

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

April 8, 2025

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:02 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Kim Bragg, Bodine Sinyard, Greg Holley, and Dr. Thuy-Vi Nguyen.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA, CPCO, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He announced that Dr. Sonia Altizer, the new head of the entomology department, will be onboarded at the beginning of May. The UGA Entomology department is looking forward to more interactions with Dr. Altizer as she transitions from her current teaching position.
- D. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. April is National Pest Management Month, and the SPD is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. The Communications office has published a press release and an article in the Market Bulletin to highlight the important work the SPD does and the many ways they work to ensure public safety and support the pest management industry. SFIREG working committees are meeting currently. One of the committees has been working on a white paper that will be issued through SFIREG on backpack mosquito misters. This working committee is also seeking to engage the industry in providing feedback on potential new label language to better provide guidance for applicators as well as seeking to reduce issues regarding drift. They hope to engage the ASPCRO Public Health Committee for further comment. Mr. Lastinger also spoke about the upcoming Pesticide Clean Day event, to be held on May 13th at the St. Ives Country Club in Fulton County GA.
- E. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. SPD will be opening an inspector position in the middle Georgia region soon to fill a recent vacancy. The compliance team is also investigating a cheating incident. They are also working with the Attorney General's office on an alternative channel to issue an injunction due to difficulties with the recipient relocating. Mrs. Merritt also discussed SPD leadership's plan to meet in person and check in with all of the SPD inspectors next week.
- F. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. As a reminder last month per guidance from the GDA Legal Services division, GDA can no longer issue licenses for the subsequent license period. This means that anyone acquiring a license prior to July 1st will still be required to pay the renewal fee. Clarifying language has been added to the company license applications, so Ms. Ikner encouraged anyone filling out a new application to ensure they are using the most up to date version of the form. Ms. Ikner also explained that while the division works to also add clarifying language to the Certified Operator applications, SPD will be reaching out to applicants individually in the interim. Changes to SPCC Policy 13-01 Recertifications took effect on March 18th. These policy changes removed the limit on credits per category at workshops and conferences. The updated policy and information regarding

this change has been added to the SPD website. Mr. Lastinger emphasized that this change cannot be applied retroactively. Ms. Ikner concluded her report by providing a few reminders about upcoming renewals, encouraging license holders to check their CEUs and the CEUs of their registered employees. If registered employees have not met the CEU requirements for renewals, companies should be prepared to schedule these employees to retake the employee registration exam. Companies should also confirm their company insurance is up to date. The renewal webpage will be updated with guides as they become available, and the renewal portal is expected to go live in mid-May.

- G. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. SPD has completed the spring workshop series hosted through UGA Griffin. She also discussed the School IPM Workshop for School Pest Management Coordinators, which was held on April 3rd. The workshop hosted 15 participants and featured presentations focused on pesticide safety in schools. SPD is also scheduling school visits for the School IPM Program, which provides a pest lesson to educate kids about the importance of being safe around pests and pesticides. Three school visits have been planned for the month of April, with another three schools planned for May, including participating in the Plantlanta program. Schools or teachers who are interested in scheduling a pest lesson with the SPD should reach out to the division. SPD is also preparing for a booth at the Chattahoochee Nature Center's annual Butterfly Festival to be held on June 7th and the 8th.
- H. A motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Mr. Lastinger discussed the revisions to SPCC Policy 13-01 Recertification. These revisions were approved at the March SPCC meeting. The updated policy has been added to the SPCC Guidance Policies page of the website and is in effect as of March 18th. This policy is not retroactive.
- K. Mr. Trip Martin provided the legislative update. The 2025 legislative session concluded Friday evening. Several issues were tabled, including HB529 Georgia Online Automatic Renewal Transparency Act, which is expected to be brought back up in 2026. SB144 Fertilizers or Pesticides, sponsored by Senator Watson passed. This bill clarified the liability of pesticide manufactures regarding informing consumers of health risks beyond those required by the US EPA. SB68 & SB69, referred to as the tort reform package, passed in an effort to better position Georgia from a business standpoint. Mr. Martin discussed that guidance for businesses is being developed for SB68 & SB69 and he will be sharing that information with the associations when it becomes available. Georgia Senator Brandon Beach has been appointed as the Treasurer of the United States. To fill his seat there will be a special election in June. Mr. Martin also noted that there could be a turnover of up to 10 state senators in 2026.
- L. Mr. Lastinger led the discussion on rulemaking. As a reminder no rule changes are being formally proposed at this time. These discussions are to aid in the initial drafting of the revisions to be proposed. Once the draft is complete there will be a public comment period before rule changes are finalized. 620-2-.01(ai) General Definitions continued the discussion from the last SPCC meeting regarding clarifying the definition of a service container and the changes were positively regarded. The proposed updates to 620-9-.02 (2) General Requirements and 620-7-.02 (3) Household Pest Control General Requirements, seek to

provide consistency between WDO contract rules and HBR and HPC contract rules for consumer protection. Definitions 620-9-.01(7), 620-9-.01(8), and 620-9-.01(9) involved correcting typos, and were positively received. Rule 620-3-.02(1)(e) Responsibilities seeks to add the policies in Notice 21-03: Honeybee Removal Fact Sheet to the rules. 620-7-.02 Household Pest Control General Requirements also seeks to formalize policy into rule, referencing 17-03: State Inspections Fact Sheet, providing consistency with WDO recordkeeping requirements.

- M. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the Monthly Job Report Compliance Fact Sheet. Following a brief discussion by the commission a motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to approve the MJR Compliance Fact Sheet pending a few minor edits for clarification. Dr. Thuy-Vi Nguyen seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- N. Mr. Gorecki spoke about the March 27th IRC Building Code subcommittee meeting which discussed the revisions to R305.1 and R305.2 that were proposed by Brian Stults. Mr. Lastinger and Mr. Gorecki attended the meeting, engaging in discussions and providing information on current regulations to the subcommittee. Mr. Gorecki gave a brief overview of the details of R305.2 to the SPCC and noted that this proposed code amendment had been pulled. He also stated that R305.1 was tabled at the subcommittee meeting. The SPCC highlighted their appreciation to the IRC Building Code committee for bringing this matter to their attention and including them in these kinds of discussions.
- O. Mr. Lastinger announced that the details regarding the May SPCC meeting have been posted on the Public Notices page. The May SPCC meeting will be held at the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area on May 20th.
- P. Ms. Faye Golden provided the NPMA update. April is National Pest Management Month, NPMA is celebrating with their theme of Innovation in Action: Advancing Pest Management for a Healthier Tomorrow. Ms. Golden noted that NPMA will be attending PestWorld East, a conference that showcases innovation and challenges in pest management in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. She also spoke about the opportunity to engage with regulators at a dinner on May 21st in Colorado Springs during the ongoing conference. Ms. Golden also spoke about NPMA's 2025 Women's Forum being held in Austin, TX from May 12-14th. The NPMA Public Policy Team continues to monitor legislation being introduced across the country. To this, Mrs. Bonnie Rabe added that there is a lot of focus on rodenticide restriction bills and proposals ongoing across the country. She highlighted that these types of legislative decisions have the potential to impact EPA decision making on a national level.
- Q. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	Company Applications

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission

Chris Gorecki, Chairman
Derrick Lastinger, Vice-chairman
Dr. "Tiffany" Thuy-Vi Nguyen, 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 8, 2025

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 – LeAnna Merritt
 - Certification & Training – Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. SPCC Policy 13-01 Recertification
- e. License Renewal 2025-2027
- f. Rulemaking
- g. IRC Building Code Meeting
- h. May 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:

- EPS – Fayette County – Name change only
- In and Out Pest Services – Gwinnett County – Name change only
- Mark Farm LLC – Cobb County – HBR Company
- Parks Pest and Termite – Gilmer County
- Launchpad Pest Inspection – Gwinnett County – Name Change Only
- PestNation Services – Forsyth County - Name Change;
- Orkin Pest Control – Fayette County – New Location
- Verdx Pest Control – Cherokee County

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Smart Solutions Pest Control – Cobb County – New Location; Pending Insurance
- Kingfish Pest Control, LLC – Florida – Pending Insurance
- Aptive Environmental, LLC – South Carolina – New Location; Pending Fee & DCO confirmation

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- D1 Pest Control – Cobb County – Missing insurance, DCO, payment, and pending investigation
- Sentinel Pest Solutions – Cherokee County – Name Change Only
- The Bug Doctor LLC – Catoosa County - DCO and Email Address