

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

November 14, 2023

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:02 a.m. at the Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building on November 14, 2023. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler, Christy Kuriatnyk, and Kim Bragg. Bodine Sinyard attended as well via teleconference.
- 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 October meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Mr. Lastinger provided an update in regards the PSSI appeal under Notice 17-01. After complete review the Commission did not approve the request for an exception and will instead follow the policy requiring a one year re-examination waiting period.
- E. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- F. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. He distributed information pertaining to the January meeting to be held at the UGA Athens Campus and noted that a pdf version would be sent out for electronic distribution at a later date. He also recommended anyone in need of CEU's or additional training check the UGA extension website for Structural Pest Management for upcoming webinars and CEU opportunities. Dr. Forschler detailed student Jacob Winkles master's work and stated he would be able to provide further updates regarding the upcoming publication on the economics of the pest management industry at the January SPCC meeting. Dr. Forschler would like to then pursue this information's inclusion with the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development's Farm Gate Value Reports. He requested that if anyone is able to provide any additional current or historical information on the economics of the pest management industry in the state of Georgia to please reach out.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He stated there are a couple of upcoming changes in leadership at the GDA. Bailey Whiten will be the new Division Director of Agricultural Inputs and Aaron Knighton will be the new Animal Division Director. Mr. Lastinger also recently attended the GPCA leadership group to talk about the pest control commission. He highlighted LeAnna Merritt's participation and the group's impressive work.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He emphasized the recent increase in compliance issues seen with termite baiting, citing that 37% of for-cause inspections in the last three months have been related to termite control with baiting. The Commission discussed potential options for improving education on the current regulations including an increased focus at training events, the production of a guidance document, and reviewing the organization of the rules and regulations.

- I. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. The time to renew courses is approaching and the portal should be accessible in December. She also stated that an authorized submitter training would be held soon and that anyone wishing to sign up for the training should reach out to her. Ms. Ikner also pointed out the recent value of attending the Georgia Association of School Facility Administrators Workshop in Savannah in regards to the School IPM project.
- J. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach update. A slideshow presentation was shown featuring photos of the recent outreach efforts of the Structural Pest Division. Mrs. Collier praised the dedication of the SPD team and their commitment to GDA outreach, noting that while the division is small the majority of staff volunteer to be involved.
- K. Mr. Lastinger gave an update on the yellow-legged hornet and current eradication efforts. GDA continues to monitor the Savannah area and focus efforts on detection and eradication. A new outreach flyer for the pest management industry has been released and will be distributed at outreach events. Electronic copies of this flyer for distribution may be obtained by contacting the Structural Pest Division.
- L. Mr. Lastinger provided the updates on the HBR program and the experience requirement. SOP's are being developed for routine compliance inspections of HBR companies. Recent inspections have suggested a need for a guidance document or sample contract for the HBR industry. It was also stated that a pre-certification training video is being developed by UGA. Mr. Lastinger also informed the commission that Mr. Bobby Chaisson has been working to develop CAD drawings for the HBR experience project, and the drawings in their final stages.
- M. Mr. Lastinger gave an update on the TermiTek System. After reviewing the documentation provided from TermiTek and finding information regarding a previously unconsidered product called "Detour" sold in conjunction with the baiting systems, the commission would like to evaluate the claims of this product and will further discuss at the next meeting.
- N. Mr. Gorecki detailed the updates to Notice 17-01 Business Naming Policy. Mr. Sinyard motioned to approve the revisions, Mr. Holley seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.
- O. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the recent meeting with Athens Technical College regarding the exam program. He noted that a memorandum of agreement required under the new Certification and Training plan was being addressed. Athens Technical College asked for feedback on the lack of utilization of the registration exam prep course. Attendees and Commission members suggested that to improve PMP use of the prep course it could be featured more prominently online and made easier to navigate to.
- P. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the C&T plan update. The SPD team is currently collaborating with the Department of Legal Services to draft the language for the updates to the plan and will reconvene at the end of the month to consider the next steps. EPA has yet to provide guidance on the modification process and has not reached a final decision on rodenticides. The C&T plan updates may have to be adjusted in accordance with these forthcoming EPA decisions.
- Q. Mr. Lastinger gave an update on Public Notice 23-03 on the 2024 Meeting Schedule. The commission adjusted one of the dates and discussed holding a meeting in south Georgia in Spring of 2024. The updated notice will be posted to the SPCC section of the GDA website.

- R. Ms. Shalamar Parham provided the Legislative update. A special session has been called for November 29th and by court order maps must be submitted by December 8th. At the end of this month there is another senate licensing meeting, which the legislative team will be monitoring for any pest control related discussion.
- S. Mr. Rick Bell also spoke about Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones' Red Tape Rollback initiative, which aims to improve Georgia's business environment while reducing the size and scope of government.
- T. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. The Beagle Brigade Act is now a bipartisan bill and is being cosponsored with Iowa. This bill dedicates funding to a training facility in Newnan, GA which will protect our communities by helping detect invasive species and phased out pesticide products. Mr. Bell also stated that we will likely see a continuing resolution of the Farm Bill issued in the near future.
- U. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 11:43am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	November 14 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

November 14, 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 experience requirement
- f. TermiTek System
- g. Notice 17-01 Business Naming draft revision
- h. Athens Technical College Meeting and MOA
- i. C&T Plan and Update
- j. Public Notice 23-03 2024 Meeting schedule
- k. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- l. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- m. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Southern Pest Solutions, LLC – Milledgeville, GA – Pending name change, payment of \$70 research fee, and provision of a contact email

The Commission approved the following name change applications:

- Bug Off Exterminators, A Division of Pestban LLC to Peachtree Pest Control
- Twin Services Pest Control to Mountain Man Pest Control
- Terminix International Company, LP dba Terminix to Rentokil North America, Inc. dba Terminix

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

- Advanced Services for Pest Control, a Division of Pestban, LLC to Peachtree Pest Control – Pending Insurance
- Green Frog Pest Solutions, a Division of Pestban, LLC to Peachtree Pest Control – Pending Insurance