

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

April 14th, 2026

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:02 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, Kim Bragg, and Dr. Thuy-Vi Nguyen.
- 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 from the March SPCC meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He spoke about the UGA Words of War survey that is currently open and encouraged everyone to participate in this survey.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He introduced Tom Stage as SPD's new Compliance and Enforcement Manager. Mr. Stage previously worked in the GDA's Plant Protection Division on the Yellow-legged Hornet (YLH) response. Mr. Lastinger also announced that the next SPCC meeting will be held on May 12th, with June 9th scheduled as the next in-person meeting.
- F. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on SPD Inspector field activities and gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. She reported that the department is actively hiring for an open inspector position and is still accepting applications. Interested parties may apply through the Team Georgia website. She also discussed the continued upward trend in complaints, with the most common issues involving WIIRs and treatment standards.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. She reported that revisions to adapt the PERC manual were approved on March 31st, and that the state now officially has a new manual to serve as the basis for the general exam. While the new manual is not planned to be released until the corresponding exams have been updated, the approval of the manual is a significant milestone in the implementation process. Ms. Ikner offered a reminder that all newly registered employees, including those working solely in sales, are still required to complete the pre-exam training. She emphasized the importance of completing employee registrations, obtaining registration cards, and ensuring employees carry them at all times. She also noted that the rule changes have been formally approved and that an updated Certification and Training plan will be submitted to the EPA.
- H. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. She reported that the Spring Termite Workshops have concluded and were well attended with 25 participants attending the first session and 42 at the second session. She highlighted Mrs. Merritt's presentation on Career Day at Pleasant Grove Elementary School, and recognized all speakers who contributed to the UGA 2026 webinar series. Upcoming outreach activities include participation in Agriculture Night at the Rome Emperors game in Rome, GA where the SPD team will speak about the importance of hiring licensed pest management professionals and pesticide safety. SPD will also be hosting a booth at Fernbank's upcoming Bug Fest and has scheduled a visit to Camp Bartow to provide a School IPM presentation in June. Mrs. Collier also spoke about outreach materials that are in development for the implementation of the amended rules.

- I. Mr. Tom Stage provided more information on his background working with the GDA and spoke about the state's ongoing work to track down and eradicate YLH throughout the state. He noted that scouts are currently looking for embryo nests approximately the size of a baseball and emphasized the critical need for additional eyes in the field. He advised that a flyer and local mailer will be forthcoming and expressed gratitude to the pest management industry for its continued support and assistance in scouting efforts.
- J. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on Rulemaking. He reported that the amended rules were formally adopted on April 8th and have now been published by the Secretary of State's office. SPD will be updating its webpage to include a copy of the new rules and a dedicated implementation page to help provide resources and updates. He noted that the Official Waiver and WIIR fact sheets have been updated to reflect the new form layouts that aim to be fillable, more readable, and easier to complete correctly. Existing stocks of forms may continue to be used until June 2027. Mr. Lastinger then walked attendees through the Key Change Dates one-pager, noting that it does not cover every rule amendment but highlights the most significant upcoming changes. A motion to approve the Key Changes to the Rules of the SPCC as a working document was made by Mrs. Bragg and seconded by Dr. Forschler, and the motion passed.
- L. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the revisions to Notice 24-04 Termite Monitoring Only Products and Devices. The revised notice is intended to help clarify the existing regulations applicable to devices, such as TermiTek and BASF Encircle. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Holley and seconded by Mrs. Bragg, and the motion passed.
- M. Mr. Gorecki provided an update regarding Building Code Amendments. He reported that the proposed change regarding the foam board slab insulation exception will be discussed again at the April building code amendment meeting.
- N. Mr. Brad Bohannon provided the Legislative update. He reported that the legislative session concluded on April 2nd and that the bill review and signing period will run through May 12th, which will remain the primary focus of legislative activity. He noted that the May 19th primaries are approaching and that there is also some discussion of a potential special election.
- O. Mrs. Faye Golden provided the NPMA update. She is currently in Chicago attending the NPMA Sustainability Summit alongside approximately 60 other attendees. She spoke about the Safety Summit that is scheduled for the following day with over 100 participants expected. She highlighted the strong attendance at the recent NPMA Legislative Day and encouraged industry members to reach out to their congressional contacts regarding current priorities, including the Farm Bill. Mrs. Golden also referenced a presidential memorandum announcing a 53% budget cut, noting that the full impact on NPMA and EPA staff is not yet known.
- P. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the upcoming ASCPRO Mid-Year Meeting, which is scheduled for the following week. He highlighted that this will be Mrs. LeAnna Merritt's first Mid-Year Meeting serving on the ASCPRO board. Mrs. Merritt expressed her interest in discussions with industry representatives and committee members at the upcoming meeting.
- Q. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Agenda
Attachment 2 Company Applications

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission

Chris Gorecki, Chairman
Derrick Lastinger, Vice-chairman
Dr. "Tiffany" Thuy-Vi Nguyen, 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, 2026

Welcome

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 – LeAnna Merritt
 - Certification & Training – Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
 - Revisions to the new company license applications
- d. Recertification course policy
- e. Final Rulemaking and Implementation Update
 - Revisions to Notice 14-09 Official Waiver and Notice 14-10 Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report
 - Draft timeline for key changes and resource page
- f. Notice 24-04 Termite Monitoring Only
- g. Building Code Meetings – Chris Gorecki
- 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:

- Pest Hunters/Mosquito Hunters of Savannah/Hilton Head – Beaufort County
- Pro Ex Pest & Home Services – Bulloch County – Name Change Only
- Tennessee Valley Pest & Lawn – Tennessee – Name Change Only

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Buginator Pest Control – Liberty County – Pending Insurance
- Apex Pest Control Services – Name Change Only – Pending Insurance
- Augusta Home Services LLC – Richmond County – Pending Email Address
- T&S Pest Solutions – Bibb County – Pending Insurance
- Insight Pest Solutions SGA LLC – Muscogee County – New Location – Pending Insurance and DCO Supervision Plan
- McCormick Pest Control – Floyd County – Pending Insurance
- Red Clay Pest Control – Bibb County – Pending Insurance
- Southern Shield – Barrow County – Pending Insurance and Email Address
- Home Safe Honey Bee and Wildlife Removal – Clarke County – HBR Company – Pending Insurance and Payment
- Case Closed Pest Control – Cherokee County – Name Change Only – Pending Insurance