

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

September 9, 2025

- 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, 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 August meeting. Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update. All is well with the UGA Urban Entomology department currently.
- E. Mr. Trip Martin provided the Legislative update. He noted there are numerous fundraisers going on this time of year. He also spoke about the possibility of changes in seven State Senate seats, due to several current Senators either running for other offices or leaving the position. He stated that while we are not expecting to see a new Chairman of the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee, we may see some changes within key committees.
- F. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He discussed the GDA's recent press release regarding unlicensed operators hired as salespeople or "doorknockers". The press release warned the public on the risks of hiring an unlicensed operator and explained how to verify if a pest control salesperson is licensed. This press release has been picked up by several media sources and viewership has now been estimated at over 5 million viewers. Mr. Lastinger also spoke about GDA's Yellow-legged Hornet ongoing eradication efforts. The Plant Protection Division, who spearheads the YLH response, has asked for volunteers to assist with checking traps and monitoring over the next couple of months. Six SPD team members have volunteered to assist at different times throughout the fall to respond to this need for aid.
- G. Mr. Taylor gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. SPD is continuing its efforts, which began on August 18th, to contact companies that have still not yet renewed their licenses. Last week this effort began including in-person visits. To date this project has brought about 20 companies into compliance with their license renewals. SPD is also assisting the Agricultural Inputs Division in co-hosting EPA R4 Basic Inspector Training next week and will have a few inspectors participating in that training as well.
- H. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. As a reminder, the late renewal deadline is September 30th. SPD records show 90 companies, 198 Certified Operators, and 443 Registered employees that have not renewed, but she noted that these numbers have all decreased since the last meeting. It is highly recommended that all licensees log on to the renewal webpage before the late renewal deadline. Starting Oct. 1st anyone who has not renewed must re-complete all the initial renewal requirements and pay the late fee to hold an active license. Ms. Ikner also noted that UGA PSEP Dr. Allison Johnson accepted a different position and as such is no longer employed in that role. As SPD is in the process of C&T plan implementation this transition will come at a difficult time, however the job is

expected to be posted soon and hopefully Dr. Johnson's meticulous notes will help make the transition smoother.

- I. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach report. Currently SPD is halfway through the fall workshop series. The recent School IPM Workshop hosted 25 participants. Other workshops in the series will include a Termite Workshop being held on Sept 11th through the 12th, and a second Termite Workshop to be held Sept. 25th through the 26th. SPD will also be hosting a compliance booth at the GPCA North GA Conference on Sept 10th-11th in Dalton, GA, at the GPCA South GA Conference on October 8th in Tifton, GA, and at the CPCO Annual Fall Conference being held on Oct. 15th-16th at UGA Griffin. She also noted that the next edition of The Inside Buzz is scheduled for publication around the end of September.
- J. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- K. Mr. Gorecki gave the update on Rulemaking. He began with a discussion on the Certified Applicator proposed license type. The feedback received through the survey and discussion at the past several SPCC meetings has been generally positive so the SPCC will be moving ahead with adding it to the draft of proposed rule amendments. Mr. Gorecki then discussed the adding of fee increases to the proposed rule changes to help offset the cost in processing, printing, and mailing licenses. The proposed increases are currently drafted at \$25 for a Registered Employee License, \$125 for a Certified Operator License, \$150 for a Company License, and \$50 for a Company Suboffice License. Mr. Gorecki noted that currently we are not even covering the cost of printing the cards and these fees are still lower than in many other states. He requested feedback and stated that this topic would be further discussed at the next meeting. A suggestion was made to also increase the research fee that is paid to the UGA Urban Entomology Department. It was further noted that all non-research fees for SPD licenses pay into the state of Georgia General fund, and not SPD nor GDA specifically. Mr. Gorecki also discussed the possibility of renaming the HPC category to be more inclusive of commercial and residential services, however the SPCC is still consulting with the GDA legal department to determine if the name of the HPC category is able to be changed through policy or if it would require a change to the existing law. If changing the name requires a law modification, the name will most likely remain unchanged. The SPCC is also adding some clarifying language to the draft of proposed rule changes regarding rule 620-9-.02(3) and adding "Reentry point" to 620-9-.01 Definitions. The way these rules currently read suggests that all entry points for bees must be sealed, however the intent of the rule is to prevent reinfestation, so it is proposed that language be added to require the cavity the bees were infesting be filled as well as having the entry points to the cavity sealed. Mr. Gorecki continued the rulemaking discussion with the suggestion to change the rule regarding the required amount of time that an examinee is required to wait should they fail an exam twice in a 12-month period. The proposal to reduce this to a 6-month wait will also be added to the draft of proposed rule changes. *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.* Outreach will begin in January of 2026 on the proposed rule changes.
- L. Ms. Ali Ikner spoke about an Examination Request under Notice 07-01. The applicant addressed the commission directly, expressing remorse for his prior actions and his intent to move forward with a legitimate career in the pest control industry. A motion to approve

the applicant's request to take the registered employee examination was made by Mr. Holley, Mrs. Bragg seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- M. A second request had been received from an applicant to retake the WDO portion of the Certified Operators exam due to extenuating personal circumstances. Mr. Gorecki explained that the rules do not allow the SPCC the leeway to make those types of waivers and therefore the request is denied, however with the aforementioned proposed rule change to reduce the minimum time required to pass between subsequent failures of examinations the applicant could potentially be able to retest as early as January.
- N. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. The ASCPRO meeting was held just a couple of weeks ago. There was a lot of discussion about state variations in rodenticide restrictions such as first and second-generation bans, as well as speculation on when a decision regarding the potential reclassification of rodenticides as an RUP may be finalized. Mr. Bell also discussed the disease potential of rodents and the important impacts to public health that warrant the need for control as well as the economic impact of rodenticide sales and how that impacts the rodenticide decision. Mr. Bell also noted that PestWorld 2025 hosted by NPMA will be held on October 21st through the 24th in Orlando, FL. Mr. Lastinger added that SPD's LeAnna Merritt was recently elected by the association membership to serve on the ASCPRO board.
- O. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:19am.

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

September 9, 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 Update
- f. Examination Request under Notice 07-01
- 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:

- Specter Services, LLC dba Spector Pest Control – Fulton County
- Troutman Pest Services – Wayne County – Name Change only
- Maple Leaf Lawn Pest and Termite – Cobb County – Name Change Only

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Exhibit A Pest Pro's – Gwinnett County – Previously approved pending name; Pending Insurance
- Signal Mountain Pest Control – Sequatchie County (Tennessee) – Pending Insurance
- Dasher Termite and Pest Control – Effingham County – Pending Insurance
- U Buggin' Pest Management and Services – Gwinnett County – Pending Insurance
- Mosquito Slayers, LLC dba Mosquito Squad of Chattanooga – Hamilton County – Pending Insurance
- Adams Exterminators – Tift County – Suboffice becoming a full office – Pending Insurance
- Peach State Pest and Mosquito – Bartow County – Pending new name, insurance, email address, and payment
- Vortex Crawldaddies - Madison County – Pending Insurance; Name Change Only
- Tim's Pest Control – Elbert County – Pending insurance