. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- K. Ms. Ikner provided the update on the HBR Training. She discussed the work being done on the pre-exam training. The GA Beekeepers Association is working on hosting a training in July. In addition, CPCO is canvassing members to prepare to host a training. Ms. Ikner also discussed the status of the training video and Dr. Suiter of UGA is working on finalizing the recording and making it available online through the UGA extension.
- L. Ms. Randi Balog provided an update on the Yellow-legged Hornet eradication efforts. Ms. Balog announced that summer positions to assist with the YLH efforts have just been posted for the Savannah area and that the Plant Protection Division has begun checking traps as of March. Several queens have been identified in the traps, and yesterday an embryonic nest was discovered. Ms. Balog led a discussion on these embryonic nests and the specialized hawking behavior of the YLH. She also stated that the Plant Protection Division will be expanding the canvassing area this year. She also spoke about the invaluable assistance they have received from local beekeepers, as well as the videos on social media geared towards homeowners building their own traps. Mr. Lastinger requested feedback from the pest control industry on what they are hearing from their consumers in the Savannah area, he also spoke about the GDA's website and the Yellow-Legged Ledger as a resource for reporting sighting and gaining more information on the YLH.
- M. Mr. Lastinger provided an overview of the status of the C&T rule changes. The SPD is making substantial progress in this major effort and has an upcoming rulemaking meeting scheduled. The timeline for implementation was discussed, noting that the original 5-year timeline will likely be modified.
- N. Mr. Lastinger announced that the updated Notice 14-08 Under-Floor Ventilation Fact Sheet is now available on the SPD website.
- O. Mr. Gorecki discussed the TermiTek system proposed for use in Georgia by Mr. Allen Fugler Jr. After careful review the device has been determined to be a monitor and that the existing Rules and Regulations cover this type of device. Some discussion was held on attractants that could be added to this device, which Mr. Lastinger clarified falls under the definition of a pesticide in the Structural Pest Control Act. A guidance document is being planned to help mitigate any concerns that may result from this device.
- P. Mr. Lastinger provided the update on the EPA ESA Notice. He discussed how the Endangered Species Act will make a large impact with pesticide regulation. EPA did release a decision on

chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion that will update label language and issued a 12-month existing stock provision. Mr. Lastinger also discussed the upcoming pre-SFIREG meeting that will dedicate an entire day to this topic.

- Q. Ms. Shalamar Parham provided the Legislative update. She reviewed that the legislative session in Georgia had concluded, and that in reviewing the legislation regarding occupational licensing it was particularly focused on healthcare workers with no apparent effects on the pest control industry. House Bill 296, which aimed to establish a system for tracking continuing education training, did not pass the Senate. The budget, which did pass, included provisions for teacher and state employee pay raises, and improved Medicaid reimbursement coverage. On the election front, there is a special election being held today in Muscogee county to fill Chairman Smith's seat. May 21st will be a big primary election and the runoff for the primary June 18th. She also noted that the general election is November 5th and the runoff for that is December 3rd.
- R. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. NPMA had a Legislative Day in DC, where Georgia had 37 attendees. Meetings were held with House members and senators, discussing various legislative topics including the Farm Bill and state enforcement of pesticide use. Bipartisan efforts were highlighted, such as the Beagle Brigade Act and seeking National Monument status for the Ocmulgee Indian mounds in Macon. Mr. Bell also discussed concerns regarding PFAS legislation aimed at service agreements which has the potential to limit access to many pest control products. This discussion also touched on regulatory engagement and the importance of showcasing industry practices to policymakers, in which Mr. Bell highlighted the recent rodenticide use tour in Wyoming hosted by ASPCRO and NPMA. This outreach effort resulted in the EPA submitting a revised proposal. Mr. Bell concluded his update with appreciation for the collaborative efforts within the industry and plans for future engagements in different states with the EPA.
- S. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 11:28am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	April 9 th GSPCC Agenda
Attachment 2	Company License Applications

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



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

April 9, 2024

Open –Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- b. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
 - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
 - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. HBR training
- e. Yellow-legged Hornet Update
- f. Rulemaking
- g. Notice 14-08 Under-floor space ventilation fact sheet
- h. TermiTek System
- i. EPA ESA Notice
- j. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- k. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- l. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Upside Pest Control - Ball Ground, GA; Cherokee County
- Honeybee Wrangler – Grovetown, GA; Columbia County

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- White House Pest Control – LaFayette, GA; Walker County – Pending Insurance
- Perkins Pest Control – Guyton, GA; Effingham County – Pending Insurance
- Roger Bailey DBA Buzzin Buddies Bee Co. - Ball Ground, GA; Cherokee County – Pending Signature

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- Bioicare Pest Control – Duluth, GA; Gwinnett County