

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

March 19, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:05 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on March 19th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Christy Kuriatnyk, Bodine Sinyard, 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 Mrs. Kuriatnyk to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Mrs. Faye Golden provided the NPMA update. The NPMA Legislative Day was a great success, with more than 400 attendees on Capitol Hill. Members met with Representative Hank Johnson, Representative Andrew Clyde, and Senator Raphael Warnock to further the discussion on including state level pesticide preemption in the Farm Bill. NPMA has also launched a one-page document that combines the comments of over 200 organizations, including members of the regulatory community to aid in ongoing conversations regarding preemption. ASPCRO has requested NPMA formulate questions for their survey of SLAs, focusing on the implementation of each state's new C&T plan. This survey is expected to be distributed possibly late spring/early summer. NPMA & EPA went to Colorado at the end of last month for a rodent tour, participating in the day in the life of a technician. NPMA will be hosting this field trip in the DC Area in April as well.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. The Georgia Department of Agriculture had a celebration at the State Capitol for their 150th year anniversary on Feb. 28th. The department will continue to commemorate its 150th anniversary until the end of this year. The GDA social media team has been pushing information out on hiring certified pest management professionals. An article written by Ms. Bradshaw concerning termite swarming and the services the SPD provides was also published in the Market Bulletin. Mr. Lastinger also discussed a critical role that has recently been filled in the Ag. Inputs Division, Christopher Whatley Jr. is now the new Pesticide Registration Assistant. Mr. Lastinger also detailed a recent contact from the USDA regarding a US Biologic product that seeks to control Lyme Disease through an oral vaccine ingested by rodents via baiting. This product is currently in use in the Northeastern United States and is provided by the pest control industry. Mr. Lastinger and other representatives from relevant divisions in the GDA will be meeting with US Biologic to determine how this product will be regulated in Georgia.
- F. Ms. LeAnna Merritt provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. A statewide inspector training (SWIM) was conducted in February. Inspectors heard from industry professionals and speakers on topics that included termite treatments, wood decaying fungi, volume calculations, and more while also participating in hands-on training. At the UGA Griffin Training Center, a new example wall has been constructed to be used as a visual aid in wall cavity foaming demonstrations. Ms. Merritt also discussed the recent injunction issued by the Attorney General for an unlicensed operator; should this person attempt to perform pest control services in the state of Georgia again they may face jail time.

- G. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. SPD continues to work with the Legal Department on C&T rule change updates; however, the focus is temporarily shifting to proceeding with necessary changes with plans to revisit the supervision issues subsequently. Ms. Ikner also detailed the progress on the CEU updates from the GPCA Winter Conference. These uploads are still in progress and are being loaded in blocks, meaning that CEU recipients may expect to see only a portion of their hours at present while these are still being uploaded. Ms. Ikner also announced an Authorized Submitter training will be scheduled soon, and anyone who would like to sign up is encouraged to reach out.
- H. Ms. Ali Ikner also provided the Outreach Report. The first Termite Workshop of the year was held on March 7th and 8th, and the second one will be held later this week. The workshop remains very popular with only a few slots still open. Mr. Tim Taylor and several SPD staff are also presenting the School IPM program to several elementary school classes this week. Additionally, the School IPM Workshop for school pest control facility administrations has received so many submissions that a second workshop is now being scheduled.
- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Ms. Ikner provided the update on the HBR Training. SPD has received two applications to provide pre-exam training for HBR Training. One of these applicants is a certified instructor, however they are not certified in the HBR category. Ms. Ikner asked if pursuant to the rules if the Commission would deem this person as competent to deliver this training. After discussion the Commission remained undecided and would like more information before considering the applicant for approval. Ms. Ikner will be following up with the applicant to obtain further information.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided a recap of the status of the C&T rulemaking changes.
- L. Mr. Lastinger explained the edits to Notice 14-08 Under-Floor Space Ventilation Fact Sheet. A motion to approve the updated fact sheet was made by Mrs. Bragg, the motion was seconded by Mr. Sinyard and the motion passed.
- M. Mr. Gorecki discussed the TermiTek system proposed for use in Georgia with Mr. Allen Fugler Jr. who was present at the meeting. Mr. Gorecki stated the commission would be verifying that no rule changes are required and clarifying the process following a detection in the proposed TermiTek system. Mr. Gorecki and Mr. Lastinger will be meeting between now and the April SPCC meeting to discuss.
- N. Mr. Lastinger provided the update on the April SPCC meeting. This meeting will be held at Georgia Department of Agriculture in room 201, public notices have been posted.
- O. Ms. Shalamar Parham provided the Legislative update. The legislative session is nearing its close. She discussed HB1096, Dale Washburn's bill, currently under consideration in the Senate. The bill aims to establish a continuing education tracking system to ensure regulatory compliance. Ms. Parham suggested that renewals may be contingent upon verification of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through this tracking system. Mrs. Bragg volunteered to follow up to ascertain this Bill's potential relevance to the industry. Ms. Parham also addressed the upcoming election season, noting the primary election scheduled for May 21st. She shared that a list of incumbents is available, and that 12 house members will not seek re-election.
- P. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 11:01am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 March 19th 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

March 19, 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. HBR training
- e. Rulemaking
- f. Notice 14-08 Under-floor space ventilation fact sheet
- g. TermiTek System
- h. April Meeting
- i. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- j. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- k. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Peachtree Pest Control – Hiram, GA – Name Change Approved
- Duncan Exterminating – Gainesville, GA – Name Change Approved
- Duncan Exterminating – Dawsonville, GA – Name Change Approved

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Mosquito Joe – Oxford, GA – Approved pending insurance
- Critter Control of Brunswick – St. Simons Island, GA – Approved pending verification of existing business affiliation
- Bravo Team Pest and Lawn Management – Approved pending insurance, fees, and contact email

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- ASAP Pest & Wildlife Removal – Name Change