

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

February 13, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on February 13th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler, 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 Mr. Chris Gorecki to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Mr. Greg Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. He announced the acceptance of Jacob Winkles' work into the Journal of Economic Entomology, and they are now waiting on a final PDF from the publisher. He also discussed the Department of Entomology is planning on moving to a different building later this summer.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He spoke about the SPD's recent efforts to update their section of the GDA website, and we anticipate the updates being made soon. The Department of Agriculture is celebrating its 150th anniversary at the Capitol on February 28th. The Department has also launched an effort to review all licensing processes division wide. We are anticipating this to be an ongoing project for some time as we examine transitioning licensing processes to include accepting online applications. He also summarized a recent meeting with Commissioner Tyler Harper concerning the reallocation of staff and resources of the Department of Agriculture to improve emergency response, with the goal of being more proactive and improving preparedness. Mr. Lastinger also announced that Garrett Hollis is now the new Director of Legal Services.
- F. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He announced that the Fumigation notification form is now available on the SPD website as a webform and can be submitted online. There is also a web version of the Reporting Unlicensed Operators form and a Request for Inspection form available online. He also discussed the division's current work with the Georgia Attorney General to set up an injunction against an unlicensed operator, and the work being done with our legal team to develop form letters to improve accountability.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. She discussed the division's work to streamline company application processes and highlighted the reception of the recent announcement of the School IPM workshop. The course is already more than three quarters of the way full since it was announced earlier this month and applications may be accepted through the end of the week.
- H. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach update. She noted that Dr. Suiter has provided a list of 2024 workshops that are now listed on the GDA Events webpage. Mrs. Collier also discussed upcoming workshops including the Commercial IPM workshop on Feb 15th, the School IPM workshop on Feb 23rd, and two termite workshops have also been planned for

March. Several SPD staff members will be presenting at various workshops throughout the coming year.

- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Mr. Lastinger reviewed the progress thus far of the HBR recorded training. The Structural Pest Division is working with Dr. Suiter to rerecord a portion of the training. Once completed the training will be available through the University of Georgia. Ms. Ali Ikner also discussed the GPCA is attempting to host a HBR training, however they are in need of an instructor and urge anyone who may be interested to reach out. Mr. Terry Bowen also expressed that the CPCO of Georgia is interested in hosting HBR initial training.
- K. Mr. Gorecki provided an update on the upcoming rulemaking discussions. The SPCC is currently pulling together information to better understand the impacts and benefits, and plans to have more information in the coming year.
- L. Mr. Lastinger discussed the EPA Proposed New Mitigation Measures for Rodenticides. There has been no new information released at this time.
- M. Mr. Lastinger began the discussion of the draft Termite Baiting Compliance Fact Sheet. He reviewed the common issues the division encounters and reiterated the need for this document. He expressed appreciation for all those who aided in its creation with special thanks to Tim Taylor who spearheaded this project. Mr. Tim Taylor explained how the Fact Sheet aims to improve compliance by clarifying the rules in common language and providing a succinct reference. The Commission discussed the fact sheet and how it addresses common issues seen in the industry. A motion was made by Dr. Forschler to approve the Termite Baiting Compliance Fact Sheet. Mr. Greg Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- N. Mr. Gorecki discussed a TermiTek system proposed for use in Georgia with Mr. Allen Fugler Jr. who was present at the meeting. The flyer provided for review included other products that Mr. Fugler stated they are not intending to utilize in Georgia. Mr. Gorecki requested a flyer that only included the product or practices being submitted for consideration in Georgia for the next meeting for discussion and requested that it be added to the March agenda.
- O. Mr. Lastinger gave a brief update on the April Meeting which will be held at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. A notice for the meeting has been posted to the SPCC Public Notices section of the website.
- P. Ms. Shalamar Parham provided the Legislative update. We are currently on day 20 out of 40 with the legislative session and the Amended Budget has been passed out. Ms. Paham also discussed HB575 which includes multiple licensing pieces of legislation, but none so far appears to affect the pest control industry; they will continue to monitor.
- Q. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He spoke about the legislative session and the proposed HB404. Mrs. Kim Bragg furnished that she was under the impression that the language in the bill regarding habitability had been removed in favor of more specific language regarding utilities. Mr. Rick Bell thanked her for the input and plans to investigate further for confirmation. Mr. Bell also highlighted the upcoming GPCA Legislative BBQ to be held on the same day as the 150th anniversary of the GDA.
- R. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 February 13th 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

February 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 – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. HBR training
- e. Rulemaking
- f. EPA Proposed New Mitigation Measures for Rodenticides – Biological Evaluation
- g. Draft Termite Baiting Compliance Fact Sheet
- h. TermiTek System
- i. April Meeting
- j. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- k. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- l. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Active Pest Control – Multiple Locations – Name Change Approved
- Ecoshield Pest Solutions Atlanta South LLC– Peachtree Corners, GA – Approved
- Integrity Pest Control – Fitzgerald, GA – Approved
- Iron Grip Exterminators – Snellville, GA – Approved

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Active Pest Control – Byron, GA – Name Change Approved/Pending Insurance
- Magna Pest Solutions – Cumming, GA – Approved Pending Signature
- Square Pest LLC – Sugar Hill, GA – Approved Pending Insurance/Contact Email
- Impossible Pests – Griffin, GA – Approved Pending Insurance/Contact Email/DCO Statement