

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

May 12th, 2026

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:01 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 April SPCC meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. Dr. Forschler announced that he will be retiring on August 1st, so this will be his last SPCC meeting. He acknowledged it has been his pleasure to serve and thanked the commission for the kind words shared by members. Mr. Gorecki expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the commission for Dr. Forschler's years of dedication and support to the industry and the department. The Commission and department noted the need to discuss filling the vacancy and agreed to work together to identify a suitable candidate.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He reported that SPD recently partnered with the GDA's Ag Pesticide Program to visit the Port of Savannah to meet with Peoples Industries and tour operations related to import/export commodity fumigations. The visit focused on the challenges of export commodity fumigation and the use of sulfuryl fluoride. Mr. Lastinger also announced that Ms. Ali Ikner has been promoted to Assistant Director of SPD and congratulated her on her new role.
- F. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. She announced that SPD has launched an online payment portal for payments through KRS, allowing initial payments for certified operator and company license applications to be accepted by email rather than requiring mailed checks. She also previewed a modernized second edition of the licensing database, currently in development, which will significantly improve self-service capabilities for licensees. It will be some time yet before the new system is live for structural pest control licenses, since several other Divisions will be moved to the new system first. She did note however that currently the sub-office license fees of \$10 are not yet supported by the online payment system and must continue to be paid by check.
- G. Mr. Tom Stage provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He reported that the department has seen an uptick in complaints involving unlicensed door-to-door sales operations. The compliance team continues to focus on unlicensed operator cases as a priority.
- H. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on SPD field operations. Mrs. Merritt recently attended the ASPCRO Mid-Year Meeting in Orlando. She reported that the rodenticide, fumigation, communications, and public health committees all convened and had productive discussions. Nationally, unlicensed door-to-door operations were identified as an issue, and the board is exploring the formation of an ad hoc committee to address it. The board also

approved an increase in conference registration fees, with additional details to be shared at the next meeting.

- I. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. She reported that on April 17th, she and Mrs. Merritt attended Agriculture Night at the Rome Emperor's baseball game. On May 1st, SPD joined Commissioner Harper, USDA, GDA, and Georgia Grown at Atlanta University for a recruitment event aimed at attracting new talent to the agricultural sector. On May 2nd, SPD participated in Fernbank's Bug Fest, which drew over 1,000 guests. Rollins served as a sponsor, and Ms. Ikner, Jennifer Pate, and Tyler Washburn all contributed to the event's success. Upcoming outreach events the SPD will be participating in include the Chattahoochee Nature Center's Butterfly Festival on June 6th and 7th, and the presentation of the School IPM Program at Camp Bartow on June 22nd. Mrs. Collier also noted that the UGA Words of War survey now has 550 respondents and encouraged continued promotion of the survey through industry outreach. She extended thanks to Dr. Forschler for his mentorship and support over the years.
- J. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- K. Mr. Gorecki noted that the commission has seen an increasing trend of company applications from out-of-state operations, which appear to be associated with door-to-door sales models. He indicated that the commission and department will develop a more structured process to ensure that Designated Certified Operator obligations are being fulfilled, including following up on supervision plans.
- L. Ms. Ikner presented revised company license applications for informational purposes. Two primary updates were noted, firstly applicants will need to provide Secure and Verifiable Document (SVD) information on the application form, in addition to the DCO's SVDs, to satisfy licensing requirements. Second, a new checkbox for the online payment option has been added to the Company License Application and the HBR Company License Application which will allow applicants to pay by credit card via an emailed link. Due to current limitations of the online payment system, Sub-Office License Application fees will still need to be paid via check.
- M. Ms. Ikner presented proposed revisions to the Recertification Course Approval Policy. She shared examples of several recently submitted course applications that contained AI-generated imagery with inaccurate pest identification images, nonsensical labeling, hallucinated text, and other issues. The proposed policy revisions strengthen language around content accuracy, authorize the commission to request additional documentation for review, allow for spot-checking of approved courses, and specify that non-compliance may result in revocation of course and/or speaker approval. A motion to approve the revised Recertification Course Approval Policy was made by Mr. Sinyard and seconded by Mrs. Bragg, and the motion passed.
- N. Mr. Lastinger provided the Rulemaking Implementation update. He reported that Notice 14-14: Wood Destroying Fungi Fact Sheet has been updated to reflect the rule change increasing the minimum vapor barrier coverage requirement from 70% to 90% of exposed soil, and to correct outdated links. A motion to approve the updated fact sheet was made by Mrs. Bragg and seconded by Mr. Holley, and the motion passed. Mr. Lastinger also noted that the rulemaking implementation webpage has been updated and encouraged attendees to reference it for the latest resources. He further reported that Notice 21-03 regarding honey bee removal is currently being revised to reflect the rule changes. He confirmed that Notice

24-04 on Termite Monitoring Only Products and Devices has been published to the SPD website and submitted to BASF.

- O. Mr. Gorecki provided an update on Termite Barriers. He summarized the history of the Pango Wrap physical termite barrier product, which the commission approved in 2016 for installation by licensed pest management professionals. The manufacturer has since approached the commission to reconsider that determination, contending the product is a physical barrier rather than a termite control method, and noting that some other states and EPA have reconsidered. Mr. Gorecki and Mr. Lastinger indicated they will share the manufacturer's materials with commission members for review and will seek clarification on whether the product's claims constitute termite control under existing regulations. Dr. Forschler noted concerns about the marketing language on the product's website. The Commission agreed the matter will be revisited at a future meeting.
- P. Mr. Gorecki spoke about Recertification course policy, noting inconsistencies in the current criteria across instructor qualifications and the intent to better standardize and streamline this process to reduce the burden on the GDA and decrease the length of time it takes to get approved. He also noted that the in-person presentation requirement at the department creates scheduling burdens. He suggested consolidating the final three application categories into a single standard based on practical experience and completion of the Train-the-Trainer Program, and potentially replacing the SPCC presentation requirement with an observed in-course presentation. Input from the associations will be solicited prior to bringing a formal proposal to the commission.
- Q. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. He reported that the May 19th primary election is approaching, with early voting already underway and strong turnout expected. The Governor is expected to sign the budget, though a budget shortfall may necessitate a special session following the June 16th primary runoff. He noted that a special session could address the budget, an election integrity bill, and potentially licensing-related matters. Mr. Martin also suggested that the SPCC consider holding its December meeting in Athens to coincide with the biannual legislative orientation for newly elected members, which would provide an opportunity to introduce SPCC priorities to incoming legislators.
- R. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He reported that the Farm Bill passed the House with the state pesticide preemption language, but it was later stripped by amendment. Mr. Gorecki noted that 45 states currently have preemption, and that the industry has now had preemption language survive to the final stages of the Farm Bill process twice in 13 years, though it was ultimately removed. Mr. Lastinger also spoke about Georgia's existing state preemption, which is codified in the Georgia Pesticide Use and Application Act (O.C.G.A. § 2-7-113), which prohibits other government entities from independently restricting pesticide use. Mr. Lastinger agreed to share the relevant statutory language with commission members for distribution to industry operators seeking clarification. Mr. Bell also announced the upcoming NPMA events, which include the Women's Forum in Charlotte from May 19th through the 21st, and the NPMA Academy from July 21st through the 23rd.
- S. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all guests in attendance. Commission members offered additional remarks recognizing Dr. Forschler's extraordinary contributions to the commission, the industry, and the department over his career. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 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

May 12, 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
 - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
 - Compliance/Enforcement – Tom Stage
 - 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 14-14 WDF
 - Resource webpage
 - Notice 21-03 HBR
- f. Notice 24-04 Termite Monitoring Only
- g. Termite Barriers
- h. SPCC Approved Recertification Instructor Qualification
- i. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- j. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- k. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- JJA Partners Holdco Inc. dba Proforce – Gwinnett County (New Location)
- Pest Commando – Cobb County

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Grand Funk Critters, LLC dba Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control – Cobb County – Pending Insurance & DCO Supervision Plan
- Evo Pest Control LLC – Richmond County – Pending Insurance & DCO Supervision Plan
- Waggles Honeybee Removal – Whitfield County – Pending Insurance & Payment
- PureGuard Pest Control – Bibb County – Pending DCO Supervision Plan
- Versacor Enterprises, LLC – Gwinnett County – Pending DCO Supervision Plan
- Another Pest Control Company, LLC – Murray County – Pending Insurance
- Illuminating Pest Control, LLC – Fulton County – Pending Insurance and Signature
- Space Invaders Pro LLC – Clayton County – Pending Insurance
- The Back Yard Care Company – Fulton County – Pending Email and New Name

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- Crossroads Pest Solutions – North Carolina – No DCO