

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

May 12, 2020

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:03 AM on May 12, 2020, online via Zoom. The following Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki, Chair; Derrick Lastinger, Vice-Chair; Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, Dr. Brian Forschler 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 Mrs. Bragg to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Dr. Forschler 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. He encouraged everyone to attend Dr. Suiter's upcoming webinars. Research at UGA has ceased until further notice. UGA summer classes will be held online.
- F. Mr. Lastinger and Dr. Forschler spoke about the Asian Giant Hornet. GDA has received many inquiries and put together a webpage with information for the Georgia consumer. The weblink can be found on GDA's homepage. The Commission expressed appreciation and a job well done to GDA and UGA for having resources available.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He discussed the 14% state budget cuts and how it will affect the department. GDA will submit their plan to the Governor's office by next week. Governor Kemp is expected to do a press release at 4:00 today to provide the next steps on moving forward with state agencies and business re-openings. GDA's temporary workplan ends May 15. The SPD program is getting all work completed except for some field work. SPD will not be filling their 3 vacancies at this time due to a hiring freeze.
- H. Mr. Alex Conti provided the compliance update. SPD inspectors are reaching out to their regulated establishments conducting outreach and surveys and letting them know GDA is open and available for guidance. Mr. Conti reviewed some of the survey questions and the responses. Licensing information is reviewed during the outreach activity and 679 licensing records have been updated as part of the project. GDA response to complaints are being handled on a case-by-case basis. In person inspections will go through pre-screenings while others are being postponed or modified. In field routine inspections are currently suspended and some virtual inspection are being conducted. SPD continues to focus time on staff development, training and outreach. Mr. Lastinger explained that the survey information is being tracked in a GDA dashboard and helps the department to make decisions on how to move forward with operations. Mr. Gorecki recognized GDA and SPD on all the work being done to keep the industry working and informed.
- I. Mr. Lastinger discussed the proposed rule for honeybee removal. GDA was asked to draft a rule allowing beekeepers the opportunity to remove honeybees without a structural pest license in household pest control. GDA has a workgroup that has been doing research and

getting input from beekeepers and other experts to assist with developing the draft language. Mr. Lastinger will provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

- J. Mr. Conti shared a complaint that SPD received regarding the falsification of training verification records that happened in March. He reminded instructors and sponsors to follow the requirements in the *Recertification Course Requirements SPCC Policy 13-01*. Mr. Lastinger added that instructors and sponsors of courses are responsible for making sure that attendees are present, engaged and participating in the training course. He also mentioned the new EPA regulations will have more requirements for attendance verification.
- K. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the certification and training update. He spoke about the industry being interactive with training and registering for courses including documentation and communication and doing a great job with sign-in sheets. He discussed the COVID-19 Temporary Examination Waiver for Registered Employees and GDA has received 300 applications in the last six weeks. Mr. Taylor proctored 6 certification exams in the Atlanta office and said that over 100 approved applications are pending to take the exam. Mr. Geoff Barrow with Athens Tech joined the meeting and announced that some testing centers are starting to reopen with limited space and new policies. It is recommended to call the testing center before scheduling an exam. Mr. Lastinger thanked Mr. Barrow for attending the meeting and for his cooperation with the department.
- L. Mr. Lastinger and Mr. Taylor answered questions regarding the Antimicrobial Pest Control (category 37) emergency rule that will end July 21, 2020. The category 37 examination will have to be taken and passed in order to continue offering this service. The Ag Inputs Division is offering limited paper exams for emergency situations in Atlanta.
- M. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the U.S. EPA certification rule. U.S. EPA has the Georgia plan under review. SPD has a meeting with U.S. EPA today regarding potential modifications. Mr. Taylor put together a document showing comparisons of U.S. EPA requirements and the current state regulations for uncertified applicators. The Commission will review document.
- N. Mr. Gorecki discussed spray foam insulation activities. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) meeting and vote set for May 14th was cancelled. The Commission invited the Spray Foam Alliance to meet and discuss the details of the proposed building code amendment. The time and location are to be determined.
- O. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. Clemson University is working on an urban entomology endowment proposal. NPMA is working with American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) and Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) regarding training moving forward. He mentioned Georgia is leading the way and that many states are looking at Georgia for guidance. The 14% budget cut must be approved by July 1 and the general assembly will reconvene on June 11.
- P. The Commission wrapped up their discussions with the following: Mr. Sinyard spoke about the proposed bills (HB914 & SB316) for military licensing protocols. The next SPCC meeting will be June 9 at 10:30 AM and the location is to be determined. The Commission answered questions from attendees and approved certification applications. Applicants that didn't get approved will be notified so that they may re-apply. Approved applicants will receive their approvals when testing centers reopen, but are advised to call the SPD office if approval is needed before receiving a notification.
- Q. Meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.

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

May 12, 2020

Open - Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. New Company Applications – Tim Taylor
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Asian Giant Hornet
- d. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
 - COVID-19 Related Outreach/Survey
 - Compliance – Alex Conti
 - Certification & Training – Tim Taylor
- e. U.S. EPA Certification & Training Rule and State Plan
- f. Spray Foam Insulation and proposed building code amendment
- 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 pending additional information:

- Platinum Pest Management LLC – Gwinnett County (name change)
- West Metro Pest Control – Carroll County (insurance)
- Divergent Pest Management – Bartow County (insurance)
- North Georgia Pest Pro – Bartow County (insurance)
- Farm 2 Fork Pest Services LLC – Etowah County, AL (research fee)