



Meeting called to order at 9:38, adjourned at 11:04am.

The old minutes were read and approved.

New Company Applications

TIM TAYLOR

APPROVED - Name Company – 1

APPROVED - Sub-Offices – 3

APPROVED - Sub-Office w/Pending Insurance – 1

GA Department of Agriculture Update

TOMMY GRAY

• The Department has been busy in response to the damage done by Hurricane Michael in SW GA. There was significant damage to agriculture in this storm. Billions of dollars lost in current and future yields. Some of the losses include: \$500-\$600 million loss in cotton, \$100 million loss to current pecan crop, \$260 million loss in timber resources. Pecan trees take at least 10 years to develop to create a crop which is a huge future loss.

• The Department is discussing how to recruit new employees. The salaries are not where they need to be especially for the field inspector role. Plant Industry has the highest turnover rate in the whole Department which is likely due to the complexity of the positions and salary being too low. Commissioner Black understands that these positions need to have competitive salaries to attract qualified employees.

GA Department of Agriculture Update

DERRICK LASTINGER

• Public Notice 18-06 2019 Commission Meeting schedule has been posted. This is posted on the GDA website. The April 2019 meeting may be moved to the Augusta area and the October 2019 meeting may be in South Georgia.

• There is an ongoing issue at the GA ports regarding the need to remove bees on the port property or ships a There is an ongoing issue at the GA ports regarding the need to remove bees on the port property or ships and/or containers. Port officials are finding it challenging to get bee removal services. [Sandy Shell has contacted all coastal county pest control companies to inquire if they do bee removal services. This list will be given to the port officials as a resource. Pest control companies may contact Sandy at 404-656-3641 to make sure they are on the list if they do offer bee removal services near the GA ports.](#)

• For the month of November, Alex Conti will be acting as Compliance Specialist.

Employee Pre-Exam Training Course at Athens Technical College

TIM TAYLOR

The course has been developed and is available to help employees to prepare for the registered employee exams. This resource alone will not be enough information by itself to pass the exam but will be a tool in the process of preparation. The fee is \$15 for this 2-hour course. This class is available online at AthensTech.edu or PestExam.com. Terry Bowen asked if the Commission has reviewed the content of the course to make sure the content is accurate. Derrick stated that the course has been reviewed and updated.

Pre-Examination Training Requirement

Terry Bowen

Terry Bowen asked the Commission if the 10-hour classroom training is required to be documented on the Pre-Examination Training Form. The rule states that this documentation must be provided on the prescribed form from the Commission. He inquired if the field inspectors are checking for during annual inspections.

Chris Gorecki stated that [all companies should be doing the 10-hour classroom training as it is required. He also stated that the form that has been put into place is not a mandatory form but is a tool and guide for what is required for the classroom training. Terry stated that the rule and the policy seem inconsistent because the rule states that the training is to be documented on "the form prescribed by the Commission". Mr. Gorecki suggested the Commission review the rule and the policy.](#)

Mr. Bowen also stated that the rules state that "the 10-hour classroom training must be approved by the Commission". Per Derrick, the Employee Registration Manual was produced to provide direction on this training. Bodine Sinyard suggested that the Commission review the rules and policy and make sure they match. [This will be discussed in future meetings.](#)

Derrick also suggested that the 2-hour Athens Tech training be addressed and see how that fits into this 10-hour training requirement. Chris Gorecki asked that the Commission have access to review the Athens Tech online training.

UGA Update: DERRICK LASTINGER

The Department of Entomology will host the January 9, 2019 Commission meeting in

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Athens at the *Seney Stovall Chapel* located at 200 N Milledge Avenue. Breakfast will be served at 8:30am and the meeting will begin at 9:00am. There will be research updates given at this meeting as well as a welcome by Dean Pardu.

Spray Foam Insulation: DERRICK LASTINGER

- Fox 5 had a story on spray foam insulation and its impact on pest control the week of November 12. [The Department has not received any feedback yet regarding consumer complaints or questions.](#)
- Derrick reported that Clemson University which houses the SC Department of Pesticide Registration contacted the GDA regarding a pest control company's online blog. This blog stated that the Georgia Department of Ag recommends that pest control companies cancel all programs with any customer that has applied spray foam insulation to their structures. This statement is NOT correct. The Department will be reaching out to this company to request that statement be removed from the blog.
- NPMA has had conversations with the Chemical Council regarding spray foam. NPMA is working on getting a meeting with Spray Foam Alliance in Athens in January 2019.

(HBAG) Home Builders Association of Georgia

BETTIE SLEETH, consultant for the Regulatory Affairs:

Ms. Sleeth helps bring attention to builders in GA regarding code issues. The spray foam issue was introduced to the Home Builders Association and was brought up to the members at this year's Annual Meeting. [The current energy code, 209 IECC includes the clause "a 3" gap must be left when applying spray foam insulation so that a termite inspection can be done in an encapsulated crawlspace". This clause was reiterated to these members. The new energy code to be passed on 11/14/2019 will include this language. This new code will be implemented in 2020.](#) This is a 3-tiered association including local associations, state association and national association. The Builders Officials of Georgia were also informed of this code requirement.

Ms. Sleeth agreed that resales are more difficult to regulate because the homeowner may spray foam insulation done after construction or do this on their own which may not meet the code requirements. Derrick asked if a consumer discovers that the spray foam was not installed correctly could they could file a complaint. Ms. Sleeth said that consumers could file a complaint with the Builders' Licensing Board with the Secretary of State.

Bodine Sinyard suggested that more detailed language be added to the code regarding spray foam application. He is suggesting that a committee develop an amendment with more additions to this code. Ms. Sleeth said that amendments can be submitted by 12/15/2018 to the Department of Community Affairs. [The amendment would be reviewed in 2019 before this code is in effect in 2020.](#) Derrick suggests that the amendment could include

language that would not allow the subfloor and the foundation walls. He suggests that the code require one or the other. Chris Gorecki also had a question regarding the thickness of the spray foam application requirement.

AAT Rule: DERRICK LASTINGER

[The draft notice for intent for the amendment to the Rule 620-6-.04 will be sent out on 11/14/2018 to all registered Certified Operators via email.](#) This will open a comment period for 30 days and there will be a public hearing for this amendment on December 18 at 10am in Room 201 of the Agriculture Building at the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Legislative Update

- Special session started 11/13/2018. General Assembly is discussing disaster relief for South GA. \$275 Million.
- Tax bill combination for tax credits for timber farmers and for Delta sales tax exemption.
- John Meadows*, GA House Rules Chairman, passed away 11/12/18 which will impact session timelines.
- There doesn't seem to be any specific bills that would affect structural pest control at this time.
- Update on Governors race, the certified results will be given on Friday, November 16, 2018. There will likely be more litigation after this date.

NPMA Update: RICK BELL

- Massachusetts is now joining the state of California by providing legislation to ban rodenticides in the state.
- AK, MS, OH are setting minimum thresholds for pest control for people on Medicare. This started in Ohio for bedbugs and has morphed into "pest control" as a broader topic into other states. NPMA is making sure these thresholds allow for a reasonable fee for pest control services and require that a licensed pest control operator doing the services that are being charged a fee.
- NPMA has provided good information based on research regarding silica and OSHA standards. NPMA members may get this information on their website.

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Posted Public Notice 17-06		
January 09	May 15 (in Rome)	September 11
February 13	June 12	October 09
March 13	July N/A	November 13
April 11	August 07	December 11

2018 Meetings in Accordance with the Statutory Provisions of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act (OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED 43-45-1)

CPCO OF GA | 770.338.1050 | M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm

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Promoting Professionalism in the Pest Control Industry
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To be the preeminent Professional Pest Control Association in Georgia

