

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

August 13, 2024

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:02 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Christy Kuriatnyk, Bodine Sinyard, Kim Bragg, and Dr. Brian Forschler.
- 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. Holley to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. Research is ongoing. A call went out earlier this year asking anyone in the industry to notify Dr. Forschler or Dr. Dan Suiter if you encounter a Formosan infestation. Dr. Forschler also asked that if anyone has any particular questions that research might address, please bring them up. Dr. Forschler and Dr. Suiter are always looking for new projects to take on and may be in a position to self-fund some research that could be of importance to the industry. Chairman Chris Gorecki encouraged the industry to reach out to their contacts for potential research topics. Mr. Terry Bowen thanked Dr. Forschler for his assistance with army worm issues. Mrs. Julie Fogg will be sharing resources with Mr. Lastinger to distribute. Mr. Jacob Winkle's Economic Impact Study was also discussed and there will be the Economic Impact Study presentations at the upcoming ASPRO conference, and at the NASDA meeting next month. Mississippi is also looking at doing their own survey based on Winkle's model as well. Mr. Lastinger also stated that the GDA is in strategic planning and the SPD is utilizing the economic impact study to further support requests.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. The Structural Pest Division has been receiving inquiries through the Agricultural Inputs Division regarding Joro spiders. Companies are inquiring if mosquito control licenses would also include treating for Joro spiders. However, it has been determined that Joro spider treatments in and around residential areas would fall under structural pest control licensing. Therefore, companies seeking to treat for Joro spiders must be licensed in HPC. Mr. Lastinger also discussed the upcoming move for GDA to the other side of the capital to be completed by mid-September. Details on logistics and impacts to the industry are still being determined. Mr. Lastinger also brought up a recent discussion involving HOA's ordinances against posting pesticide application warning signs that are required by regulation. The HOA's have requested that these signs not be posted, or if posted require a visual removal date on the sign. Currently we require the dates on the PUR; The Agricultural Inputs Division is still considering the matter. Mr. Lastinger stated he will keep the commission updated should the topic go to rulemaking.
- F. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. SPD recently referred a case to the EPA involving an unlicensed operator that had previously been issued an

administrative order involving the sale of unregistered pesticides through social media. This is an active ongoing case.

- G. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. She began her report by highlighting the work of SPD's intern Stefanie Goshko which included assisting with a substantial file purge, multiple consumer outreach events, the creation of outreach materials, and her assistance in day-to-day operations through the busy season. Ms. Ikner also discussed meetings held in July with the IT department concerning making more processes available online as well as some quality-of-life updates. She also spoke about attending the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE) conference, where EPA discussed C&T plan updates and guidance that will be published soon. Ms. Ikner also noted that Registered Employees who pass the registration exam on or after October 1st are exempt from the training requirement for the current renewal period.
- H. Ms. Bradshaw provided the Outreach Report. She detailed the updates that have been completed on the SPD website, including a major reorganization, newly available fillable forms, visual guides, webforms, and individual licensing pages. She also noted that a new HBR page would be published soon. Many of these website highlights were detailed in an infographic, created by Stefanie Goshko, that was recently published in this quarter's edition of The Inside Buzz. This edition also featured a spotlight on Ms. Goshko's experience and a link to the newly available Structural Pest Division Coloring book. Ms. Bradshaw also listed the upcoming conferences that SPD would be attending including the GEHA, GPCA, and CPCO Fall Conferences. SPD will also be assisting at the Georgia National Fair in the Baby Barn and presenting the IPM lesson as part of the School House. Additionally, the team will be providing a booth at this year's Ray Day Celebration in October. She also spoke about the success of the recent Home IPM workshop, and highlighted upcoming plans for the School IPM workshop, and two Termite workshops at the UGA Griffin campus.
- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Ms. Ikner gave the update on HBR pre-exam training. Dr. Suiter has finished the recording of a previous HBR pre-exam training. This has been sent on to UGA Extension, and we are currently awaiting notification from Extension that this has been made available.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the Yellow-legged Hornet eradication efforts. The GDA continues to be very busy in the Savannah area. The Yellow-legged Ledger has been great at getting the information out. The Communications office also sent out information to target pest control companies in surrounding counties to assist in disseminating important information. The pest management industry continues to be a valuable asset and heavily involved in eradication efforts.
- L. Chairman Gorecki discussed the upcoming plans for Rulemaking. The legal department has been backlogged with an influx of work from hemp legislation. Rulemaking discussions will begin by targeting text cleanup and simple updates before moving on to the more involved topics. Mr. Lastinger discussed the status of the C&T rule changes, including bringing rules up to current Federal Requirements. We are in the process of preparing the discussions and organizing topics. Discussion was also held about contract guidance for HBR, with suggestions that the associations may be interested in sharing the draft example contract from the Beekeepers Association. The creation of a requirements sheet was also suggested, with discussion on any potential committees that may be interested in working on this as a project.

- M. Chairman Gorecki spoke about doing an in-person meeting in the Fall in Tifton. Mr. Lastinger will be making inquiries on potential meeting spaces and will follow up at the next meeting.
- N. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. He noted that we are currently in the middle of an election season. Mr. Martin also spoke about an industry concern that was a major topic of discussion last week at the NCSL Legislative Summit. There is a new practice, dubbed “third party litigation funding”, of hedge funds working with trial lawyers which results in very few chances for settlement and an increase in the costs of settlements and judgements. This practice allows class action suits to be sold to hedge funds, with a negotiated portion of the settlement being paid back to the hedge fund. He noted that ten states across the country have passed laws requiring disclosure to the court that hedge funds are a standing party in the lawsuit, and therefore is anticipating seeing federal regulations coming soon on this matter.
- O. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He stated it seems likely at this point we will see a continuing resolution issued for the Farm Bill this session. NPMA will be at the ASPCRO 2024 Annual Conference in Lexington next week. Mr. Bell also discussed a bill in the California legislature to ban the use of first-generation rodenticides.
- P. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:26am.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1	August 13 <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

August 13, 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 – Kenzie Bradshaw
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. HBR training – Ali Ikner
- e. Yellow-legged Hornet Update
- f. Rulemaking
- g. Fall Meeting
- h. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- i. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- j. Certification Examination Application Review

#### **Adjournment**

## ATTACHMENT 2

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### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Massey Services, Inc. – Martinez, GA; Columbia County – Name Change
- Massey Services, Inc. – Warrenton, SC – Name Change
- A Plus Pest Management – McDonald, TN – Reinstating company
- Nantahala Pest Control – Otto, NC

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Purcor Pest Solutions – Centerville, GA; Houston County – Pending Insurance
- Purcor Pest Solutions – Brunswick, GA; Glynn County – Pending Insurance
- Gwinnett Pest Solutions – Hoschton, GA; Jackson County – Pending name & email address
- AllAbout Pest Solutions – Ballground, GA; Cherokee County – Pending Insurance
- Aptive Environmental, LLC – Chattanooga, TN – Pending email and research fee
- Leighty Home Pros. LLC – Grovetown, GA; Columbia County – Pending email and verification of DCO no longer with current company
- Mira Home, LLC. – Norcross, GA; Gwinnett County – Pending Payment
- Hybrid Pest Management – Woodstock, GA; Cherokee County – Pending Insurance