

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

October 8, 2024

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:01 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Kim Bragg, Bodine Sinyard, Christy Kuriatnyk, and Dr. Brian Forschler.
- 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 September meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. The SPD and the lab have successfully completed moving into their new spaces. Recently, an article was published in the Market Bulletin which aimed at raising public awareness on how termite treatments can be affected after a major weather event such as Hurricane Debby. Due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene, the state operations center is now in full activation status and is also responding to the BioLab incident in Rockdale County. SPD sent out an email notification with details on how to report damages to the Hurricane Helene GDA webpage. The GDA Emergency Management Division has ongoing efforts to coordinate animal shelter evacuees due to the threat of Hurricane Milton. Mr. Lastinger also discussed the Georgia Grown building at the Georgia National Fair, which provides outreach for the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the many industries that it helps to support.
- E. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach Report. SPD hosted a compliance outreach booth at the recent GPCA Conference in Dalton, GA. Ali Ikner, Sadiyyah Hollins, and Nan Collier hosted discussions on licensing, routine company inspections, and common non-compliance issues which sparked many good questions and conversations with the attendees. The second Termite workshop was held shortly afterwards at the UGA Griffin Campus on Sept 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> with over 30 participants. Also, at the UGA Griffin Campus, was the CPCO Fall Conference on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. SPD hosted a compliance outreach booth, Tim Taylor provided a WDO class on compliance, and Eric Robinson provided a class on termite equipment techniques and spill containment. The Georgia National Fair is also well underway. This year there were 3 School IPM courses presented in the Georgia Grown Schoolhouse taught by Eric Robinson and Yancey Barton. The SPD annually helps to support the GDA's mission by assisting in the Georgia Grown Baby Barn. Our team helps to plan and organize aspects of the Schoolhouse and Baby Barn as well as providing boots on the ground to help clean and care for the animals. Just days following the conclusion of the Georgia National Fair, the SPD team will be hosting a compliance outreach booth at the GPCA Fall Conference in Macon on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Presentations on WDO and Vehicle Inspections will be given by SPD staff members. Wrapping up the month of October will be the Annual Ray Day Celebration at Serenbe on October 20<sup>th</sup> where SPD staff will host an outreach booth telling the GDA story while also discussing the importance of hiring licensed pest control companies for their pest management needs, pesticide safety, and importance of proper pest identification.

- F. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He noted that the department is now focusing on routine compliance inspections for companies that have not been inspected in the past 18 to 24 months. As a general reminder companies may also request compliance inspections at any time. He also noted that the department is working to be sensitive to those in hurricane affected areas.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. The licensing division is now settled into their new space and has worked through the backlog of license printing created by the pause in operations necessary for the move. We have been advised however that mail delays are expected due to hurricane damages causing disruptions. Ms. Ikner also announced that the renewal portal for courses is set to open online in November. She also reiterated that we are no longer able to accept applications in person at our new location. Mr. Lastinger further asked that the associations help to get this information out to the industry.
- H. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- I. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. There is an official dedication for the new building being held soon, and everyone will have the opportunity to visit in January when the SPCC meeting is hosted at the Chapel nearby. The research update will be coming in the new year with a focus on emerging issues. Dr. Forschler asked if anyone has a pressing entomological issue that research could help answer we welcome those suggestions. Rick Bell asked about how Joro spiders may be affecting other insect populations in the state, to which Dr. Forschler stated that the current research is not indicating that they are having a significant impact on other spider populations.
- J. Mr. Gorecki discussed the suggested changes to Notice 18-05: Employee Registration Fact Sheet and Notice 18-01: Pre-Examination Training Form. He specified that these changes did not involve modifications to the existing requirements, but rather were adjustments to the form and instructions to help provide clarity and improve compliance when filling out this form. A motion was made by Mr. Holley to approve the updates to notices 18-01 and 18-05, Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- K. Mr. Gorecki also spoke about specific licensing requirements pertaining to treatments for mosquitos and Joro spiders. To reiterate a clarification that was made at the August meeting, treating for Joro spiders requires an HPC license. Those holding a category 41 mosquito license only are not licensed to treat for Joro spiders. Category 41 licenses are pest specific and only license the treatment of mosquitos. As this point was clarified in the August 2024 meeting minutes, any service records for those holding a category 41 license that listed Joro Spiders as a target pest would be reviewed with the understanding that this issue was not clarified until that time.
- L. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. He stated that they are currently following the joint committee on licensing which has an upcoming meeting in Statesboro on October 18<sup>th</sup>. He also noted that they have been following up on comments from the Hurricane and the chemical explosion as they come about.
- M. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He emphasized how expansive the list of license categories that the joint committee is covering and thanked Mr. Martin for his continued vigilance. Bonnie Rabe, Faye Golden, and Mr. Bell had attended the NASDA meeting along with Commissioner Harper a few weeks ago. He enjoyed the opportunity to meet with everyone and felt it was very productive, however Mr. Bell noted that based on the discussions had at that meeting that a continuing resolution will be issued for the Farm Bill.

Mr. Lastinger provided some insights to his experience visiting with Georgia legislative staff with NPMA discussing Georgia’s pesticide laws and regulation. Pest World, NPMA’s national meeting, is being held in Denver in couple of weeks. Mr. Bell expects PFAS to be a topic of discussion and anticipates more involvement with the EPA to come in the near future. Mr. Bell then spoke about efforts by the NPMA’s Critical Issues Workgroup to encourage the EPA to work with rodenticide manufactures to limit sales to licensed professionals to help reduce consumer misuse. Mr. Gorecki encouraged all in the industry to get involved with the NPMA, stressing how many of these national topics have the potential to significantly impact the industry.

- N. Mrs. Glenda Lehmborg introduced Amanda Johnson who joined the GPCA team this week, she will be working closely with the SPD on training.
- O. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:03am.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1	October 8 <sup>th</sup> GSPCC Agenda
Attachment 2	Company License Applications

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Chris Gorecki, Chairman

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Commissioner Tyler Harper, 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

October 8, 2024

**Open** –Chairman Gorecki

#### **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. Notice 18-01 Pre-Exam Training Form and 18-05 Employee Registration Revisions
- e. GDA Emergency Management Updates
- f. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- g. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- h. Certification Examination Application Review

#### **Adjournment**

## ATTACHMENT 2

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### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Reeves Pest Management LLC – Stone Mountain, GA; Dekalb County
- Northwest Exterminating Company LLC DBA Enviroguard Pest Solutions – Ringgold, GA; Catoosa County – Name Change
- Nextgen Pest Solutions – Blairsville, GA; Union County – Sub-Office
- Bioicare Pest Control LLC – Duluth, GA; Gwinnett County

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Peskey Solutions LLC – Midway, GA; Liberty County – Pending Insurance
- Twin Services Pest Control – Cleveland, GA; White County – Pending phone number and insurance
- Multifamily Pest Control LLC – Acworth, GA; Cherokee County – Pending Insurance

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- Signal Mountain Pest Control – Signal Mountain, TN – Needs valid DCO, insurance, signature, and email address