

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

June 10, 2025

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:04 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Kim Bragg, Bodine Sinyard, Greg Holley, 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 of the May meeting. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He noted that he has invited Dr. Sonia Altizer, the new head of the UGA entomology department, to the SPCC meetings for an opportunity to introduce herself and to emphasize the need for more recognition for the pest management industry.
- E. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. On May 20<sup>th</sup> renewal notices were sent out via email. Anyone who did not receive their renewal notice is encouraged to check their spam folders and to verify that the email address the SPD has for you is correct. Companies who have not yet renewed as of last week have also been mailed paper notices. Certified Operators that have not yet renewed will also be receiving paper notices later this week. Ms. Ikner encouraged anyone who has not yet renewed to visit the SPD renewal webpage where information and several resources to assist with renewals are listed. A special Licensing Issue of The Inside Buzz was also sent out to subscribers. This special edition is also available on the SPD webpage where past editions of The Inside Buzz are available. As a reminder, this is the last SPCC meeting before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. After June 30<sup>th</sup> additional fees to renew will apply. Please do not wait until the last minute to renew.
- F. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- G. Mr. Taylor gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. The SPD is finishing interviews for an open inspector position and expects to fill this position soon. He noted that in a recent unlicensed operator case the court is now moving forward with a permanent injunction. Mr. Taylor also discussed that the company involved in the exam cheating case has requested a meeting to ensure they are compliant with all rules and regulations going forward.
- H. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. SPD participated in the UGA Webinar Series on June 4<sup>th</sup> along with Dr. Allison Johnson. School IPM Outreach continued with SPD hosting a booth at the Chattahoochee Nature Center's annual Butterfly Festival on June 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Pest Lessons are currently planned for Camp Bartow next week. SPD inspectors also attended a webinar on the New World Screwworm sponsored by Texas A&M to be better prepared to answer questions about this pest.
- I. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt spoke about SPD's two summer interns, Tyler Washburn and Colton Sanders. They have been working on many special projects at our Atlanta office and in the field. You may see them out with our inspectors helping to provide compliance assistance as well.

- J. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. SPD received a call from the press regarding the Asian needle ant. These types of calls have been directed to Dr. Suiter. The Asian needle ant has been gaining some momentum in the press, with meeting attendees citing a radio interview, a Q&A through UGA, and several other news releases. Mr. Lastinger also discussed the GDA's efforts to provide information on the New World screwworm and on the Longhorned tick. The Longhorned tick has been confirmed in Habersham, Hall, Pickens, and White counties. He also noted that the GDA summer interns took a trip to the Structural Pest Control Training Center in Griffin, where in addition to getting a tour of the facility and an overview of SPD topics such as IPM and termite control, they enjoyed a presentation by the Plant Protection Division on the Yellow-Legged hornet and the GDA's ongoing eradication efforts. Mr. Lastinger also spoke about several topics of discussion at the recent SFIREG, including concerns regarding SFIREG funding. He noted that some of the previously cancelled pesticide grants have now been reinstated. After providing some background on how cooperative agreement grants have helped states to carry out pesticide programs, he discussed information coming from regional EPA representatives concerning the current administration's proposed budget cuts to the EPA that would affect state cooperative agreement grants. Currently the GDA is operating in a budget deficit that is expected to end on June 30<sup>th</sup>. SPD has been reducing spending and preparing for additional anticipated state budget cuts in FY 2026. In an effort to reduce spending, SPCC meetings will be held virtually through the end of the calendar year.
- K. Mr. Gorecki discussed the topic of a new license type that was put forth at the last SPCC meeting. This potential new license type would allow an optional pathway for technicians to be certified to use RUPs. There will be a survey with information about the potential license type sent out next month to The Inside Buzz subscribers that will be conducted through the end of July. The results of this survey will be discussed at the August SPCC meeting.
- L. Mr. Lastinger stated there have been no further updates regarding building codes.
- M. Mr. Lastinger communicated that no further information or data has been received on the Novaterm system at this time.
- N. Mr. Trip Martin provided the legislative update. Georgia is expected to see 8 to 10 senate seats open soon. He noted that with many seats opening there may be a domino effect in some areas for how things shift. 2026 looks to be a different kind of session. Mr. Martin also spoke about the tort reform bill, Senate Bill 68, which was recently signed by Governor Kemp. This bill is expected to create a better environment for GA businesses.
- O. Mr. Lastinger spoke about Notice 22-01 in reference to the three day right of cancellation rule as described in the Fair Business Practices Act (FBPA). This act references federal code which allows that the statement on the contract regarding three day right to cancel may be "substantially similar" to that originally provided in FTC 16.C.F.R. 429. Currently as per Notice 22-01 the state policy is stricter than the federal code. In order to align with the federal code, a change to Notice 22-01 to clarify that the three day right of cancellation notice does not need to be the exact listed language, but rather can be substantially similar was proposed. A motion to accept the draft language was made by Mr. Chris Gorecki. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Notice 22-01 will be updated and the revision will also be communicated in the next edition of The Inside Buzz.
- P. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He stated that there has been fewer developments with several hot topic issues such as rodenticides and PFAS as EPA adjusts its focus. Mr. Bell

lamented the retirement of Rick Keigwin, former Senior Executive at EPA, noting that he was a good friend who took his role seriously and was always willing to listen. As the year progresses, it seems the consideration of the Farm Bill is unlikely for the Fall session. Mr. Bell also emphasized the importance of the industry being aware of how the agricultural side is responding to the required changes from the ESA.

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	Company Applications

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Chris Gorecki, Chairman

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Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

## ATTACHMENT 1

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### 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

June 10, 2025

#### **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 – Tim Taylor
  - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
  - Outreach – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. License Renewal 2025-2027
- e. Rulemaking Notice and survey
- f. Building Codes
- g. Notice 07-01 Examination Cheating Policy
- h. Novaterm
- i. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- j. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- k. Certification Examination Application Review

#### **Adjournment**

## ATTACHMENT 2

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### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Northwest Exterminating Company LLC – Name Change Only
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- Jeff Clark's Pest Solutions LLC – Tennessee
- Veteran Owned Services, LLC DBA Mosquito Squad of Augusta - Richmond County – Approved for HPC only
- Mosquito Shield – Gwinnett County
- Urbanex of Knoxville, LLC – Hamilton County – Suboffice License
- Atlanta Wildlife Solutions LLC – Forsyth County – HBR License
- Pollard Produce LLC DBA Bee Pimprn – Name Change Only

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Hometown Pest Control LLC – Haralson County – Pending Insurance & Name
- Fireline Pest Control – Paulding County – Pending Insurance & Email Address
- Karha Solutions LLC DBA Pest Master of Cumming (New Location) – Forsyth County - Pending DCO
- Adams Exterminators (New Location) – Thomas County – Pending Payment

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- DNR Pest Control LLC – Henry County – Incomplete Application