

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

November 4th, 2025

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:02 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Kim Bragg, Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, 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 October meeting. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. He lamented that the Georgia Mosquito Control Association's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was not well attended by structural pest control professionals. He recommended that the organizers reach out to the pest control associations next year to help spread the word that PMP's could benefit from the information shared at this event as well as receive course credit. Dr. Forscher also spoke about a special celebration held at UGA to Celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University of Georgia's Department of Entomology. This celebration also honored the legacy and contributions of 10 emeritus professors. Dr. Forschler then provided a brief presentation to explain the plans for an upcoming survey that aims to quantify how the tone and language used in communication can influence an individual's response.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. The Georgia Department of Agriculture has recently wrapped up its work on the 2025 Georgia National Fair and the Sunbelt Expo. The Structural Pest Division is beginning the new 3-year cooperative agreement grant with the EPA, which requires the SPD to choose compliance and enforcement focus areas from a given pick list. To better respond to a growing demand, SPD has chosen fumigations as its focus area for this grant period. SPD will be working on providing information and additional outreach on this topic over the course of the grant period.
- F. Mr. Taylor gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. He discussed a recent exposure case where a tenant was directly affected by pesticide mist. This case was particularly alarming due to the applicator's failure to recognize any risk or mitigation measures of pesticide exposure. Mr. Taylor recognized the risks associated with pesticide exposure, the importance of applicator and public safety, and the requirements to follow all label instructions and precautions.
- G. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. She announced the course renewal website is expected to go live later this week with notifications following shortly after. If you are a course instructor and have not received a notification by November 14<sup>th</sup>, please reach out to the SPD office.
- H. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. SPD recently hosted a compliance table and spoke at the CPCO's Annual Fall Conference which took place on October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Collier also gave special thanks to three members of the SPD team who provided a special presentation of the School IPM program which featured an appearance by "Randy the Roach" at Friendship Elementary School's A.G.D.A.Y. (Always Growing a Desire for

Agriculture in Youth) on October 16<sup>th</sup> to over 300 students. A video of this special day was featured on GDA social media pages as well.

- I. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt provided an update on SPD Inspector field activities. SPD Inspectors are meeting later this month for their annual respirator fit certification. While attending this course inspectors will also receive pesticide sampling kits created to help ensure that all sampling is completed in an effective, efficient, and consistent manner.
- J. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- K. Mr. Lastinger gave the update on Rulemaking. The GDA legal team is completing final edits to the rules, which are expected to be published soon. The revisions do not change the substance of the rules but are intended to strengthen them against potential challenges. Specifically, the updates clarify that certified applicators are a more qualified subset of registered employees, rather than a new category not established by the Act. Mr. Lastinger also discussed the implementation timeline for how compliance and enforcement of updated rules would come into effect. He also noted that the public consideration meeting to receive in person comments is currently scheduled for Wednesday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. To clarify that is not an SPCC meeting and will not be held virtually. Mr. Lastinger also noted that the December SPCC meeting has been pushed to Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. This change is to allow more time after the end of the 30-day comment period for comments to be organized, reviewed, and considered prior to the December SPCC meeting. Mr. Gorecki also noted that fee increases have been withdrawn as part of this rule update, other than those needed to establish the Certified Applicator license.
- L. Mr. Trip Martin provided the legislative update. He spoke about the accomplishments of Brad Bohannon who joined GeorgiaLink recently. Mr. Bohannon previously worked in Governor Kemp's office as director of government affairs, as well as with the Georgia Lottery and as chief of staff for Congressmen Lynn Westmoreland. Mr. Martin also spoke about another new addition to GeorgiaLink, Alyse Murray. She is a government affairs expert with a background as the Senior Director in State and Local Government with Ohio River South and a Government Relations Representative from Georgia EMC. Mr. Martin also reminded everyone that today is an election day, so he encouraged everyone to be sure to vote if you have not done so already. There is a special election in the House on the ballot. Other special elections are expected to be added to the calendar soon. Mr. Martin also reported on Speaker Jon Burns, whose office has reached out for more information regarding fumigations as his office seeks reform in the timber industry.
- M. Ms. Faye Golden gave the NPMA update. Pest World 2025 in Orlando has now concluded. This event saw record attendance with more than 4500 attendees and welcomed new NPMA president Emily Thomas Kendrick with Atlanta based Arrow Exterminators. Ms. Golden also noted several award recipients, including Alyson Gilleland (Arrow Exterminators) who won the Women of Excellence Award, Staci Jo Johnson (Ecolab) who received the Emerging Leaders Award, Court Parker (Bug Busters) who received the Crown Leadership Award, and Dan Moreland who received the Pinnacle Award. Ms. Golden noted that Georgia was especially well represented at this year's event. She then spoke about the Public Policy Committee meeting. Due to the current federal shutdown, there were no new updates from the federal side to discuss. The meeting instead focused on the importance of pesticide safety educators and extension partners.

- N. Mr. Gorecki added that the comment period on the FTC’s request for information regarding employee noncompete agreements recently closed. He noted that NPMA had done a great job in putting together comments for this docket.
- O. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

**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

November 4, 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. Recertification Course Renewals
- e. Rulemaking
- f. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- g. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- h. Certification Examination Application Review

#### **Adjournment**

## ATTACHMENT 2

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### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Perfect Blend Pest Solutions, LLC – Tennessee
- Eagleshield Pest Control, Inc. – California
- Safe Home Pest Defense – Cobb County – Name Change Only
- Lookout Pest Control – Morgan County – Name Change Only

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Safe Solutions Pest Control – Coweta County – Pending Insurance
- Mosquito Squad of Savannah – Chatham County – Pending DCO & Research Fee
- Guardian Pest Solutions – Glynn County – Pending COI
- Axiom EPC on TN, LLC dba Axiom Eco Pest Control – Tennessee – Pending Name Change