

**MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA  
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY 9, 2023**

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. via zoom conference on May 9, 2023. The following Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Kim Bragg, Greg Holley; Dr. Brian Forschler and Bodine Sinyard.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA representatives, EPA, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. Motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bragg and the motion passed.
- D. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- E. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA update. He is looking forward to the commencement ceremonies for this year. He announced the news of the endowment provided by Rollings to the Orkin professorship and Urban Entomology and congratulated Dr. Dan Suiter as the first recipient of this prestigious recognition. He invited the Commission to send a congratulatory email to Dr. Suiter. He provided an update regarding the work of his graduate student's economic impact survey and report. This work may be of use to move forward discussions with state legislators and may establish a road map to highlight the economic impact the industry has in Georgia. Dr. Forschler discussed an area of psychology, related to the subject of cognitive learning, and shared a homework assignment for undergraduate entomology course related to the Power of Language in the Public Perception and Thinking about Insects.
- F. Mr. Lastinger discussed the April Commission meeting. At this meeting, Commissioner Harper met with the Commission and he and his team joined for the Port of Savannah tour. Also, GDA hosted a meeting last month with Region IV states to discuss state related FIFRA issues. The next meeting is scheduled for the month of June. Mr. Lastinger introduced Mr. Carlos Caraballo-Parrilla to the Commission as a new team member of the Division in the role of office support.
- G. Mr. Tim Taylor provided an update on the Compliance and Enforcement Program. He shared with the Commission an investigation involving an individual that attempted to bribe a technical college examination proctor. Tim asked the Commission for enforcement guidance since the incident could be considered under the current cheating policy. This opened a discussion on how to enforce similar cases, Mr. Sinyard stated that even if this is not included in the Cheating Policy, it can be considered an indirect form of cheating. This subject was tabled for the next Commission meeting to consider an update to the current policy.
- H. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the certification and training update. She spoke about the outreach efforts that were conducted to get updated insurance from companies that had expired policies on file. Prior to the outreach, nearly half of all currently licensed companies had

**MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA  
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY 9, 2023**

expired insurance on file but the number was reduced to approximately four hundred. Company licenses cannot be renewed unless the Department has current insurance verification. She also brought before the Commission that historically the Division has honored general exam scores for one year, though the rules state that all requirements for certification must be completed within ninety days of notification of passing an exam or reexamination is required. The Commission was asked to consider if they would like to amend the policy and discuss further at a future meeting.

- I. Ms. Ikner shared about a recent school IMP lesson, which is a part of the Region 4 EPA IPM Grant the Department was awarded. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, LeAnna Merritt, Sadiyyah Hollins and Ms. Ikner presented the lesson to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade agriculture classes at Northwest Laurens Elementary School. It was highlighted on the front page of the May 17<sup>th</sup> issue of the Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin.
- J. Mrs. Nan Collier provided an update on the outreach program and highlighted the work of the field inspectors taking part in these events. Mrs. Collier shared the next outreach event, at the Chattahoochee Nature Center's Annual Butterfly Festival, scheduled for June 3-4, 2023.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the Business Name Policy, Notice 17-01. The commission discussed and considered adding "Removal, Termite(s) and Bees" to those names considered not distinguishable under this rule. A motion was made by Greg Holley to amend the policy. Kim Bragg seconded the motion and motion passed.
- L. Mr. Lastinger provided updates on Notice 14-03 Compliance Fact Sheet for new companies. This fact sheet is a great resource for new companies. A motion was made by Kim Bragg to accept the updates. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and motion passed.
- M. Mr. Lastinger discussed a recent trend with untrained and unregistered pest control technicians. GDA is currently investigating several incidents of companies operating untrained and unregistered technicians involved in the solicitation and sale of pest control services. It was suggested to provide consumer alerts during GDA outreach events for consumers to raise public awareness.
- N. Mr. Tripp Martin provided the Legislative update. He provided an update on HB 528 and the exemption for GDA regulated services. The bill places another layer of consumer restrictions to renew contracts and services. He provided an update on the presidential primary that was moved to Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- O. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He discussed President Biden's new Office of Environmental Justice to coordinate federal activities. He provided an update on the new Farm Bill 2023 and pesticide pre-emption language.
- P. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance and welcomed Carlos to the team. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA  
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY 9, 2023

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	Company License Applications

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Chris Gorecki, Chairman

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Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA  
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**ATTACHEMENT I**

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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**

May 9, 2023

**Open - Vice Chairman Lastinger**

**Minutes**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- a. New Company Applications - Ali Ikner
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update & Research Reports - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates - Derrick Lastinger
  - Compliance/Enforcement - Tim Taylor
  - Certification & Training -Ali Ikner
  - Outreach - Nan Collier
- d. License Renewal 2023-2025
- e. Notice 17-01 Business Naming Policy
- f. Notice 17-03 State Inspections
- g. Employee Registration and soliciting business
- h. Legislative update - Trip Martin
- i. NPMA update - Rick Bell
- j. Certification Examination Application Review

**Adjournment**

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MAY 9, 2023

**ATTACHMENT 2**

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**Company License Applications**

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Arrow Exterminators – Eatonton
- Diamond Hill Bee Company - Gillsville
- Sonnie' s Bees - Hoschton

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Mayday Exterminator – Florida (Name Change)

The Commission approved the following name change applications.

- Atlanta Metro Pest & Mosquito Control to Atlanta Metro Lawn Service, LLC
- TNT Pest Control and Consulting LLC to TNT Pest Control and Consulting LLC DBA TNT Pest Control