

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

August 8, 2023

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:03 a.m. via zoom on August 8, 2023. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, 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 representatives, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Rick Bell of the NPMA provided an overview of the AAPSE meeting that was held July 26th and noted that the ASPCRO Annual Conference is to be held in Reno, Nevada at the end of August.
- E. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- F. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. He spoke about the upcoming School IPM and Termite Workshops. He also provided information on the carpenter bee project and expressed appreciation to Jim Chase for his contributions to the termite flight times document. He discussed the Economic Impact Study was expected to be in review before September. AAPSE President Faye Golden added that they were also preparing an Economic Impact Assessment and would be able to share data if requested.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He introduced Kenzie Bradshaw as the new program assistant. He spoke about the AAPSE meeting and the NPMA Mid-Atlantic Conference and expressed appreciation for the discussions facilitated by these events. He also mentioned the Georgia National Fair is coming up in October so the GDA will have outreach gearing up for that soon. Mr. Lastinger also discussed the interns' informational trip to the Georgia Poison Center and iterated how impressed he was with the quality and scope of the services they provide. He also informed the commission there has been a request to record commission meetings and is currently working with the legal and IT department for advisement.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He reminded everyone that pest control sales staff must be registered. He informed the board that a Consent Order notice of violation had been sent out from the legal department last week for a violation of a Consent Order Agreement, and that the department would soon be reaching out to companies regarding statewide inspections. He congratulated Sadiyyah in her promotion to Field Training Supervisor.
- I. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. The deadline for renewal has now passed and we are in the late renewal period until September 30th. Ms. Ikner also gave a review of the current renewal numbers as follows: 147 companies, 306 certified operators, and 4396 registered employees, of which only 435 are currently associated with a company, have not yet renewed. She is hosting a Recertification Record Authorized Submitter training

soon and recommended anyone interested in becoming approved as an authorized submitter reach out soon. Ms. Ikner also provided numbers for the Honeybee Control and Removal (HBR) category. 122 people attended the June pre-exam training offered at UGA Griffin, the GPCA headquarters, and various Extension offices. There are 45 HBR Certified Operators and 28 companies licensed in HBR. She also expressed the value observed from the recent updates to the examination cheating policy in protecting the integrity of the certification program.

- J. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach update. She shared that the Inside Buzz quarterly newsletter had been successfully distributed on July 1st. Additionally, Mrs. Collier discussed the upcoming Georgia Clean Day in Coffee County to be held on August 16th, the upcoming Fall Workshops in Griffin, and the Fall Conferences. She also announced that GDA plans to have a booth at the 9th Annual Ray Day event in October.
- K. Mr. Lastinger brought up some recent requests for the active military duty exemption for training and renewal requirements and asked if the commission would like to continue its support of the temporary exemption. The commission discussed and expressed their continued support.
- L. Ms. Ali Ikner discussed the Georgia Pesticide Applicator Certification & Training Plan. The commission will review the summary document and discuss at the next meeting.
- M. Mr. Lastinger informed the commission regarding the updates to Notice 17-01 Examination of the Cheating Policy had been through legal review. Mrs. Kim Bragg and Dr. Brian Forschler motioned to approve the notice, Mr. Gorecki seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- N. Mr. David Sereboo spoke on his own behalf regarding his appeal under Notice 17-01. Mr. Jim Flint, Mr. Sereboo's employer, also provided information on his behalf. Discussion was held and the board agreed to consider a decision at the next meeting.
- O. Mr. Bobby Chaisson highlighted the challenges posed by the bottleneck resulting from the supervised honeybee removal job requirements of the HBR operator's certification program due to the high number of applicants. The board discussed options for alleviating the issue. Mr. Chaisson will be working on drafting a detailed plan to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Lastinger requested the policy language be adjusted to which the commission expressed support.
- P. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on Notice 17-03 State Inspections Fact Sheet. A motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to approve the updates to the Fact Sheet, Mr. Sinyard seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Q. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the US EPA's sulfuryl fluoride early mitigation decision. Notice was sent to fumigators in Georgia.
- R. Mr. Allen Fugler spoke on behalf of TermiTek asking for clarification of regulations regarding use of a termite monitoring device in Georgia. The board discussed details of the device and asked to review the contract for further consideration.
- S. Mr. Lastinger congratulated Mr. Holley on his new role as GPCA president.
- T. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 August 8 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

August 8, 2023

Open –Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update & Research Reports - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
 - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
 - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- d. Georgia Pesticide Applicator Certification & Training Plan
- e. License Renewal 2023-2025
- f. Notice 17-01 Examination Cheating Policy – revision
- g. PSSI appeal to waive the waiting period under Notice 17-01
- h. HBR experience requirement – Bobbie Chaisson
- i. Notice 17-03 State Inspections
- j. US EPA sulfuryl fluoride early mitigation decision
- k. TermiTek System
- l. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- m. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- n. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Lavender Pest Control – New Location
- Brown Pest Control - Newnan, Coweta County
- Apex Pest Control Service Inc – Oakwood Village, OH

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Ridd Pest Control – Pending Investigation
- Reed Exterminating – Pending DCO and Insurance