

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

December 13, 2022

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:05AM, on December 13, 2022, at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Room 201. All Commission members were present; Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Kim Bragg, Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler and Bodine Sinyard. Christy Kuriatnyk joined via teleconference.
- B. Also, in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA and CPCO representatives, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. Mr. Gorecki called the meeting to order and expressed appreciation because of the first in-person meeting in the Agriculture Building since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- D. Motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- E. The Commission approved company license applications (see Attachment 2)
- F. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Entomology Update. The January SPCC Meeting will be at UGA and the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences will be in attendance. Dr. Forschler provided updates on the ongoing economic survey of the pest control industry. The survey aims to estimate the value of the pest control industry in the state of Georgia and how it compares to other agricultural industries. There are different surveys to target owners or employees of the pest management industry. Surveys were handed out at the CPCO event in October. Data collection is still ongoing. Surveys will be handed out during the GPCA Athens Winter Conference. The project should be complete in the Summer of 2023.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided department updates. Ms. Sandy Hayes received a promotion and has transitioned to her new role at GDA. However, she will still assist the SPCC until a replacement has been hired. The SPD met with the Region 4 EPA on December 12 about the cooperative grant. This was the first in-person meeting with EPA since 2019 and GDA will have a new project officer in 2023. The EPA will conduct an audit of our enforcement program. EPA has stated the Georgia Certification and Training plan is ready to be sent to EPA Headquarters for approval. Regulation changes will start over the next year.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the compliance and enforcement updates. SPD has been hearing questions and concerns from the industry about the 3-Day Right to Cancel guidance policy. The GDA recommends seeking legal counsel if anyone has questions about the exemptions. The top violations found during for-cause inspections in November were for recoding the required information during termite bait monitoring and for issuing non-compliant WIIRs with infestations found within 90 days. For routine inspections, the top violations were for method of application and the amount of pesticide applied.
- I. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the certification and training update. The reregistration training deadline for registered employees is on 02/28/2023. The SPD has begun to implement the

school IPM project that they were awarded a grant for from EPA. The project has two components, SPD inspectors will be going to schools to teach about IPM to elementary students and the SPD is partnering with UGA's Griffin campus to host School IPM workshops to school staff that perform pest management services for their schools. GDA met with Dr. Dan Suiter last week to work on workshop planning and have been able to include the new PSEP Coordinator, Dr. Allison Johnson, to help as well.

- J. Ms. Nan Collier provided the outreach update. This year, SPD inspectors attended GPCA and CPCO conferences, UGA workshops and other events across the state to reach over 9,000 people. They have also been able to reach about 2,000 consumers through participation in the Butterfly Festival and volunteering to help with the Georgia Grown Baby Barn at the Georgia National Fair. Please reach out to the SPD if you have an outreach opportunity.
- K. The Commission thanked Commissioner Gary Black for his service and presented him with a bench hand-crafted by Mr. Gorecki. Commissioner Black recognized the members of the SPCC.
- L. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the EPA proposed new mitigation measures for 11 rodenticides. The proposed measures would classify rodenticides as restricted use. EPA will also create "Bulletins Live!" as a resource to identify areas with geographically specific pesticide use limitations to protect threatened and endangered species. Eventually "Bulletins Live!" could be updated with all listed species affected by rodenticides. There is a 75-day comment period, the deadline for commenting is February 13th, 2023. Bell Labs will be working on documents about the impact of the proposed measures and will send them to CPCO and GPCA to disseminate to the industry. Ms. Bonnie Rabe and Ms. Faye Golden will provide updates at the January SPCC Meeting.
- M. Ms. Ikner provided updates on the Honeybee Control and Removal category. There are currently 7 Company Licenses in HBR. Out of the 7, 6 are only licensed in HBR. There will be another pre-examination training in the future, however no date has been set. Consumers can search for companies licensed in HBR on the website. The compliance date is January 1, 2023.
- N. Mr. Lastinger provided UAV pesticide application updates. There was discussion about using UAVs in structural pesticide application at the pre-SFIREG meeting and it was mentioned at the full-SFIREG national meeting. There are concerns from other states about the lack of guidance from the EPA.
- O. The Commission discussed Public Notice 22-05 and the 2023 Meetings. The state calendar was released yesterday and there are no conflicts with state holidays. The Commission and staff will prepare for the April in-person meeting in Savannah, the August meeting may be held at the Atlanta State Farmer's market, and the October meeting in South Georgia. The Commissioner elect might attend in the August meeting.
- P. Mr. Nigel Walton provided legislative updates. There is new leadership at the national level and the state level of the House and Senate. Pre-legislative filing has already started for the 2023 legislative session.
- Q. Mr. Rick Bell provided NPMA updates. A bill has been introduced in South Carolina regarding preemption. It would allow municipalities and townships to have governance over pesticide applications. There will be a conference call Friday discussing the proposed rodenticide mitigation measures, he will disseminate information from the call.

R. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Gorecki shared his appreciation for another year of getting things done.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Agenda
- Attachment 2 New Company Licenses

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Gary W. Black, 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 13, 2022

Open - Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. New Company Applications - Ali Ikner
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates
 - Compliance/Enforcement - Tim Taylor
 - Certification & Training - Ali Ikner
 - Outreach - Nan Collier
- d. EPA Proposed New Mitigation Measures for Rodenticides
- e. HBR Update
- f. UAV Pesticide Applications
- g. Public Notice 22-05 and 2023 Meetings
- h. Legislative update - Trip Martin
- i. NPMA update - Rick Bell
- j. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Arrow Exterminators – Lavonia
- Pest Tech Chattanooga - Chattanooga

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Task Force Eradicators – Harris County (email address)
- Top Hat Pest Control – Barrow County (insurance)