

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 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, 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. Holley to approve the minutes from the February SPCC meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He noted that workshops and several projects are progressing steadily. Dr. Forschler spoke positively about Dr. Elgar's work with the GDA to draft the biology chapter for the new state certification manual.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He noted the Capitol is especially busy with the Legislative session in full swing. He referenced the for-cause and complaint numbers shared by Mrs. LeAnna Merritt at last month's meeting, emphasizing the overall rise in workload placing significant strain on resources. Mr. Lastinger also noted that the department still has two vacancies it hopes to fill in the near future. In response to continued budget reductions, the compliance team has creatively adapted by shifting to short bimonthly virtual training meetings focused on maintaining inspection and field operations competency. Mr. Lastinger also acknowledged the considerable work that has gone into updating the state certification manual.
- F. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on SPD Inspector field activities and gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. She reported that the LAP (Learn, Apply, Practice) session held the previous Monday was well received by field staff and will be continuing. Two calls regarding termite swarmers have already come in, and for-cause inspections continue to be on the rise, keeping staff busy. She highlighted the most common violations since January 1st, identifying the omission of the 3-day right to cancel notice on contracts as the leading routine inspection violation, and insufficient documentation of specific areas treated as the most frequent for-cause violation.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. She thanked everyone involved in the manual update effort and noted that though the manual may soon be completed, full implementation may take until Summer of 2027 to allow time for exams and other integral process updates to occur. She clarified that the new manual would be intended for those preparing to take the General Examination, which will be the test to become Certified Registered Employees and one of the required exams to become a Certified Operator. The Employee Registration Manual will still be the basis for the Registration Exam and Truman's Scientific Guide to Pest Management Operations will still be in use for certification category exams. Ms. Ikner noted that work on a tentative implementation roadmap is forthcoming. She also reported that a previously identified glitch in the CEU submitter portal has been resolved; however, a new issue has emerged causing some users' training summaries to

display zero credit hours. Affected individuals are asked to contact the office by email so courses can be credited appropriately.

- H. Mr. Lastinger reported on updates learned at the AAPCO conference, including that PERC will be losing its federal funding and will no longer be available as a resource. He also noted that NPIC has received a federal funding cut and is now only open for limited hours each week, though online resources remain available.
- I. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. She spoke about two Spring Termite Workshops hosted through UGA at the Griffin campus. The first workshop, held March 3rd–4th, was attended by 25 participants. The second workshop is scheduled for March 19th–20th. Additional outreach activities include a Career Day presentation at Pleasant Grove Elementary School in Henry County on March 19th, a two-hour WDO webinar on April 8th as part of the UGA 2026 Webinar Series, and participation in Fernbank Bug Fest on May 2nd. Mrs. Collier also noted that the Winter 2026 Edition of The Inside Buzz has been published, with this issue featuring HBR CEU opportunities. She also highlighted the availability of CAMs as a resource on the department's website and conveyed that outreach materials are now being developed in preparation for the implementation of the amended rules.
- J. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on Rulemaking. He reported that the amended rules have been transmitted to the Secretary of State's office and are awaiting formal approval. An implementation roadmap detailing when the rules will take effect is being developed and will be shared through outreach channels when it becomes available. Mr. Lastinger also noted that significant work has been completed on the formatting of the Official Waiver and WIIR, and that updated fact sheets are forthcoming. The SPD hopes to share a preview of the updated materials at the next SPCC meeting.
- L. Mr. James Wright of BASF provided a presentation on a product called “Encircle”, a smart home remote termite detection system. Per Mr. Wright, the system is intended to be sold exclusively to licensed PMPs. Commission members raised questions regarding PMP response timelines and placement requirements. It was noted that the device would fall within the scope of existing Georgia regulations, and PMPs meeting current requirements should be in compliance. It was also noted that the product would not be suitable for pretreats in the state of Georgia and not considered a pesticide. The Commission thanked Mr. Wright for proactively bringing the product to their attention, and staff agreed to follow up with a summary of the specific regulatory requirements that apply to the device and asked Mr. Wright to provide a copy of the products manual and technical information to aid in that response.
- M. Mr. Gorecki provided an update regarding building codes. He reported that while the request to allow for the placement of foam boards under the slab has been vetoed, placement inside and outside the foundation wall does not appear to present a regulatory issue. Mr. Gorecki stated he will continue monitoring the matter and noted that Mr. Lastinger may be needed to attend an April meeting in his place.
- N. Mrs. Faye Golden provided the NPMA update. She reported on her participation alongside state regulators at the AAPCO meeting and highlighted key topics including ESA, rodenticide actions (now delayed until 2027 or 2028), and PFAS. She noted that AAPCO is placing increased emphasis on hands-on learning opportunities for regulators. Mrs. Golden also reported that the Farm Bill has been approved and that NPMA is focused on grassroots efforts

at this time. She provided an update on Legislative Day, noting record-setting attendance, and extended an invitation for members to join NPMA in Washington, D.C.

O. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:56 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

March 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. Encircle RTDS - BASF
- f. Building Codes
- g. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- h. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- i. Certification Examination Application Review

#### **Adjournment**

## ATTACHMENT 2

---

### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Guardian South, LLC – Huntsville, AL – Name Change Only
- Bug Busters (new location Carrollton County)

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- BRD Pest Solutions – Fulton County – Pending Insurance
- Old School Pest Solutions – Baldwin County – Pending Insurance
- PestNation – Forsyth County – Pending Insurance – Name Change Only
- Go-Forth Pest Control (new location) Fulton County – Pending Insurance
- Go-Forth Pest Control (new location) Richmond County – Pending Insurance & Confirmation of DCO Eligibility
- Maxpest LLC – Cobb County – Pending Insurance & New Name
- Cherokee Pest Services LLC – Cherokee County – Pending Insurance & Confirmation of DCO Eligibility
- Preferred Pest Control LLC – Liberty County – Pending Insurance