

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

April 14, 2020

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:05 AM on April 14, 2020, online via Zoom. All Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki, Chair; Derrick Lastinger, Vice-Chair; Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, Christy Kuriatnyk, Dr. Brian Forschler and Kim Bragg.
- 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 opened the meeting by expressing appreciation to Mr. Josh Payne from GDA's IT Division for setting up and administering the Zoom meeting.
- D. Motion was made by Mr. Holley to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and motion passed.
- E. The Commission approved company license applications (see Attachment 2).
- F. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. He encouraged everyone to attend an upcoming webinar by Dr. Dan Suiter for CEUs and training.
- G. The Commission discussed old business including the March 17th meeting cancellation and the review of the March company and certification applications.
- H. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He shared Dr. Sutton's appreciation for the work of the Structural Pest Division (SPD) and SPCC regarding temporary guidance. GDA's website has a Coronavirus Updates page and is updated daily. This webpage contains temporary guidance regarding employee registration, essential services, critical infrastructure, Commissioner Black's notice to regulated establishments, and more. Mr. Lastinger also said the Market Bulletin is offering free digital issues and encouraged everyone to check it out.
- I. Mr. Alex Conti provided the compliance update. Commissioner Black's office started a new department-wide outreach initiative, inspectors are reaching out to their regulated establishments conducting outreach and surveys and letting them know GDA is open and available for guidance. GDA's temporary workplan is focusing on staff development, training and outreach. Routine inspections are currently suspended but GDA is responding to complaints on a case-by-case basis. Inspectors have the proper PPE to conduct these inspections. Mr. Lastinger commented that the GDA offices in Atlanta are currently open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Mr. Conti and Mr. Lastinger spoke about some of the survey questions and the responses they are receiving. This has also been a great opportunity to update establishment contact information.
- J. Mr. Lastinger discussed the Antimicrobial Pest Control Category (commercial applicator category 37) emergency rule that was issued by Commissioner Black on March 24 and will expire in 120 days. Georgia licensed Pesticide Contractors and licensed Structural Pest Control Companies can operate under this rule using EPA approved disinfectants and sanitizers for COVID-19 only. The Ag Inputs Division is offering limited paper exams for

emergency situations and in Atlanta. If a Structural Company is operating under this emergency rule, structural pest regulations would apply such as the pesticide record-keeping and contract rules.

- K. Mr. Lastinger took a moment to express appreciation to the industry associations, GPCA, CPCO and SPCC for their assistance pushing out messages to the industry regarding updates and information in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. He encouraged everyone to visit GDA and Georgia Grown social media outlets for information such as a hand sanitizer recipe and GA Ag Week at Home for kid activities.
- L. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the certification and training update. He discussed the temporary employee registration license and how to apply for the COVID-19 Temporary Exam Waiver. Requirements include completing, pre-examination training, submitting an online application including the \$10 license fee, and submitting the Pre-Examination Training Form to GDA. After these items are submitted, the employee can start work and start earning CEUs. The employee will be required to take the exam by 9/30/2020 or the temporary registration will expire. Refer to *SPD 20-02 Temporary Guidance SPC Technicians Registrations* located on the SPD COVID-19 webpage.
- M. Mr. Tim Taylor discussed the draft notice, *SPD 20-03 Temporary Guidance Recertification Credits*. Certified Operators with recertification/expiration dates between June 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 can request a 90-day training deadline extension. The computer-based training limits (CBT) have been lifted for Registered Employees for the 2019-2021 renewal period. Mr. Gorecki made a motion to approve this guidance. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed. This guidance will be posted to the SPD COVID-19 webpage.
- N. Mr. Lastinger spoke about storm damage from the April 12-13 storms. He asked for any industry related damage be reported to GDA to be shared with GEMA to include in the damage assessment.
- O. Ms. Christy Kuriatnyk provided an update from the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). They have a statewide surveillance database called SIMS which collects data from healthcare workers across the state. DPH has a website and call center set up for COVID-19 updates and information. COVID-19 testing sites are set up across the state and testing is by referral only. Temporary morgues are set up statewide.
- P. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the U.S. EPA certification rule. GDA submitted their draft plan to U.S. EPA on March 4, 2020. The SPCC will start discussions regarding non-certified applicators and the potential changes to the current certification and training rules and related policy.
- Q. Mr. Gorecki discussed spray foam insulation activities. SPCC will invite the Spray Foam Alliance to meet and discuss the details of the proposed building code amendment. Mr. Sinyard made a recommendation to send a letter to DCA requesting to table their vote to a later date (initially set for May) considering the current pandemic. Mr. Lastinger will reach out to DCA and report back to the Commission.
- R. Mrs. Laura Fralick provided the legislative update. She recapped Governor Kemp's press conference to shelter in place through April 30 due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The new expected peak date for COVID-19 cases is now the week of May 1 as testing increases. Medical staff is being increased at nursing homes and the heavily impacted hospitals. The National Guard is setting up beds at the World Congress Center in Atlanta. Piedmont Hospital

is opening and setting up beds in a wing of the hospital that was closed. March 13th would have been cross over day; a special session was held March 15 for the state of emergency. Legislatures will have to meet again to pass the 2021 budget before July 1. The primary election has been moved to June 6. Senator Jack Hill passed away last week, he was on the Appropriation Committee and did a lot of work on the budget.

- S. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. NPMA is working nationwide on essential service classifications and expressed appreciation to state lead agencies for their cooperation. Mr. Lastinger mentioned that Governor Kemp’s executive order on essential services has primacy over a local jurisdiction’s orders. One month ago, was NPMA’s Legislative Day in DC. They feel that pre-emption is moving in a positive direction. NPMA has a subcommittee working on state temporary licensing plans stating that many states are looking at Georgia for guidance.
- T. The Commission wrapped up their discussions with the following: Mr. Sinyard expressed appreciation to everyone that reached out to the southeast area of the state after the recent storms. Mr. Lastinger stated that it is still uncertain when the exam locations will reopen. GDA may plan to give exams for emergency situations. Mr. Lastinger also reminded everyone of the 90-day Emergency DCO Rule if a situation calls for it. Mr. Taylor announced that certification exams scheduled in March and April will get a 60-day extension. Certification applications approved in March and April have not been processed yet due to the exam locations being closed. Applicants that were not approved will be notified. Company applications are still being processed and licenses are being issued.
- U. Mr. Gorecki closed the meeting by wishing safety to everyone. The next SPCC meeting will be May 12. He adjourned at 11:42 AM.

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

April 14, 2020

Open - Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. New Company Applications - Tim Taylor
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates - Derrick Lastinger
 - COVID-19 Related Outreach
 - COVID-19 Related Surveys
 - Compliance - Alex Conti
 - Certification & Training - Tim Taylor
- d. Notice 20-02 Temporary Guidance SPC Technicians
- e. Draft Notice - Recertification Training Requirements
- f. U.S. EPA Certification Rule and Technicians
- g. Spray Foam Insulation and proposed building code amendment
- h. Legislative update - Lauren Fralick
- i. NPMA update - Rick Bell
- j. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications & Company Name Change Requests

The Commission approved the following applications:

- PA Georgia LLC DBA TMA Pest Authority sub office - Athens

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Green Dragon – Fayette County (insurance, license fee)
- Twin Services Pest Control – White County (license fee)

Name Change

- Almighty Termite Services (98970) to A Mighty Termite and Pest Control