

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

February 10th, 2026

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:03 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Bodine Sinyard, Greg Holley, 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 amended agenda. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve all minutes from the January SPCC meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- E. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He spoke positively about Dr. Elgar's work with the GDA to draft the biology chapter for the state certification manual. Dr. Forschler also reflected on the success of the January Commission meeting at the historic chapel in Athens. He hopes that this annual tradition will continue, highlighting the importance of the opportunity for everyone to come together.
- F. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He noted the Capitol is especially busy with the Legislative session in full swing, and that Reaganne Hart from the GDA Policy Team was present at the meeting. Mr. Lastinger spoke about goals to obtain funding for GDA to host a Clean Day, to maintain SPD software programs, and to acquire updated vehicles for staff to improve safety. He also stated that national concerns regarding the reclassification of rodenticides and regulation of mosquito misting are topics on AAPCO's 79th Annual Spring Meeting and Conference agenda which is scheduled to take place March 1st through the 4th in Alexandria, VA.
- G. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on SPD Inspector field activities and gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. She announced that the department is still accepting applications for an inspector position in the Northeast Georgia region. She also announced that the Compliance team is now participating in bi-monthly trainings dubbed LAP (Learn, Apply, Practice) sessions. Mrs. Merritt then provided an overview of how the compliance numbers have increased from 2024 to 2025. She also highlighted the increase in the number of tips and complaints from the industry and the public that have led to a higher number of investigations related to unlicensed operators.
- H. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. She noted that HBR licensees will enter their fourth year of certification in 2026, meaning some individuals will have only one year remaining to complete their required continuing education hours for recertification. The next edition of *The Inside Buzz* will focus on available training opportunities for these individuals. She also discussed a current system error affecting some CEU entries by authorized submitters, preventing certain operators and registered employees from receiving credit. Sponsors may submit documentation directly to the office in the meantime for manual entry while the error is being fixed. Ms. Ikner further stated that SPD staff are

working with Dr. Forschler and Dr. Elgar to update the manual to meet new EPA Competency Standards.

- I. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. She shared that the Bed Bug Workshop held on February 5th was well attended, particularly for a non-renewal year. Mrs. Collier then reviewed the upcoming Spring Workshop series hosted through UGA at the Griffin campus, including the Commercial IPM Workshop on February 19th and two Spring Termite Workshops scheduled for March 3rd–4th and March 19th–20th. She also noted that the SPD team will soon be developing outreach materials related to the proposed rule changes.
- J. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the Big Canoe POA regulations. He stated that there are no new developments at this time and that the matter remains under review.
- K. Mr. Lastinger announced Public Notice 26-01 regarding the June meeting. Space has been secured to hold the meeting in person, and the public notice will be posted in the near future.
- L. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- M. Mr. Trip Martin provided a legislative update, noting that the General Assembly is currently on Day 16 of the legislative session. He reported that there has been significant discussion surrounding property tax reduction. While his role is not to advocate on behalf of the Department, he offered to review priority items with leadership and serve as a point of contact to help keep the Commission informed. Mr. Martin also noted that three or four individuals have been indicted and removed from office, resulting in two open seats that will require runoff elections. He highlighted that there is a notably large freshman class in both the Senate and the House this session. As part of the biennial training conducted for new legislators, he suggested that, if the Commission is meeting in Athens on a Tuesday, it could present a valuable opportunity for industry members to engage with new state officials. The training is typically held on a Monday or Tuesday following the SEC Championship game, and he will distribute the confirmed dates later in the afternoon.
- N. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on Rulemaking. Following the previous meeting, a public meeting was held at GDA to receive comments, and the official comment period closed in early February. Five sets of comments were received. Legal Services reviewed the submissions and determined that none warranted substantive changes to the proposed rules. Mr. Lastinger explained that at this stage, the Department is limited in the types of changes that may be made without restarting the rulemaking process.
- O. A motion was made to approve the rule changes for submission to the Secretary of State's Office. Mrs. Bragg made the motion to accept, and Mr. Sinyard seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- P. Mr. Lastinger provided comments regarding rule implementation. He discussed ongoing efforts to update images and formatting within the rules. He noted that some rules may require more than a year to implement, while others may take effect sooner. Once the rules are posted to the Secretary of State's website, additional guidance will follow. Stakeholders were encouraged to share any feedback regarding implementation timelines. Mr. Lastinger added that much of the implementation work will occur behind the scenes, particularly on the licensing side.
- Q. Mr. Gorecki provided an update regarding building codes. He explained that certain language in Section 402, which also addresses spray foam and rigid board insulation, had been discussed with the building code amendments board. Mr. Gorecki stated he will follow up

and attend additional meetings to continue monitoring the issue. Currently, no changes to the language affecting this section are anticipated.

- R. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. NPMA is working to incorporate language related to preemption and is monitoring potential movement on the Farm Bill in March. He also mentioned that NPMA is participating in a MAHA stakeholder group focused on potential disruptions to pesticide registration. He noted that of the 230 stakeholders involved, none currently represent pest control companies. Mr. Bell further reported that in Indiana, a proposal to shift the Office of the State Chemist to the Department of Agriculture is facing opposition. While this may not directly impact Georgia, it is being monitored. Finally, he noted that a bill in Virginia proposing a 1,000-foot PFAS buffer around schools is under consideration, emphasizing that similar legislative concepts often move from state to state.
- S. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 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

February 10, 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
- d. Final Rulemaking and Implementation Planning
- e. Building Codes
- 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 pending additional information:

- Holland Pest Management – Cobb County – Pending Insurance
- Max Pest Solutions Inc. – Forsyth County – Pending Insurance
- Vengeance Pest Solutions – Brantley County – Pending Insurance
- Total Spraying LLC – Florida – Pending Alternate Name
- Honey I'm Home – Muscogee County – HBR Company- Pending Insurance & Email
- Pest Badger Northeast Atlanta – Fulton County – Pending Insurance & Payment