

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

September 10, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:04 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on September 10th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, Christy Kuriatnyk, and Dr. Brian Forschler. Kim Bragg was not in attendance.
- 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 August meeting. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He discussed how the move is still affecting the department. He asked that those that attended ASPRO provide any details on how Jacob Winkles' economic impact study was received. Dr. Forschler also discussed potential topics for a future in-person SPCC meeting.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He discussed the success of the ASPCRO conference in Lexington, KY, noting that Jacob Winkles' Economic Impact Study presentation was very well received. The presentation provoked many questions and audience engagement; to which Chairman Chris Gorecki added that both South Carolina and Tennessee are looking into using the model to conduct their own studies. Mr. Lastinger also discussed the GDA's recent strategic planning meeting with Commissioner Harper which focused on recruitment and retention of staff. He also spoke about the department's ongoing Yellow-Legged Hornet response, with several members of SPD staff assisting the Plant Protection Division's eradication efforts. Mr. Lastinger further emphasized how busy the Fall is for the Department of Agriculture, especially with the GDA office building moving to new locations. Offices may be split between different buildings and the labs are being moved to a Georgia Tech facility. Due to the move, there may be some disruptions in operations, with delays in license issuance expected.
- F. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He noted that we are seeing a high number of pre-exam training form errors, resulting in a compliance issue. The Rules and Regulations require 10 hours of classroom training and 70 hours of on-the-job experience, and this form must be completed by the individual providing the training. We are also seeing issues with DCO's checking categories they are not trained in. For the next commission meeting we want to make some suggestions to edit this form to assist with clarifying the requirements.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. She detailed how the move is expected to impact the licensing division. At this time they will be unable to issue licenses this week and are working towards being able to resume the following week. New employees can still be registered online; however new cards will not be able to be printed until next week at the earliest. We are also anticipating that the network will be down some during this time, however the division can still be reached via email at pest@agr.georgia.gov Due to Capitol Hill routing, the SPD's phone number and mailing address will remain the

same. Ms. Ikner also discussed the possibility of accepting the Certified Operator Exam Applications online, to which the Commission was amenable. She further noted that the Company Application forms and the Company Name Change form have been updated on the SPD website to be fillable. Additionally, the HBR Pre-Exam Training video is now available at Extension offices. Anyone wishing to take the training may reach out to their local Extension office to set up a proctored time.

- H. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach Report. The first Termite Workshop was a great success, and we are looking forward to the second one scheduled for later this week. SPD will also be hosting a compliance outreach booth at the GPCA Fall Conference in Dalton, as well as a panel discussion on licensing, routine company inspections, and common non-compliance issues. We will also be providing a Termite Equipment Application & Spill Containment class and a WDO presentation at the CPCO Fall conference Oct 1 & 2nd. SPD will also be assisting in the Baby Barn and the Georgia Grown Schoolhouse at the Georgia National Fair this October. Shortly after the Georgia National Fair is the Ray Day Celebration in Serenbe, where SPD will be hosting an outreach booth to help tell the GDA story. Mrs. Collier also noted that there is an upcoming Pesticide Clean Day event planned. More information on the upcoming Clean Day event can be found on the GDA website.
- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. He noted that there are many study committees meeting presently. Of particular note is a study committee who is focused on licensing, which they will be paying close attention to for any potential impacts to the industry. Mr. Martin emphasized that they would like to get a short presentation before one of these committees. He also noted that coming up in December from the 8th through the 10th is the training on the political process for the new legislature. This is a good opportunity to have an audience with these newcomers.
- K. Mrs. Bonnie Rabe provided the NPMA update. Action on the Farm Bill is likely to be delayed with the upcoming election. NPMA is hoping to see more movement on this next year. The bill on Pre-Emption is still being considered on the Senate side, and they continue to work with key senators through ongoing meetings. The proposed interim decision from the EPA on rodenticides continues to be a topic of focus, however thanks to the field trips they have had to provide education on this topic to policymakers NPMA is anticipating EPA publishing several documents based on the active ingredients possibly as early as late December. NPMA is also reviewing several of the newly released ESA strategies to determine how realistic these are for the industry.
- L. Mr. Gorecki announced that the rules updates would be further deliberated at a later meeting due to the interruption caused by the GDA's move.
- M. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	September 10 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

September 10, 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 - Ali Ikner
- e. Legislative update - Trip Martin
- f. NPMA update - Rick Bell
- g. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Arrow Exterminators – Decatur, GA; Dekalb County – Additional Branch
- Rentokil North America, Inc dba Xceptional Wildlife Removal – Wakeska, GA; Cherokee County – Name change/acquisition
- Northwest Exterminating Co LLC dba D & G Exterminating Co. Inc – Hampton, GA; Henry County – Acquisition
- Tri State Honey Bee Removal – Buford, GA; Hall County

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Mo-Tech Pest Control Co. – Valdosta, GA; Lowndes County – Pending Payment & Insurance (reinstatement of previously issued licensed company)
- Boyd Pest Control LLC – Lavonia, GA; Hart County – Pending DCO Verification
- Custom Pest Solutions – Charleston, SC – Pending Street Address & Insurance
- Total Pest Control – Calhoun, GA; Gordon County – Pending Insurance
- Bradshaw Operations LLC dba MosquitoNix Augusta, Greensboro, Athens – Martinez, GA; Columbia County – Pending Insurance

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- Savannah River Residential LLC