

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

August 12, 2025

- 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, 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 Mrs. Bragg to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. Classes at UGA will start tomorrow, and overall, he reported that things are going smoothly. Dr. Forschler noted that NPMA would be hosting an event in September at UGA aimed at getting more students involved in the industry.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He reported that the state is anticipating a lean budget this year; therefore, all remaining commission meetings in 2025 will be held virtually. At the federal level, all funding had been initially removed, but this funding was later restored by the House Committee on Appropriations with a small increase for enforcement. The GDA has now received the final allocation from the EPA's three-year grant cycle, with the next grant period set to begin on October 1. Mr. Lastinger also discussed an upcoming press release from the GDA regarding consumer protection from unlicensed operators selling pest control services.
- F. Mr. Taylor gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. A Statewide Inspector training Meeting (SWIM) is scheduled for this week at the GDA Atlanta Lab located on the Georgia Tech campus. SPD will also be implementing a statewide initiative to reach out to the approximately 110 companies that have not yet renewed their company license. Mr. Taylor also reported that an injunction against an unlicensed operator was recently signed in Upson county, with the judge signing.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. The license renewal deadline was June 30th, so we are now in the late renewal period through September 30th. Three renewal notices were sent via email, and one by traditional post. Renewal reminders and information have also been sent out in the latest two editions of the Inside Buzz. As a reminder, after the late renewal deadline all initial licensing requirements are required to be met and late fees paid for anyone wishing to regain their license for two years. There are approximately 212 Certified Operators, and about 500 Registered Employees with active employment in the system that are eligible for renewal currently. Companies are strongly encouraged to check their lists of registered employees prior to the September 30th deadline. Ms. Ikner noted that this renewal period has been uniquely challenging due to several issues with our web vendor as well as ongoing issues with mail delivery. If you have not received your license in the mail after three weeks, please confirm your address is correct in the system and then reach out to our office.

- H. Ms. Bradshaw provided the Outreach report on behalf of Mrs. Nan Collier. Currently, SPD is participating in 4 workshops this fall to be held at the UGA Griffin Structural Pest Training Center. These include the Home IPM workshop which took place on August 7th, the upcoming School IPM Workshop on August 21st, and Fall Termite workshops scheduled in September. SPD also has plans to host a compliance booth at 3 upcoming fall conference, including the GPCA North GA Conference in Dalton, GA on September 10th & 11th, the GPCA South GA Conference in Tifton, GA on October 8th, and the CPCO Annual Fall Conference at UGA Griffin on October 15th & 16th. She also noted that the recent edition of the Inside Buzz was sent to 1,866 subscribers and featured stories from the SPD's summer interns, as well as renewal information and the update to Notice 22-01: Three Day Right to Cancel.
- I. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on SPD field activities. She welcomed newly hired SPD inspector Patricia Goodson and noted that training at the SWIM will feature an emphasis on the new structural fumigation label requirements.
- J. Mr. Lastinger discussed the Rulemaking survey results. He began by highlighting a recent update from the EPA regarding methomyl, a product often used for fly control. This product is being reclassified as a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) by the U.S. EPA. Mr. Lastinger noted that rodenticide products are being reviewed by the EPA in light of the new ESA policies, federal regulations, and updated data to determine if they should remain classified as general use or be considered RUPs. He emphasized that while SPD has the authority to restrict pesticide use at the state level, that has not been done traditionally. The SPCC's proposal of an additional optional license type, as described in the survey, is to provide an avenue for companies to meet these new federal regulations and be better positioned to adjust to potential changes in federal pesticide classifications. Mr. Lastinger reported that if RUPs remain under the sole purview of Certified Operators, then revisions will be made to comply with the federal standards for supervision of noncertified applicators found in 40 CFR 171.201 (d). *As a reminder no rule changes are being formally proposed at this time. These discussions are to aid in the initial drafting of the revisions to be proposed. Once the draft is complete, the proposed rules will be posted and there will be a public comment period before rule changes are finalized.* The resulting discussion from the attendees on the survey and rulemaking centered on questions regarding definitions and changing federal policy of on-site supervision, the naming of the proposed license type, and Registered Employees certification being unable to receive a federal equivalency to allow for the application of RUPs.
- K. Ms. Ali Ikner spoke about Notice 07-01 Examination Cheating Policy. Due to an incident earlier this year this policy is being revised to add clarification and transparency. The draft is projected to be presented at the September SPCC meeting for review and approval.
- L. Mr. Jay Roberts provided the legislative update. He discussed upcoming elections, noting that there are several legislators in the Senate running for other offices. This could mean numerous potential changes in the Senate. Conversely, there are relatively few changes expected in the House.
- M. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He noted that the EPA seems to have experienced a significant loss in personnel, and that this trend seems to be continuing. He also discussed NPMA's intent to request more dialogue on the rodenticide interim decision and highlighted that Dudley Hoskins has recently been nominated to serve as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Hoskins has been

involved in the industry for a long time, and his experience is expected to be a benefit to the industry in his new role. Mr. Bell also stated that there have been no updates on the Farm Bill, and with the Senate currently not in session it is unlikely we will see any updates soon. Mr. Holley added that Commissioner Tyler J Harper has recently been named as one of the twelve members to AFPI’s America First Agriculture Commissioners and Secretaries Council. This council aims to bring together agricultural leaders from across the country to help inform policy recommendations under President Trump’s Farmers First Agenda.

- N. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- O. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:36am.

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

August 12, 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 – Kenzie Bradshaw
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. License Renewal 2025-2027
- e. Rulemaking survey
- f. Notice 07-01 Examination Cheating Policy – Ali Ikner
- 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:

- IPM Services, Inc – Hall County – Name Change Only
- Rentokil North America, Inc dba Terminix – Forsyth County
- Rentokil North America, Inc dba Terminix – Fulton County
- Beeboyz Honeybee Rescue – Berrien County – HBR Company
- AB & BE – South Carolina
- Money's Honey – Peach County – HBR Company
- Armor Extermination Co, Inc DBA Armor Pest Control – South Carolina – Name Change Only

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Atomic Pest Solutions – McDuffie County – Pending Insurance; Name Change Only
- Thomas Pest Control – Madison County – Pending Insurance; Name Change Only
- Sadie's Pest Defense LLC – Newton County – Pending Insurance & DCO confirmation
- Pest Share – Cobb County – Pending Insurance
- Piedmont Pest Management – Habersham County – Pending Insurance
- DNR Pest Control LLC – Henry County – Pending Insurance
- Howard's Pest Solutions – Newton County – Pending Payment
- One Simple Solution Pest Control – Dekalb County – Pending Insurance
- C'YA Pest Solutions – Camden County – Pending Insurance
- Davenport Environmental of GA LLC – Gwinnett County – Pending Insurance & Payment
- BW Exterminating – Paulding County – Pending Insurance
- Gr8 Pest Solutions – Gwinnett County – Pending Name
- Urbanex of Knoxville, LLC – Hamilton County – Pending Insurance & Payment