

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

February 9, 2021

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 AM on February 9, 2021, online via Zoom. All Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger, Vice-Chair; Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler, Christy Kuriatnyk, Bodine Sinyard and Kim Bragg.
- 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 Ms. Bragg to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Ms. Kuriatnyk 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. A new semester started last week with in-person and virtual classes. UGA is working on a vaccination distribution list with categories. The new Dean, Dr. Nick Place, will be invited to attend a future SPCC meeting.
- F. Mr. Alex Conti provided the compliance update. Dr. Suiter held a Bedbug workshop on February 4. He will hold a Commercial IPM workshop on February 18 and Termite workshops on March 11-12 and March 25-26. All workshops are at UGA in Griffin. Mr. Conti introduced SPD's new inspector, Ms. Kiara Knight. Ms. Knight will be based in the metro Atlanta area. FY21 Phase 2 inspection priorities are scheduled to wrap up at the end of February. This phase has focused on inspecting companies that have not been inspected in two or more years as well as new companies that have been operating for over one year and have not yet been inspected. Phase 3 will run to the end of FY21 in June. SPD is having an in-person Statewide Inspector Meeting (SWIM) tomorrow with field training in White, GA.
- G. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the certification and training update including license renewal reminders. February 28, 2021 is the training deadline for Registered Employees. Registrations with examination date on or after October 1, 2020 are exempt from the training requirement. Computer-based training (CBT) limits have been waived for Registered Employees for the current renewal period. Mr. Taylor provided the first Authorized Submitter Training on February 4<sup>th</sup> and have processed 1000+ records submitted by Authorized Submitters. The next Authorized Submitter Training will be February 25<sup>th</sup> and will be limited to 20 attendees. Anyone interested in attending the training can apply.
- H. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program update. SPD will hold the first SWIM for the first time in-person in over a year. He recognized C&C Exterminating of White, Georgia for their assistance with the training. Licensing cards will be updated with a new design this year. The GDA Intern Program deadline to register for a Summer Internship is Friday, February 12. Anyone interested should visit the GDA's internship webpage to apply. Mr. Lastinger discussed the Authorized Submitter Policy and training and how to apply. He encouraged anyone interested that meets the minimum qualification to apply and attend the training.

- I. Mr. Gorecki provided an update on the proposed spray foam insulation code amendment that was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the first meeting held on January 27, 2021. DCA assigned the proposal to a sub-committee for review. The Commission will prepare a pre-read document to share with the sub-committee members. The sub-committee will meet on February 23<sup>rd</sup> via Microsoft Teams. Anyone interested in attending the meeting can request the link via email to Derrick Lastinger. It was noted that Commissioner Black sent a letter to the DCA commissioner supporting what the SPCC has proposed to DCA.
- J. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the proposed Honeybee Control and Removal rulemaking process. The written and oral comments have been compiled into 10 discussion topics. Mr. Lastinger shared updates for each topic.
  - 1. Minimum Certification Requirements: the rule needs to define the competency standards and training requirement. SPCC requested that the UGA Beekeeper Program and the Georgia Beekeeper Association (GBA) work together to draft standards for consideration.
  - 2. Waiver to reconstruction requirement (properly seal in the proposed rule): discussed to revise the proper seal requirement or a waiver option when certain conditions exist.
  - 3. Enforcement of non-compliance: there is a current compliance and enforcement requirement in law and regulation that would apply to this rule as it does to the other chapters.
  - 4. Consumer protection and education: GDA current provides consumer outreach and requests that GBA assist with consumer outreach materials and outreach efforts.
  - 5. HPC license exemption: the current rule exempts this license and the commission discussed the licensing process, training requirements, and adding a category to a license.
  - 6. Exemption for trap-outs and free hanging swarms: some situations require a trap-out where a cut-out is not practical. Discussions included several scenarios, exemptions, waivers, and the need for definitions.
  - 7. Exemption for no-fee removals: currently no-fee removals are exempt. SPCC wants to get feedback from the GBA on this topic.
  - 8. Definitions for removal, trap-out, free hanging swarm and structure: SPCC will reach out to GBA and UGA for assistance and references.
  - 9. Removal standards and exemption: the rule currently has standards in place and discussed how it would impact the success of honeybee control and removal.
  - 10. Liability insurance: will apply to this license according to the current law.The SPCC continues to gather information and discussions will continue to finalize the revisions.
- K. Mr. Lastinger discussed a revision to the Authorized Submitter Policy. The revision will limit sponsors to one Authorized Submitter. Motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to approve the revision. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and motion passed. Mr. Tim Taylor is working with the vendor on a solution for a sponsor to allow multiple users.
- L. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. Legislative Day 2021 will be virtual. Georgia has two new senators. More than 25 neonicotinoid and pre-emption bills have been introduced nationwide. U.S. Chamber of Commerce chief executive officer, Tom Donohue, has stepped down. In Georgia, Representatives Thompson and Clark are working on revisions to the

occupational reciprocity license bill for military spouses that was passed last year. Mr. Lastinger noted that Georgia Chairwoman Houston is working with GDA on license fees.  
M. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	New Company Licenses

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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

February 9, 2021

**Open - Chairman Gorecki**

**Minutes**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- a. New Company Applications - Tim Taylor
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates - Derrick Lastinger
  - Compliance - Alex Conti
  - Certification & Training - Tim Taylor
- d. Spray Foam Insulation and proposed building code amendment
- e. Proposed Rule 620-9
- f. Draft CEU Submitter Policy
- g. Legislative update - Lauren Fralick
- 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:

- All South Pest Control – McDonough
- RK Environmental Services, LLC – Westwood NJ
- Pinnacle Pest Solutions, LLC dba Eventide Pest Control – Hilton Head SC

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Buggy Pest Services – Paulding County (insurance)
- Royal Pest Solutions – Fulton County (insurance)
- Moxie Pest Control – Gwinnett County (insurance)
- Spider-Free – Cherokee County (insurance)