

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

December 12, 2024

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:03 a.m. via Microsoft Teams on December 12th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Greg Holley, Kim Bragg, Bodine Sinyard, and Christy Kuriatnyk.
- 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. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Ms. Bragg seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. The agenda has been set for the upcoming January meeting at the UGA Chapel in Athens. Entomology students will be providing presentations on their research. Contract talks for the Entomology department head are currently underway, and the transition is expected to occur early in 2025.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. The GDA is preparing for the upcoming legislative session. Due to the move, this session may have additional impacts on the Structural Pest Division, as the new location is more central to the legislature. The summer internship program was announced and applications opened on December 1st. The division looks forward to another successful year with this program. Next year will also mark the 70th year anniversary of the Georgia Pest Control Act.
- F. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. A Statewide Inspector Training Meeting was recently held at the Structural Pest Training Center in Griffin. This training focused on evidence gathering and featured a special presentation by the GDA legal team. Mr. Taylor noted that the department has been seeing an increase in compliance issues with the issuance of the Official Waiver form. In particular, with blank Official Waivers being signed and altered at a later date. The Commission discussed ideas to help provide education to the industry to help alleviate this issue and asked that the associations assist in distributing the existing Official Waiver guidance document available on the SPD website.
- G. Ms. Bradshaw gave the Certification and Training update. The proposal for the CBT course resubmission limits to add to the Recertification Course Policy will be pushed to the January meeting, this language is still being drafted. She also discussed the course renewal portal, which went online last week. The division is aware of a few issues with the renewal portal and is working to have these resolved. Those wishing to renew their courses should ensure that each course has the course outline uploaded in the portal before proceeding with the renewal process. Outlines may be uploaded directly in the portal.
- H. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach Report. The Fall edition of *The Inside Buzz* newsletter was published on November 4th. She also announced the division has a new mailing address to assist with alleviating carrier issues. The new mailing address for the division is Structural Pest Division 244 Washington SW, Room G-007, Atlanta, GA 30334.

There is also a new email address for submitting Structural Pest Applications. Applications may be submitted to pestapplications@agr.georgia.gov. All other inquires and requests for information should continue to be sent to pest@agr.georgia.gov. Mrs. Collier also spoke about the SPD's participation and class in the upcoming GPCA Winter Conference to be held in Athens in January. She also noted that Senior Inspector Travis Whitley has transferred to the GDA Plant Protection Division to assist with efforts to eradicate the Yellow Legged Hornet. The division will therefore be seeking to hire a new inspector in the south Georgia region and the job is expected to be posted online soon.

- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Mr. Lastinger provided the Certification and Training Rule Changes update. This is a large project with substantial contributions from Ms. Ikner, Mrs. Merritt, and the GDA Legal Services team. The process for reviewing the proposed rule changes, including draft status, comment period, and path to final approval were discussed. Rule changes will be broken into more manageable chunks for each SPCC meeting, with a break anticipated at the January meeting to allow additional time for UGA student presentations. Amendments to rule 620-2-.01(j) to adapt the age minimum for the certification to meet EPA's standard, and amendments to rules 620-3.01(6) and 620-3-.03 to update references to new federal regulations were approved for the draft. Rule changes will remain in a preliminary draft form until the complete draft proposal is finalized and opened for the public comment period. Mr. Sinyard motioned to approve these three proposed changes for the preliminary draft document, Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- K. Mr. Lastinger discussed Public Notice 2025 Meeting Schedule. Several suggestions were made for locations for in-person meetings throughout 2025. As locations are confirmed these will be released via public notice throughout the year. Public notices including the 2025 meeting schedule will be published to the SPCC section of the GDA website.
- L. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. Some delays and shifts within the EPA are expected due to the election as new leadership is being appointed. An additional rodenticide proposed interim decision (PID) may be released as well. Mr. Bell discussed the challenges of having three separate government bodies, the EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service, cooperating with so many diverse classifications and interests. Mrs. Bonnie Rabe spoke about the state's discussions at SFIREG, noting that in relation to pesticide issues nearly all highlighted the same concerns. NPMA continues to work to ensure that the pest management industry's concerns are prioritized and understood by the EPA. The potential effects that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will have on the pest control industry is likely to be an ongoing hot topic for the foreseeable future. Mr. Lastinger added that C&T Plan Revision guidance was reported as needed by every state in attendance at SFIREG. Other major topics of discussion included updates to the label language for Respiratory PPE and the Pesticide Registration Manual, as well as mosquito misting blowers, for which an issue paper is being developed through SFIREG from a different region. There is also a working committee that is focused on drafting label language for the EPA to consider adopting.
- M. Certification Examination Application Review – Certification applications were reviewed, with two non-routine applications requiring additional discussions and decisions from the SPCC. These applications were presented by Mr. Taylor. After discussing the details

regarding Terry Woods application, Mr. Holley made a motion to approve the application pending full payment of Consent Order 21-11. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The application made by Lisa Trusdell was then discussed, noting a previous Administrative Order (A.O.). Based on this previous A.O. and the terms not met, a motion to deny the application was proposed by Mrs. Bragg. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion to deny passed.

N. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:43am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	December 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

December 12, 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 –Kenzie Bradshaw
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Tim Taylor
- d. Certification & Training Rule Changes
- e. Public Notice 2025 Meeting Schedule
- f. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- g. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- h. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Northwest Exterminating Co LLC dba Gilstrap Extermination; Dawson County – Acquisition/Name Change
- Briggs Pest & Home Solutions; Dawson County – Name Change Only
- Rentokil North America, INC dba Inspect-All Pest Services - Gwinnett County – Acquisition/Name Change

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- A-1 Economic Exterminators of Camden, Inc. – Camden County – Pending Insurance
- The Local Beekeeper, LLC – Liberty County – Pending Insurance
- Action Plus Termite & Pest Control – Cobb County – Pending Insurance