

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

April 11, 2023

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Georgia Port Authority Administrative Building located in Garden City on April 11, 2023. All Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Kim Bragg, Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler, Bodine Sinyard, and Christy Kuriatnyk.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Port Authority, EPA OIG, Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA representatives, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. Mr. Gorecki opened the meeting with an appreciation to Mr. Sinyard and the Georgia Port Authority for hosting today's meeting.
- D. A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- E. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- F. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Entomology Update. Dr. Suiter's Spring workshop series has wrapped up. Dr. Forschler encourages attendance on the pest management webinars and to visit the UGA Extension website for additional information. Data collection from the Economic Impact Survey is expected to be final this Fall. The student working on the project will graduate in December.
- G. U.S. Customs and Border Protection representatives Chief Milton King and Corey Lash spoke about pest control concerns on the port and on vessels. USDA is required to issue an action plan for international pests like the Africanized Honeybees, making the process to control or exterminate them troublesome. CBP can determine the action for local pests and asked for advice on how to find licensed pest control companies and honeybee operators. Mr. Gorecki explained the difference between HPC and HBR licenses. Ms. Ali Ikner will show Chief Lash how to navigate the structural pest control license online database.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the certification and training update. He spoke about a pre-test and post-test that was implemented in the Spring termite workshops and how these tests are used to determine which topics need more attention for future workshops. Mr. Taylor reported the most frequent violations found during routine inspections were missing license numbers and method of application. The most frequent violation found during for-cause inspections was specific area treated and wood-to-ground contact.
- I. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the certification and training update. EPA Region 4 has approved the new C&T plan. She recapped the timeline of events since the 2017 announcement and will share a report with the Commission next month of the rules requiring a change. States will have an implementation timeline of 5 years to be in compliance. Ms. Ikner provided renewal reminders and encourages companies to check their insurance expiration dates through online company profiles. Send insurance documents via email to

insurance@agr.georgia.gov. Renewal notices will be sent via email mid-May. Renewal reminders will go out in the mail in June. The renewal deadline to avoid late fees is June 30. The next Honeybee Control and Removal training will be June 8 and will be available at multiple locations. Locations will be announced closer to the date.

- J. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt and Ms. Ikner provided an update on outreach activities. The most recent edition of The Inside Buzz went out last week and included an article by Commissioner Tyler Harper. Structural Pest inspectors attended School IPM Project training. Mr. Tim Taylor and Mr. Eric Robinson provided a pest lesson to an elementary class and received positive feedback from the students and their parents. The next lesson is planned for next week. Mr. Lastinger mentioned the benefits of teaching students about the Department of Agriculture during the School IPM lessons. Mrs. Merritt recognized the SPD inspectors that participated in the Spring workshops and shared the dates for the Fall workshops. Home IPM Workshop is August 3. School IPM Workshop is August 17. Termite Workshop 1 is August 31 and September 1. Termite Workshop 2 is September 14-15. The Chattahoochee Nature Center Butterfly Festival will be June 4-5. Mrs. Merritt asked the Commission members to share any outreach ideas they may have with SPD staff.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. Commissioner Tyler Harper, Inspector General Harlan Proveaux, and Deputy Inspector Dominic Lariccia joined the Commission members for a tour of the Port of Savannah. GDA will host the Region 4 Pre-SFIREG meeting this week in Chatham County. This regional meeting provides a platform for Region 4 states to meet with EPA to discuss FIFRA program related issues. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the Augusta Tech apprenticeship program and stated that there has not been any interest. Mrs. Bragg will reach out to Augusta Tech for more information. Mr. Lastinger and Mrs. Merritt walked through some revisions to the New Company Compliance Fact Sheet. Revisions include links to the new website, verbiage update from violation to non-compliance, and additional guidance on Compliance Assistance Inspections. Mr. Gorecki made recommendations to the fact sheet. A revised draft will be shared at the next meeting. Mr. Lastinger and his team recently met with the GPCA and CPCO Board members to discuss how-to resources for new companies.
- L. Mrs. Kuriatnyk provided a Public Health update. The organizers of the Healthy Homes Conference are interested in including a track of educational classes offering CEUs at their next conference. Details will be discussed at a later meeting.
- M. Mr. Gorecki introduced the Inspector General for EPA, Michael Sparks. Mr. Sparks expressed his appreciation to the Commission for the meeting invitation. He spoke about his work with EPA's Office of Investigations and the work he does with the Georgia Port Authority, and more specifically with illegal and fraudulent pesticides coming into the United States. He encourages the industry to report suspicious findings and if you see something, say something.
- N. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on EPA's proposed new mitigation measures for rodenticides. The ASPCRO rodenticide committee met last week and discussed public health safety and the concerns if this proposal to reclassify rodenticides as restricted use becomes final.
- O. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on EPA's revised language regarding early mitigation for sulfurly fluoride. ASPCRO's fumigation workgroup recently met to discuss this topic and the

concerns with clearance devices, efficacy monitoring requirements, and the California Aeration Plan (CAP). The final decision is expected to be announced in June.

- P. Mr. Lastinger introduced GDA's Chief Information Officer and Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. William Rutherford. Mr. Rutherford gave a presentation on GDA's Emergency Response efforts, including how GIS is used to support the department's compliance and licensing programs. GIS is integrated hardware and software that uses maps from multiple perspectives using static analysis. He shared how data was collected and used for Hurricane Michael and the Farm Recovery Block Grant, tracking Avian Influenza, and the recent tornados that hit the state.
- Q. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He started by complimenting GDA on the recent edition of the Inside Buzz and article from Commissioner Tyler Harper. Preemption and rodenticides were the focus of discussions at NPMA's Legislative Day.
- R. Mr. Rick Bell provided the Legislative update. SB145 titled the LEAF Act was passed preventing local municipalities from putting an ordinance on gas blowers. HB528 passed requiring annual contract renewals to be conducted over the phone or in person. GDA is not affected by this due to the rules and regulations already in place. The SPCC and Georgialink worked together to make this exemption happen.
- S. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	April 11 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

April 11, 2023

Open - Chairman Gorecki

Welcome Remarks - James McCurry, Jr., Georgia Ports Authority

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. EPA Proposed New Mitigation Measures for Rodenticides
- e. Sulfuryl fluoride revised draft early mitigation
- f. GDA Emergency Response - William Rutherford
- g. Legislative update - Trip Martin
- h. NPMA update - Rick Bell
- i. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Milton Honey Farm LLC – Milton
- Georgia Bee Rescue – Albany
- Family Mosquito & Pest – Woodstock
- Axiom Pest Solutions – Brunswick
- EZ-Pest Solutions – Canton
- Pest Master – location?

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Partners Pest Solutions – Fulton County (insurance, research fee)
- MissQuito – Cobb County (DCO, insurance)
- Breda Pest Management Inc – Fulton County (insurance)
- Stinger Bee Removal – Franklin County (new name, insurance)

The Commission approved the following name change applications pending additional information:

- Varsity Termite and Pest (100502) to Pest Ninja (insurance)