



**Minnesota Pest Management Association  
July 21, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Moe's Restaurant, Mounds View, MN**

The following is a listing of those in attendance:

Dr. Hao Yu, Guardian Pest Solutions  
Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control  
Richard Turbett, Terminix  
Matt Ferguson, Rainbow Pest Control  
Joe Spitzmueller, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture  
Rick Leece, Pest Management Supply  
Jay Bruesch, Plunkett's Pest Control  
Larry Ruffedt, Westside Pest Control  
Travis Garner, Rove Pest Control  
Bob Hansen, Bob the Bug Man  
Gregg Regimbal, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture  
Matt Sunseri, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture  
Staci Johnston, Ecolab  
John Wagner, Ecolab  
Kathy Watrin, Granite Pest Control  
Dr. Mohammed El Damir, Adam's Pest Control  
Todd Leyse, Adam's Pest Control  
Mike Fresvik, Minnesota Pest Management Association

MPMA President, Matt Ferguson opened the meeting at 11:30 AM, and calling for any old business, being none, he opened the meeting to new business.

MPMA President Matt Ferguson asked for a roll call of those present.

**Joe Spitzmueller: Minnesota Department of Agriculture:**

Joe first discussed the letter sent to licensed Structural Pest Control Companies detailing changes in this license category. He stated that there has been little response from the industry following this mailing and MDA assumes that the changes are mostly understood. He stated that he has a definitive definition of commensal rodent provided by Dr. Steve Kells that includes deer mice and that MDA is willing to share if needed or requested.



Joe discussed the development of new Structural Pest Control Manuals, which include both the Masters and Journeyman manuals. He acknowledged and thanked the members of MPMA for their participation in the project. Manual development is on target. However, a critical piece necessary to move forward is to distinguish the roles and responsibilities of a Master applicator versus the roles and responsibilities of a Journeyman applicator.

Joe then explained MDA's intent to move some testing to the county level. At this time, four counties are equipped to administer the Structural Pest Control examinations. The goal is to have 15 to 20 counties equipped to administer the examinations. MDA is having a difficult time finding northern MN counties willing to proctor exams.

Next Joe discussed MDA's intent to establish a work group to examine pesticide application records and public notification. This work group will deal with all the various groups of pesticide applicators. The reason for this work group is that MDA receives calls from individuals wanting to know what pesticides were applied. MDA receives at least a dozen calls per year. Joe will email MPMA Secretary/Treasurer requesting volunteers to serve on this work group.

Members in attendance discussed their use of posted notes with application record information used in the past. Most companies in attendance stopped using posted notes some time ago due to lack of questions or concerns from tenants. Most companies felt tenants knew they could contact the housing manager for answers to their concerns. MPMA will look into developing a draft post note for the Structural Pest Control industry. It was suggested, MDA may want to establish a work group to help deal with this issue.

### **Gregg Regimbal: Minnesota Department of Agriculture**

Gregg opened with a review of the honey bee kill that happened in Minneapolis in 2013. The owner of the bees filed a complaint and the MDA conducted an investigation. MDA determined the active ingredient involved, but was unable to pin point the responsible party.

Gregg then discussed the products that contain the active ingredient fipronil. Label language on some general use (non-RUP) products may state, for sale to, use and storage only by individuals/firms licensed or registered by the state to apply termiticides and/or general pest control products. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the "sale to" portion of such language is not enforceable at the federal level. Gregg noted that MDA is looking into this language stating they would discuss whether this language maybe enforceable at the state level. MDA will continue to explore the possibility and keep the industry updated.



Gregg suggested the MPMA contact distributors of product's label with restrictive label language, requesting they not sell these products to unlicensed applicators. MPMA will look into the feasibility of this suggestion.

Gregg expressed that the bee health issue has generated a great deal of interest and will likely continue for quite some time. For the summary of MDA bee kill complaint investigations in calendar year 2014 visit:

[http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/pollinators/~/\\_media/Files/protecting/bmps/pollinators/beekillinvestsmry14.pdf](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/pollinators/~/_media/Files/protecting/bmps/pollinators/beekillinvestsmry14.pdf)

Gregg noted that pesticide label questions should be directed to Matt Sunseri (651-201-6292) [Matthew.sunseri@state.mn.us](mailto:Matthew.sunseri@state.mn.us).

### **Larry Ruffedt: Westside Pest Control**

As a MPMA member, Larry has volunteered to serve on the work group developing the new Category P Manual. The work group is lead by Roger Flashinski. The work group is using the present Nebraska Manual. This will save both time and dollars.

Larry stated the manual will be shortened, but include all the information needed for a Category P Manual in MN. Prairie dog information is not needed in Minnesota.

Joe Spitzmueller mentioned that manual development work is going well. MPMA members involved in manual development are providing excellent assistance.

### **Mike Fresvik: Minnesota Pest Management Association:**

Mike opened the discussion relating to a MPMA Reception at next year's 2016 Structural Pest Management Conference. MPMA has approached Dr. Kells with the idea of a reception and he has approved.

The purpose of the reception would be to increase benefit awareness of MPMA/NPMA membership and hopefully increase membership. In addition, the reception would allow attendees to visit with vendors. We discussed a number of items; location, menu, cost, possible vendor, and National Pest Management Association involvement. Mike handed out the attached document that lists the cost options for food and beverage for attendees.

It was agreed that those invited should be limited to decision makers: owners, managers, and some supervisors. MPMA will work with Allison Forcier, conference organizer, so the registration name tag badges will indicate owners, managers, and supervisors.



At this time, the following items have been determined:

- The reception will be held on Monday after the close of the session in the exhibit area
- Attendance will be limited to decision makers (as noted in the above definition)
- Two drink tickets per person
- A taco fiesta food station will be available

Hao Yu suggested that the last topic on Monday be limited to decision makers. Those not invited to the reception would be dismissed. MPMA will discuss this with Dr. Kells.

Attendees discussed the possibility of the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) having a role in the 2016 Conference Reception. MPMA will contact NPMA and provide the proposed details for such a Reception.

Prior to MPMA's next Board of Director's meeting, MPMA will work with Dr. Kells, Allison Forcier, and the NPMA. The Reception will be a main topic at MPMA's next meeting October 27.

Mike then presented the MPMA Financial Status report: Fees for calendar year 2015 have been collected and payments are current. MPMA has net assets of \$33,679.02. A motion was made and seconded to except the Financial Status report.

President Matt Ferguson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded.

The next MPMA meeting is October 27, 2015. Please note the meeting date.

Thanks for your membership and support.

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