

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

November 12, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:04 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on November 12th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Greg Holley, Kim Bragg, Bodine Sinyard, and Christy Kuriatnyk. Dr. Brian Forschler and Derrick Lastinger were 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 Mrs. Bragg to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Mr. Sinyard seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Mr. Gorecki began the meeting with a brief discussion on common issues present in the Certified Operator Exam application, noting that many applications seem to have issues.
- E. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. Recently the GDA Legal team has been working with the Attorney General's office to issue an injunction against an unlicensed operator. Mr. Taylor expressed gratitude to the SPD team for their investigative efforts that have led to many strong cases. Mr. Taylor also discussed recent issues pertaining to WIIR forms, including evidence of crawl spaces being improperly inspected, not visited at all with apparent termite tubes and cellulose, and forms being completed incorrectly. Additionally, the SPD has seen an increase recently in companies refusing to cooperate on scheduling for routine inspections, as a result the department is exploring avenues to address this issue.
- F. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. She shared the end-of-year licensing reports, and compared these to records from 20 years ago to highlight the industry's growth. Since 2004 there has been a 22% increase in the number of Certified Operators, an 83% increase in the number of Registered Employees, and over 8% growth in licensed Structural Pest Control Companies. An Authorized Submitter Training will be held later this week. Ms. Ikner emphasized that currently about 25% of CEUs entered are done so by Authorized Submitters. Please reach out to the SPD office if you would like to attend Authorized Submitter Training. Ms. Ikner also discussed an increase in the number of course applications for pre-recorded online training, however there seem to also be reoccurring issues with those submitting these applications not properly adhering to the rules and not reviewing the feedback to correct their applications. This results in months of back and forth on each individual application, putting an undue burden on the department and limited staff resources. Ms. Ikner proposed drafting language regarding a limit on the number of application resubmissions for consideration at the next SPCC meeting. The commission and attendees discussed the issue and agreed to hear a proposal at the next meeting. Ms. Ikner also provided an update on course renewals which are expected to go out this Friday. To close out the Certification and Training update, Ms. Ikner provided details on a request from the CPCO to revise their Train the Trainer course agenda to allow

attendees to complete the presentation portion of the course virtually to better accommodate out of state students, noting that the course itself would still be completed in person. A motion was made by Mr. Holley to approve the amendment to the CPCO Train the Trainer course agenda. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

- G. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided the Outreach Report. The CPCO Fall Conference was held on Oct. 1-2 at UGA Griffin Campus. Eric Robinson and Tim Taylor provided presentations the SPD hosted a compliance booth. The SPD team also participated in the Georgia National Fair this year, presenting three School IPM classes in the Georgia Grown Schoolhouse and volunteering to assist with the care of the animals in the Baby Barn. SPD also hosted a compliance outreach booth, manned by Sidney Sapp, at the GPCA Fall South GA Conference, featuring presentations from Travis Whitley, Ali Ikner, Tim Taylor, and LeAnna Merritt. SPD also operated a Consumer Outreach Booth for GDA at the Annual Ray Day Celebration in Serenbe. This was a sold-out event with over two thousand participants. Sadiyyah Hollins, Jennifer Pate, Ali Ikner, and Nan Collier shared GDA's story through a quiz game dubbed "The Wheel of the Good Fortune about Georgia Agriculture". LeAnna Merritt and Jennakae Jenkins also represented SPD at the Georgia Association of School Facilities Administrators (GASFA) conference held in Savannah, GA from Oct 27-29, providing information regarding our School IPM Course to be held in Griffin with Dr. Dan Suiter next year. The fall edition of the Inside buzz was sent out on Nov. 4th featuring an article on how Hurricane weather may affect termite treatments and detailing some common license category questions. Mrs. Merritt also discussed the upcoming Statewide Inspector Meeting (SWIM) to be held later this month.
- H. Ms. Bradshaw provided the department and program updates. She detailed the recent Pre-SFIREG meeting held in Lexington, KY, noting that concerns regarding C&T Plan revision guidance would be brought to full SFIREG in December as an issue topic. She also discussed an invitation by the EPA for potential post-disaster assistance needs to be conveyed to FEMA. Ms. Bradshaw requested that if anyone is aware of specific post hurricane needs, such as pesticide disposal in damaged areas, to contact our office.
- I. Ms. Bradshaw provided a brief overview of the proposed registration for Veratrine. This product is not yet on the market, but it is uncommon to see a new proposed active ingredient for structural application. Veratrine is proposed for use on exterior vertical surfaces and other man-made structures for non-food commodities. Further information can be found on the EPA's docket.
- J. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. The Georgia House is meeting currently to elect a Speaker, and the Georgia Senate has several new members. Brandon Beach is being considered for a DOT job in the Trump administration which could result in a special election. A joint study committee bill regarding licensing requirements continues to be monitored for potential impacts to the pest management industry.
- K. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. Former Congressman Lee Zeldin is expected to become the new administrator of the EPA. Mr. Bell also discussed the topic of PFAS which is

gaining more attention in the media. He noted that several frequently used products in the pest control industry may be affected by PFAS related legislation.

L. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)

M. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	November 12 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

November 12, 2024

Open –Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- b. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates
 - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
 - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. Proposed Registration for Veratrine – Kenzie Bradshaw
- 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:

- Rentokil North America dba American Pest Control, Inc. – Multiple locations (8) - Name change only
- Buffington Pest Solutions, LLC – Hall County
- Unified Pest Solutions – Forsyth County
- Daniel, Hamilton & Associates, Inc – Troup County – HBR Company

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- JJA Partners Holdco INC. DBA Proforce Pest Control – Chatham County – Name change only – Pending Insurance
- Sorrell Pest Control – Lowndes County – Pending Insurance
- Troutman Pest Services – Wayne County – Pending verification from GDA
- First Guard Pest Solutions – Gwinnett County – Pending Insurance
- Covenant Pest Services – Cobb County – Pending Insurance
- Andrews Termite and Pest Control Inc – Clarke County – Sub-office license – Pending Insurance
- Pestmaster Services – Chatham County - Sub-office license - Pending Insurance
- Pestmaster Services of Athens – Oconee County – Pending Insurance & Payment
- Brazer Environmental LLC – Upson County – Pending Insurance
- Mountain View Pest Control – Pickens, SC – Pending Insurance & Email Address

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- Independent Pest Control – Brown County; Minnesota