

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

December 12, 2023

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom on December 12, 2023. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler, Bodine Sinyard, Christy Kuriatnyk, and Kim Bragg.
- 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. Greg Holley to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Mr. Bodine Sinyard seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- E. Mr. Rick Bell requested to provide the NPMA update earlier in the agenda and the commission allowed the request. Mr. Rick Bell expressed frustrations with the NPMA's needs on the national front in working with the EPA. He discussed the draft decision on Rodenticides and the industry's intent to request a 60-day extension on the EPA's comment period. Concerns in the draft decision include a restrictive five-foot rule on bait station placement from a structure and carcass search and disposal on the biological evaluation. Mr. Rick Bell further discussed the one-year continuing extension of the Farm Bill. Representatives from NPMA in Georgia have been convening with Senator Warnock's staff. In their discussions they have found that changing their word usage from "preemption" to "state enforcement" has helped to ease some confusion in discussions. He completed the NPMA update by discussing the Vulnerable Species Pilot Project which is currently being evaluated by EPA and US FWS. Of particular note, small scale mosquito application work has been removed from consideration.
- F. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. He stated UGA is nearing the end of the semester. Dr. Forschler discussed his meeting with the dean and the dean's associates on the topic of Jacob's economic analysis, which is currently in the peer review process, being included in the Farm Gate values. The dean and his associates expressed interest; however, it is unlikely that this research will be included in this year's Farm Gate Values. Dr. Forschler discussed exploring other avenues to better exhibit the impact that the pest management industry has on agriculture economics in the state of Georgia and the role we play in regulatory oversight as a partnership to the agriculture industry. He further explained that while the peer review process may not be completed prior to the January meeting, Jacob is slated to speak in the student session on his research. Mr. Chris Gorecki will be arranging a separate meeting to discuss potential ways in which the information from the research project can be shared.
- G. Mr. Trip Martin provided the legislative update. The special session is now in, redistricting is a hot topic of debate, and the congressional district maps are currently being reviewed by Judge Jones. The Wild Hog Dinner will be held on the 7th. The session will begin next year on

January 8th. The Red Tape Rollback bill will be introduced in the 2024 Legislative session. Additionally, a major Tort reform bill is also coming through to help improve trial lawyer rank. We are also coming into a national election year and will have new members in new districts.

- H. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. We have some new changes in staffing at the GDA; Natalie Adan is the new Deputy Director of Operations, Craig Nelson is the new Division Director of Food Safety, and Bailey Whiten is the new Division Director of Agricultural Inputs. GDA has also announced its summer internship program, which was featured in the December 13th issue of the Market Bulletin.
- I. Mr. Lastinger also attended SFIREG last week, where states in the region gather to discuss issues with EPA leadership officials. Two major topics of discussion were the draft decision on Rodenticides that was released around Thanksgiving, and the Biological decision. Mr. Lastinger expressed that the division would encourage pertinent organizations and individuals to coordinate to provide public comment during the 60-day comment period. The commission and attendees also discussed other concerns in the Rodenticide draft, including the definition of a structure, carcass disposal, the five-foot rule, personal protective equipment, and any other concerns. Mr. Rick Bell will share when the NPMA is commenting and will provide a list of key topics to help organizations target key concerns. ASPCRO representatives also expressed concerns with the Endangered Species pilot and difficulties in training regulators. Mr. Lastinger closed out the discussion by informing the commission of Steve Dwinell becoming the new SFIREG chair in 2024 and of the abundant experience Steve brings to that role.
- J. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. Mr. Taylor provided a detailed breakdown of figures for inspections and types of violations. He informed the commission he is in the process of updating a guidance document based on the most common violations. The commission discussed the information presented by Mr. Taylor and requested to see a larger sampling of data to better understand the trend from year to year.
- K. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt updated the commission on the statewide inspector meeting being held this week and running concurrently with the commission meeting. She expressed appreciation for the commission's hard work and collectively introduced the state inspectors attending the meeting.
- L. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. The renewal portal is now available for 2024 course renewals. There will be an authorized submitter training on December 20th at 1:45 pm. Ms. Ikner also discussed the GPCA's Virtual HBR Training which they would like to host in 2024. The GPCA would like board approval to conduct a fully virtual training. Mr. Greg Holley motioned to approve the request, Mrs. Kim Bragg seconded, and the motion passed.
- M. Ms. Ali Ikner also detailed Daryl Rosier's request for an exception to the registration technician retesting rule. The commission discussed the details of Mr. Rosier's request and after careful consideration made the decision to deny the request. The commission may look more closely at strengthening the rule and processes to improve service to registered employees.
- N. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach update. She highlighted the compliance assistance that our inspectors provide and voiced appreciation for their hard work. The Structural Pest

Division is planning on having a booth at the GPCA winter conference in January. The division is also set to convene a 2024 planning meeting to delineate goals and identify avenues for growth. Looking ahead at upcoming training, there are two workshops coming up in February at the UGA Griffin Campus: Bedbug workshop on Feb 1, 2024, and the Home IPM workshop on Feb 15, 2024. Two termite workshops have also been planned for March.

- O. Mr. Lastinger gave an update on the Yellow-legged Hornet and current eradication efforts. A Yellow-legged Hornet has been officially confirmed in South Carolina. South Carolina has actively participated in monitoring and responding to the situation; however, with this official confirmation, the state is now fully committed to the eradication response.
- P. Mr. Lastinger provided the update on Notice 17-01. The newly approved notice has now been made available on the SPCC website.
- Q. Mr. Lastinger also provided the update on the Athens Technical College meeting and MOA. The MOA has now been signed and Dr. Daniels will be presenting at the January Commission meeting. Athens Technical College is also currently working on making the online prep course for the registration exam more prevalent based on the comments received from the previous SPCC meeting.
- R. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the C&T plan update. The GDA legal department has drafted language for the first three rule changes, and she will be meeting with them again next week to review their progress thus far.
- S. Dr. Forschler discussed the upcoming January Meeting. The tentative Winter Conference agenda has been distributed. He requested that anyone needing audio or visual set up for presentations contact him prior to the new year. He further encouraged anyone with questions concerning the upcoming meeting to reach out.
- T. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 11:38am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	December 12 th 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

December 12, 2023

Open –Chairman Gorecki

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. Yellow legged hornet Response Update
- e. HBR training & experience requirement activity
- f. Notice 17-01 Business Naming update
- g. Athens Technical College Meeting and MOA
- h. C&T Plan and Update
- i. January meeting
- j. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- k. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- l. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Sting Like a Bee - Bee Removal – Marietta, GA - Name Change Approved
- Sinclair Pest Solutions – Milledgeville, GA - Approved
- Rocket Pest Control – Gainesville, GA - Name Change Approved

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Next Level Pest Control – Epworth, GA - Pending Insurance
- PURCOR Pest Solutions – Columbus, GA - Pending Contact Details
- Ivan John’s Pest Solutions – Chamblee, GA - Pending Payment
- Innovate Pest Services – Grovetown, GA - Pending Insurance
- Spider Busters LLC – Lake Ozark, MO - Pending Name Change
- Rocket Pest Control – Loganville, GA - Name Change Approved/Pending Insurance
- Rocket Pest Control – McDonough, GA - Name Change Approved/Pending Insurance
- Rocket Pest Control – Marietta, GA - Name Change Approved/Pending Insurance
- Rocket Pest Control – Martinez, GA - Name Change Approved/Pending Insurance
- Rocket Pest Control – Perry, GA - Name Change Approved/Pending Insurance