

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

September 12, 2023

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. via zoom on September 13, 2023. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler, Christy Kuriatnyk, and Bodine Sinyard.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA, CPCO, and NPMA representatives, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- E. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. He spoke about the upcoming Termite Workshop and webinars through the end of the year. He also provided information on Jacob Winkles' project regarding predictive economics impact modeling and expressed excitement for the project's potential. Dr. Forschler also conveyed to the commission the passing of Bob Rosenberg and underscored his numerous contributions to the pest control industry. Mr. Chris Gorecki also spoke in high regard of Bob Rosenberg and his years of dedication.
- F. Mr. Mike Evans, Director of the Plant Protection Division, gave an update on the yellow-legged hornet and current eradication efforts. He detailed the efforts to utilize traps and various tracking methods to find nests in the area of concern. Mr. Lastinger and Mr. Evans have been drafting documents to distribute to pest control companies and lawn control businesses which they shared with the commission.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He informed the commission of the Division's efforts in response to Hurricane Idalia. 208 pest control companies were in Hurricane Idalia's line of impact, and SPD staff reached out to several affected counties to collect reports of property damage and lost workdays.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He expressed gratitude for the hard work of the inspectors in their outreach efforts. The statewide effort to contact companies has resulted in 37 companies being brought into compliance thus far. There are still 109 companies that have not renewed. Mr. Taylor also highlighted the recent workshops' beneficial effects on the industry, citing a 40% increase in subject retainment.
- I. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. The deadline for renewal has now passed and we are in the late renewal period until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Ikner also gave a review of the current renewal numbers as follows: 109 companies, 295 certified operators, and 329 registered employees that are currently associated with a company, have not yet renewed.
- J. Ms. Ali Ikner also provided the Outreach update on behalf of Nan Collier. She discussed the upcoming Termite Workshop in Griffin, and the Fall Conferences where SPD staff will be

- presenting and representing the division. She also elaborated on SPD involvement with the upcoming GA National Fair and the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ray Day event.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the Georgia Pesticide Applicator Certification & Training Plan, stating that the rule changes are being reviewed by legal to ensure federal compliance.
  - L. Mr. Gorecki conveyed that the commission is still awaiting the legal team's response regarding the recording of meetings for public availability.
  - M. Mr. Gorecki also provided an update on the PSSI appeal under Notice 17-01. Due to conflicting information more time is needed for investigation and the request will be addressed at the next commission meeting.
  - N. Mr. Lastinger informed the commission of the progress with Mr. Bobby Chaisson on the HBR experience project. Mr. Chaisson has been working with UGA to develop a detailed plan. The commission discussed the benefits and potential challenges of the project with suggestions of how the project could best support the needs of the program. A motion was made by Dr. Forschler to approve a mock training event that incorporates at least three removals in lieu of the currently required three job experiences as acceptable for HBR certification. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
  - O. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the US EPA's sulfuryl fluoride early mitigation decision; the EPA is still refining the final decision however a memo is expected later this month. He mentioned there may be new fumigation log record keeping requirement coming out in the near future. Mr. Lastinger further provided information on the EPA's amended pesticide interim decisions for phosphine metal phosphides, which may affect buffer zones.
  - P. Mr. Lastinger also provided information on the proposed legislation named the Beagle Brigade Act, which authorizes a national canine detection center in Newnan, Georgia. Improving canine scent detection at US ports could result in an increase in detections that may require fumigation for the import.
  - Q. Mr. Gorecki stated that the questions regarding the TermiTek monitoring device were still under review and that the commission is working with legal to provide clarification.
  - R. The November Structural Control Commission meeting will be held in person at the Georgia Department of Agriculture in Atlanta. A public notice will be distributed announcing the meeting.
  - S. Ms. Shalamar Parham provided the Legislative Update. She conveyed that study and rule development committees would continue to meet through the fall, and that Tort reform would be a topic in the upcoming legislative session. She also informed the board of the suspension of the gas tax and of an ongoing court case regarding redrawing district maps.
  - T. Ms. Bonnie Rabe provided the NPMA update. She discussed the preemption language for the House version of the Farm Bill to which the Public Policy Committee is also contributing. She further remarked on the registration review of rodenticides for which the final interim decision document is expected to be released next quarter. Additionally, Ms. Rabe spoke on how the Beagle Brigade Act if passed would secure dedicated funding for the training center. She also discussed the Waters of the U.S. rule and the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding the Clean Water Act, informing the commission that Georgia is now operating under the pre 2015 rule language as a result of the decision.

U. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1      September 12<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

September 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
  - Yellow legged hornet response – Mike Evans
  - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
  - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
  - Outreach – Nan Collier
- d. Georgia Pesticide Applicator Certification & Training Plan
- e. License Renewal 2023-2025
- f. PSSI appeal to waive the waiting period under Notice 17-01
- g. HBR experience – Bobbie Chaisson
- h. US EPA sulfuryl fluoride early mitigation decision
- i. TermiTek System
- j. November Meeting
- k. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- l. NPMA update – Bonnie Rabe
- m. Certification Examination Application Review

#### **Adjournment**

## ATTACHMENT 2

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### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Home Source Pest Control LLC – Grantville, GA
- Peachtree Pest Control – Suwanee, GA
- Southeast Outdoor Services LLC – Gainesville, GA
- Massey Services, Inc dba Horne's Pest Control – Warrentville, SC
- Matt's Pest Control – Buford, GA
- Berry Lane Bees, LLC – Commerce, GA
- TLC Pest Protection – Dallas, GA

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Insecticide Hotline Service – Stockbridge, GA – Pending Signatures
- Peachtree Pest Control – Fayetteville, GA – Pending Insurance
- Top Notch Pest Control – Fairburn, GA – Pending Insurance and License Update
- Taycan Pest Solutions Inc. – Acworth, GA – Pending Insurance

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- JW Breda Enterprises Inc. – Lilburn, GA