

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

May 14, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on May 14th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Christy Kuriatnyk, Bodine Sinyard, and Dr. Brian Forschler. Kim Bragg was not available to attend.
- 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 March meeting. Mrs. Kuriatnyk seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. The Internship program kicks off this week with a Meet and Greet with Commissioner Harper. The Structural Pest Division will be welcoming Ms. Stefanie Goshko as the SPD Intern for 2024. Mr. Lastinger also spoke about upcoming construction on a new legislative building that may affect the Structural Pest Division's main office in Atlanta. He also discussed the ASPCRO board meeting and the Structural Fumigation Committee's recent meetings during which it was noted that the change to the clearance device label language for sulfuryl fluoride made it no longer enforceable. EPA is now working to correct the oversight.
- E. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He noted that over the first three months of the year our division has conducted 268 routine inspections, with the method of application being the most frequent violation. The division has also conducted 28 for-cause inspections, with the amount of pesticide applied being the most frequent violation on these types of inspections. Request inspections from consumers has gone up this last month, which is typical for this time of year. Mr. Taylor thanked all the field staff for making request inspections a priority.
- F. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. She began by stating that the Atlanta office has been receiving calls with questions about renewals, which as a reminder are only due on odd numbered years. She also announced there will be an authorized submitter training coming up soon and thanked everyone for their assistance in inputting this data. If anyone is interested in taking this training, please reach out to Ms. Ikner to be added to the list. Ms. Ikner also discussed her recent experience at a Certification and Training Pesticide Regulatory Education program course that she attended last month, this included discussions with other states and how each program is approaching these challenges. Ms. Ikner also expressed reverence for the opportunity to be a part of shaping these updates. She also stated that our proposed changes will likely be required to go through the EPA review process.
- G. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach Report. She commended Ms. Ikner for her work on the School IPM grant and discussed the workshops that were held earlier this year for school employees and facility administrator. She also discussed the upcoming Plantlanta State University event where the School IPM program will be presented. The Spring edition of The Inside Buzz was recently published on April 23rd, and featured information about the Yellow-

legged Hornet and embryonic nests. Mrs. Collier then provided details on the upcoming Butterfly Festival to be held at the Chattahoochee Nature Center at the beginning of June. The Structural Pest Division will have a booth, and Region 4 EPA representatives and GDA's Plant Protection Division will also be in attendance.

- H. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He will be presenting Jacob Winkles' Economic Impact Study on his behalf at the National Conference on Urban Entomology and the flight times data. Mr. Lastinger brought up that the Economic Impact Study came up for discussion at the R4 Pre-SFIREG meeting. Dr. Forschler also discussed the research being done at UGA pertaining to carpenter bees. A recent study found 8 different animals living in companion inside the carpenter bee burrows.
- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Mr. Lastinger stated that the division continues to work on HBR pre-exam training for this summer. Ms. Ikner added that a replacement speaker had been found for the video project and they hope to make this available soon. Chairman Gorecki emphasized the need for a solution to the issues involving in-person training for HBR and would like to consider this as a topic for the next meeting.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the Yellow-legged Hornet eradication efforts. The Spring edition of the Inside Buzz was recently published and highlighted the new information about embryonic nests and the Yellow-legged hornet. The Plant Protection division continues to monitor the target area.
- L. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the C&T rule changes. The division is anticipating more information from the legal services department by June. The changes currently planned for submission are now likely to be considered substantial and therefore subject to EPA review prior to implementation. The division is making a strong effort to compile a complete package, engineer out potential issues, and make substantial changes all at once rather than a series of changes over time.
- M. Mr. Lastinger discussed the Acephate Proposed Use Cancellations. EPA has proposed cancellations of most uses of Acephate, and we are currently in the comment period. Mr. Lastinger asked for the industry's opinion of how this might affect them. General discussion centered around the product's use in commercial kitchens and as a fire ant treatment, however the strong odor associated with this product may have limited its use in structural applications. Generally meeting attendees who chose to comment felt the Acephate Proposed Use Cancellations would have a larger impact on agricultural pest control, particularly for cotton.
- N. Mr. Gorecki discussed the TermiTek system proposed for use in Georgia by Mr. Allen Fugler Jr. He discussed the rules currently in place that cover this type of device. To issue guidance and clarify contract requirements associated with this device, the commission would like to issue Notice 24-04. A motion to approve Notice 24-04 was made by Mr. Holley. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- O. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. The primary election is next Tuesday May 21st, though to avoid potential lines Mr. Martin encouraged everyone to vote early this week. The general election will be on November 5th. This year due to a higher resignation rate of senior members of the legislation we are expected to see more new faces this year, particularly in the democratic conferences. All of the House and Senate Republican leadership is expected to return this year so most committee structure will likely stay in

place. Mr. Martin made an observation that this year there may be a chance for more representation from the industry to be a part of the legislature. He emphasized the importance of stability during an election year. Mr. Martin then spoke about the upcoming biennial that will begin this Sunday in Athens. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with many of the new electees. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce is also continuing their economic tour around the state. Mr. Martin also provided an overview of a letter signed by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker establishing a committee for licensing process review. At this time this committee does not seem to pertain to pest control licensing, but he will be continuing to monitor.

- P. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. The GCPA welcomed approximately 400 individuals registered for the Woman’s Forum that was recently held in downtown Atlanta. Mr. Bell spoke about the ASPRO mid-year meeting and Mr. Lastinger’s coverage of the fumigation information. He also discussed NPMA’s scheduled meeting with EPA next month, where the EPA will be providing a list of questions about rodenticide application and use for comment from NPMA. Mr. Bell feels confident that the recent meetings with EPA have been productive and is anticipating a modified PID possibly as early as November. He then discussed the EPA’s recent focus on PFAS which may affect many commonly used pesticide products. PFAS Water Regulations have already been rolled out by the EPA for the next 3-5 years, and we expect to hear more on this issue soon.
- Q. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to all the guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 11:13am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	May 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

May 14, 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. Yellow-legged Hornet Update
- f. Rulemaking
- g. Acephate Proposed Use Cancellations
- h. TermiTek System
- 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:

- TruNorth Pest Control, LLC – Locust Grove, GA; Houston County – Name Change
- Beasley's Bugs Pest Control – Plains, GA; Sumter County
- Lavender Pest Control – Athens, GA; Clarke County – Changing license to Sub-Office
- Astro Pest Control Services of Thomasville, Inc – Moultrie, GA; Colquitt County – New Location
- Roots Abound Inc. – Elijay, GA; Gilmer County

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Insight Pest Solutions ATL, LLC – Norcross, GA; Gwinnett County – Pending Insurance
- Previs Pest Solutions LLC – Buford, GA; Gwinnett County – Pending Insurance
- Stillwaters Honey Bee Removal & Apiary Quitman, GA; Brooks County – Pending Insurance
- Arrow Exterminators – Cartersville, GA; Bartow County – Pending Signature