

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

August 18th, 2026

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:03 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Ali Ikner; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, Kim Bragg, and Dr. Thuy-Vi Nguyen.
- 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. Sinyard to approve the minutes from the June SPCC meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Mr. Gorecki discussed the new appointment of Dan Suiter for filling Dr. Forschler's position on the SPCC since Dr. Forschler has retired, and Ali Ikner as the new SPD Director following Derrick Lastinger's retirement.
- E. Mr. Gorecki presided over the election of Chairman. Mr. Sinyard nominated Mr. Gorecki. Mr. Holley seconded and the motion carried. For Vice-chair, Mr. Holley nominated Ali Ikner. Mr. Sinyard seconded and the motion carried.
- F. Ali Ikner introduced Dr. Jamie Ellis, an acclaimed honeybee researcher, filling in for Dr. Suiter for the UGA Urban Entomology update. Dr. Ellis, born and raised in Georgia, has been working in Florida on research on Africanized Honeybees and his understanding of the need for the pest control industry to adapt to changing demand.
- G. Dr. Jamie Ellis provided information on the UGA Bee Program. He noted that his appointment to the position was still new, but he is making great strides in learning Georgia's rules and regulations, getting the office up to speed, and developing updated training. His "2 Bees in a Podcast" was ranked the number one bee podcast in the world and highlights his experience in creating educational materials. The Yellow-legged Hornet (YLH) program will also fall under the UGA Bee Program's purview. He expects to see a lot of changes to the Bee program over the next year and plans to bring on additional extension staff. He asked what stakeholders need from a honey bee perspective. Per Ms. Ikner, there is a significant need for HBR CEUs; Ms. Ikner shared the HBR license page and Dr. Ellis offered himself as a resource.
- H. Ms. Ikner shared department updates. The Certification and Training Program Manager position will be posted soon. There was a slight delay in getting the position posted due to the GDA transitioning to a new HR software. She thanked Tyler Washburn and Kellee Kess for helping to fill the gap in the interim. LeAnna Merritt, Jennifer Pate, and Ali Ikner attended the ASCPRO annual meeting last week. Ms. Ikner recognized Mrs. Merritt for representing the department well as a board member and chair of the ad-hoc committee on door-to-door sales. She also congratulated Jennifer Pate on graduating from the ASCPRO Inspector Training program.
- I. Ms. Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. Modifications to the Structural side of the C&T Plan are complete and will be submitted once the Ag Inputs side is finished. Tyler Washburn has been working on aligning test questions with the new EPA-required competencies. Ms. Ikner also announced that Inspector Kevin Hancock is retiring effective September 1st.

- J. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on SPD field operations. Complaints and tips are up 92% and unlicensed activity reports are up 200% between FY25 and FY26. Fumigation notifications are also up. Staffing levels remain the same, requiring the team to shift focus accordingly. Mrs. Merritt also introduced new inspector Andi Swann, who will be covering the northeast part of the state.
- K. Mr. Tom Stage provided the Enforcement update. SPD has been focused heavily on unlicensed cases this year, involving the GDA's legal services and law enforcement teams to utilize these additional resources, as well as working with companies to bring PURs into compliance. He noted that media outreach may be contributing to the increase in reported cases and that a similar outreach effort on door-to-door sales is being prepared, which may lead to a further influx of unlicensed reports. Attendees were reminded that technicians are required to present their license when asked.
- L. Mrs. Nan Collier gave the Outreach report. She reported that the department is working on outreach materials in preparation for implementation of the new rules. On June 22, 2026, the team held School IPM classes for four 3rd and 4th grade classes at Camp Bartow, reaching 120 students. The Summer Edition of Inside Buzz was published August 8, 2026, featuring intern Sravani Kari and highlighting HBR CEU opportunities, the rule changes, and compliance assistance with pesticide use records. On August 6, 2026, Sadiyyah Hollins and Yancey Barton led a Home IPM Workshop at UGA Griffin for 34 students, and on August 20, 2026, Sadiyyah Hollins and Bailie Taylor are scheduled to speak at a School IPM Workshop at UGA Griffin. Two Termite Workshops are also upcoming at UGA Griffin: Workshop I will take place on September 10–11, and Workshop II will occur on September 24–25. Ali Ikner and LeAnna Merritt will represent the department at the GPCA North GA Fall Conference in Dalton on September 16–17, and the department will also be represented at the GPCA South GA Fall Conference in Tifton on October 8. Mrs. Collier completed her report by announcing her retirement, effective August 31st, after 25 years with the department.
- M. Mr. Gorecki discussed the SPCC Approved Recertification Instructor Qualification. He thanked GPCA's education committee for helping remove redundancies and streamline the process to make it more efficient. Ms. Ikner noted that language has been added to clarify the RCM requirement. This is an existing requirement, but the update helps to clarify expectations. She also thanked Ms. Bradshaw for adding instructional text and reformatting the form. A motion to accept the modifications as presented was made by Kim Bragg and seconded by Dr. Nguyen. The motion carried.
- N. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. He noted that the state will have a new governor and a new lieutenant governor leading the senate, along with many new senators, and that house leadership will play a larger role going forward. The biennial institute for training new legislators will be held January 6–8, offering a good opportunity to meet new faces. The house and senate are both likely to remain Republican-led, though with thinner margins.
- O. Mrs. Faye Golden provided the NPMA update. The Association Impact Meeting will take place on November 17th and 18th in Alexandria, Virginia. This two-day tour will cover structural and EPA fumigation requirements to give legislatures a chance to gain hands-on experience in navigating these regulations. She reported that the Farm Bill did not pass, and unfortunately the language the industry has worked on for years did not make it into the bill. NPMA plans to continue pursuing it next year when negotiations resume. She also highlighted NPMA's

role in providing resources on door-to-door sales at the recent ASCPRO annual meeting. Mrs. Golden concluded her report by announcing the Summit Career University event in Tennessee in March, which includes a show and competition.

- P. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on ASCPRO. The annual meeting was held in Colorado Springs last week and included a discussion with the OPP, updates from OECA/EPD, and productive committee meetings, including a rodenticide committee meeting attended by 64 people. Attendees heard about a predicted 2027 date for revised PIDs from EPD, and speakers covered topics including drones and ESA, including how drones are being used in the structural industry. A door-to-door sales panel was held on the final day, where Georgia's efforts and successful media outreach were highlighted. She also noted that this was the first conference with an increase in the registration fee, and attendance did not decline, reflecting the industry's continued investment in ASCPRO's work. Mr. Gorecki thanked Daniel Headrick, who was on the call, for his comments at the ASCPRO committee meeting on doing door-to-door sales correctly.
- Q. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- R. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all guests in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	Company Applications

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission

Chris Gorecki, Chairman
Ali Ikner, Georgia Department of Agriculture
Dr. "Tiffany" Thuy-Vi Nguyen, Georgia Department of Public Health
Dr. Dan Suiter, University of Georgia
Bodine Sinyard, Adams Exterminators
Greg Holley, Zone Pest Solutions
Kim Bragg, Consumer Affairs & Protection Representative

Agenda

August 18, 2026

Welcome

Open – Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. New member appointments
- b. SFY27 Election of Officers
- c. UGA Urban Entomology Update & UGA Bee Program – Dr. Jamie Ellis
- d. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Ali Ikner
 - Certification & Training – Ali Ikner
 - Compliance – LeAnna Merritt
 - Enforcement – Tom Stage
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- e. Rule Implementation Update
- f. SPCC Approved Recertification Instructor Qualification
- g. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- h. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- i. ASPCRO update – LeAnna Merritt
- j. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- k. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Rentokil North America, Inc. dba Terminix – Gwinnett County – Suboffice License
- Rentokil North America, Inc. dba Terminix – DeKalb County – Suboffice License
- All-American Pest Control LLC – Fulton County – Name Change Only

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Pest Logic – Tennessee – Pending Payment
- Dasher Termite & Pest Control – Effingham County – Pending Insurance
- Flex Pest Solutions – Bryan County – Pending Payment & Insurance
- ProCare – Paulding County – Pending Payment
- ProCare – Gwinnett County
- Any Bug – Cherokee County – Pending Payment
- Resolute Pest Management - Cobb County – Pending Payment & Insurance
- Rentokil North America, Inc. dba Terminix – Fulton County – Pending Insurance
- Rentokil North America, Inc. dba Terminix – Dekalb County – Suboffice License – Pending Insurance
- Rentokil North America, Inc. dba Terminix – Cobb County – Suboffice License – Pending Insurance
- Fidelis Pest Solutions – Pickens County – Pending Payment
- Bullfrog Pest Control, LLC – Walton County – Pending Payment & Insurance
- Apexx Home Services – Gwinnett County – Pending New Name, Payment, & Insurance
- Kingdom Collective Connections LLC. Dba Hives + Honeycombs – Richmond County – Pending Insurance
- Mountain Wildlife and Pest Control, LLC – Tennessee – Pending Payment
- Potts Pest and Wildlife – Newton County – Pending Insurance
- Back in the Box HBR – Alabama – Pending Payment & DCO Signature
- HomeTeam Pest Defense – Florida – Pending DCO Confirmation & Payment
- Jarrod's Pest Control – Muscogee County – Name Change Only – Pending Insurance
- Freedom Pest Solutions – Madison County – Pending Insurance & Payment

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- Clove Pest Control – New York
- ProCare – Gwinnett County
- ProCare – Fayette County