

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

June 9, 2020

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:32 AM on June 9, 2020, online via Zoom. All Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki, Chair; Derrick Lastinger, Vice-Chair; Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, Dr. Brian Forschler, Christy Kuriatnk 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 Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the May 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. UGA has developed committees to plan the reopening of campuses in the fall. UGA employees and students will receive 2 washable face masks prior to the reopen. Dr. Forschler shared archived research data from a collection of 5 termite species and their flight times in Georgia. He also encouraged everyone to check out one of Dr. Suiter's upcoming webinars.
- F. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He discussed the 14% state budget cut and how it may affect the department. GDA submitted their plan to the Office of Planning & Budget. GDA will start phase 2 of reopening on Monday, June 15. GDA's Atlanta office is closed to public meetings.
- G. Mr. Alex Conti provided the compliance update. He discussed the SPD Dashboard regarding the COVID-19 Outreach Surveys. 1,024 surveys were completed with 1,013 licensing records updated. Inspectors are still responding to complaints. SPD has seen a 20% increase in complaints from March through June compared to the same time frame last year. As Phase 2 of reopening, SPD started virtual inspections last month and starting to resume in-person inspections. All field staff are equipped and wearing PPE. SPD had the mid-year audit and review with U.S. EPA on May 27. They reviewed work plans, budget, upcoming meetings, conferences, and enforcement activities. Mr. Conti announced that the North Georgia inspector, Brady Payne, recently resigned and that SPD currently has 3 field vacancies.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the certification and training update. He introduced SPD's summer intern, Ali Ikner, a student at ABAC College. He discussed the COVID-19 Temporary Examination Waiver for Registered Employees which GDA received 465 applications. He reminded operators to submit the Pre-examination Training form and to pay the \$10 fee when making application online. Employees that have earned CEUs while temporarily registered will keep those CEUs if they pass the exam by September 30, 2020. 14 of the 33 exam centers have re-opened. A list of open exam centers is posted on SPD's COVID-19 webpage. It is recommended to call the testing center to confirm before scheduling an exam. Applicants that have been approved to take the certification exam can call or email the SPD

office to request that their approval be processed. All applicant approvals will be processed by the end of the month.

- I. The Commission discussed the time period to end new technician applications for the COVID-19 Exam Waiver. Mr. Holley made a motion to set June 30, 2020 as the last day to apply for the COVID-19 Exam Waiver. Ms. Bragg seconded the motion and motion passed. Mr. Lastinger mentioned that this will not affect the employees that have already applied for the waiver and met the requirements.
- J. Mr. Gorecki discussed spray foam insulation activities. The SPCC will have a conversation with the Spray Foam Alliance this afternoon to discuss the details of the proposed building code amendment. Mr. Gorecki recapped stating the SPCC supports a building code change and went before the Building Code Committee in January along with the Spray Foam Alliance. The SPCC and Spray Foam Alliance did not have consensus on the proposal so the two groups are meeting to discuss the differences. An update will be shared at the next SPCC meeting.
- K. Mr. Lastinger discussed the draft language for honeybee removal rule. GDA was asked to draft a rule allowing beekeepers the opportunity to remove honeybees without a structural pest license in household pest control. This language will be sent to the Commission for discussion at the August meeting. The commission's workgroup has been doing research and getting input from beekeepers and other experts to assist with developing the draft language.
- L. Mrs. Laura Fralick provided the Legislative update. Session restarts on June 15 with new protocols upon entering the Capitol building. The focus will be on the budget with a deadline to approve it by June 30th. New legislation is expected to be introduced to assist businesses that are suffering due to the pandemic.
- M. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. EPA has issued an advisory on disinfectant labeling. Mr. Lastinger mentioned that EPA has also issued an advisory on PPE. Mr. Bell shared discussions from SFIREG's virtual meeting. ASPCRO will reschedule their annual meeting to 2021. He discussed bills that have been proposed in Tennessee and Kentucky.
- N. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM. The next SPCC meeting will be August 11.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	New Company Licenses

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Gary W. Black, 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

June 9, 2020

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. U.S. EPA Certification & Training Rule and State Plan
- e. Spray Foam Insulation and proposed building code amendment
- f. Honeybee Removal Language
- g. Legislative update - Lauren Fralick
- h. NPMA update - Rick Bell
- i. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Atwell Services, LLC dba Georgia Bedbug Solutions – McDonough

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- AK Exterminators – Cobb Bounty (insurance)