

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

June 11, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on June 11th, 2024. Commission members present were Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Christy Kuriatnyk, Bodine Sinyard, Kim Bragg, and Dr. Brian Forschler. Chris Gorecki; Chairman, was not available to attend.
- 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 of the March meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He noted that the Entomology department is still struggling with the move to a new building, and discussed the video of the treatment performed at the UGA Marine Institute that is still in the editing phase. The benefits of the video and potential uses were examined. Dr. Forschler also spoke about numerous upcoming opportunities to present Jacob Winkles's Economic Impact study, including the ASCPRO annual conference. He requested that associations share any feedback or plans for further dissemination of this information, and emphasized the financial power that this industry has. Creation of a handout with comparisons of where the pest control industry ranks to other agricultural commodities was also contemplated. Dr. Forschler further discussed a student project concerning carpenter bees which indicates that carpenter bees create habitat for numerous other environmentally important species. Lastly, he highlighted a renewed need to verify infestations of invasive Formosan termites. Several counties in Georgia have reported so far. He asks that member associations report Formosan sightings and be aware of contract variations because of this species.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He noted that all the Structural Pest Division inspectors were present and would be having a statewide inspector training following the meeting today. He also noted the plans to construct a new legislative building, which will temporarily relocate the Department of Agriculture office in Atlanta.
- F. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He expressed gratitude to the Structural Pest Division inspectors, noting their exceptional work to responding to the increasing requests for For-Cause inspections. The number of these inspections has increased further since last month, with over 10 requests since last month's meeting. He noted the majority of cases were related to termite complaints and unlicensed operators, including one case with a confirmed identification of a Formosan termite in Columbus, GA.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. She spoke about a recent meeting with Athens Technical College who are working on small quality of life updates to the testing system that they hope to have updated soon. She also discussed that the Structural Pest Division continues to work with the Legal department on the C&T updates but has now submitted the last set of updates and expects to see some progress with this topic soon. She also reminded everyone that this is not a renewal year, noting that the department has been receiving some inquiries regarding renewal.

- H. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach Report. She detailed the division's recent involvement with Plantlanta State University and presenting the School IPM program. This event worked with several classes and was widely successful. Mrs. Collier also provided details on the recent Butterfly Festival held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center. The Structural Pest Division hosted a booth with Region 4 EPA representatives and Randi Balog of GDA's Plant Protection Division as co-presenters. The event was well attended with an estimated 1,800 visitors over the weekend. She also noted several upcoming events in August, including Derrick Lastinger speaking at the GEHA conference at Lake Lanier, two IPM workshops to be held in Griffin, and upcoming termite workshops.
- I. Ms. Bradshaw also provided details about recent updates to the SPD website, including a Certified Operator information page with an exam application guide, a company license page, and several new webforms. She noted there are more updates planned and anticipates seeing many upgrades to the website in the near future.
- J. Ms. Ikner introduced the Structural Pest Division's summer intern Stefanie Goshko, who has already been instrumental in SPD outreach events and several internal projects.
- K. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- L. Mr. Lastinger gave the update on HBR pre-exam training. He stated that the division continues to work on training for this summer and the division is committed to providing assistance to those interested in hosting training. Ms. Ikner added that the recording is being finalized and once released will be available to be proctored by an extension agent, noting there has been significant enthusiasm in this area. She also conveyed that Dr. Suiter and the GCPA are interested in hosting mock training that would include infesting a void with bees at the UGA Structural Pest Control Training Center for removal training, provided that the SPCC would support a mock removal as credit towards the 3 removal job training requirement. The commission was unanimous in supporting mock training as a means to supplement the requirement, with the caveat that further discussion may be needed pertaining to the portion of the requirements that mock trainings can fulfill. Ms. Ikner will be following up with Dr. Suiter.
- M. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the Yellow-legged Hornet eradication efforts. The Plant Protection division continues to monitor the target area. The Yellow-legged Ledger issue #8 was recently published, noting that 257 new traps have been deployed. The publication also noted a recent nest eradication, and that the department is still hiring part-time employees to assist with eradication efforts at this critical time.
- N. Mr. Lastinger provided an overview of the status of the C&T rule changes. The division expects to receive more information from the legal services department by July. As previously discussed, the planned changes are now considered substantial and will require EPA review before implementation.
- O. Mr. Lastinger noted that Notice 24-04: Termite Monitoring Only has now been posted on the SPCC website in response to the decision on Termitek's monitoring devices.
- P. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. He discussed the recently established Joint Study Committee and offered to share the list of those who have been awarded that study. He detailed the primaries held around the state and highlighted several of the upcoming runoff elections. Mr. Martin also suggested that as a means to get more information out about the industry, organizations may want to consider reaching out to news outlets

providing publications that are hot topics of public interest, such as the Yellow-legged Hornet or the Joro spider, to offer a statement for their next story.

- Q. Mr. Holley provided the NPMA update. He spoke about the success of the Women’s Forum held in Atlanta a couple weeks ago which hosted over 400 attendees. He remarked that the EPA rodenticide proposal has been suspended until the fall and highlighted that the Farm Bill interest in preemption passed in the committee. This helps to ensure that State and Federal levels maintain regulatory authority over local municipalities. He also noted that NPMA will be attending the ASPCRO annual conference to be held in Lexington, KY in August.
- R. Mr. Lastinger closed the meeting with a reminder that there is no commission meeting in July and we will reconvene in the new fiscal year. He expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 June 11th 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

June 11, 2024

Open –Vice Chairman Lastinger

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 24-04: Termite Monitoring Only
- h. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- i. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- j. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Complete Pest Solutions – Acworth, GA; Hall County – Name Change
- Massey Services, Inc. – Chattanooga, TN – Name Change
- Massey Services, Inc. – Knoxville, TN – Name Change
- Meadows Pest Service – Social Circle, GA; Newton County
- Breda Pest Management – Fayetteville, GA; Fayette County
- Luxe Pest – Ooltewah, TN

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- TruNorth Pest Control, LLC – Peachtree City, GA; Fayette County – Pending Insurance
- Lookout Pest Control – Marietta, GA; Cobb County – Pending Verification