



**April 16, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Crooked Pint, Maplewood, MN 55117  
651-252-6500**

The following were in attendance:

Stephen Kells: University of Minnesota  
Matt Eickman: Abra Kadabra  
Jason Leonard: Forshaw  
Jim Lynch: Target  
Rick Leece: Pest Management Supply  
Michael Harmon: Pest Management Supply  
Dr. Mohammed El Damir: Adam's Pest Control  
Todd Leye: Adam's Pest Control  
Erin Smilanich: Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Jeff Hahn: University of Minnesota  
Matt Ferguson: Rainbow Pest Control  
Bob Hansen: Bob the Bug Man  
Larry Ruffedt Sr.: Westside Pest Control  
Larry Ruffedt Jr.: Westside Pest Control  
Rob Greer: Rove Pest Control  
Lance Watrin: Granite Pest Control  
Staci Johnston: Ecolab  
Caroline Kirby: Plunketts Pest Control  
Mike Fresvik: Minnesota Pest Management Association

2019 MPMA President Staci Johnston opened the meeting at 11:30 AM, calling for any old business, being none, she opened the meeting to new business.

MPMA President Staci Johnston asked for a roll call of those present.

**Proposed MPMA Legislative Day: Staci Johnston**

A discussion pursued regarding MPMA holding a Legislative Day at the Capital next year during the 2019-2020 legislative session.



Staci discussed various state and national Legislative Days she has attended. Prior to our meeting, she contacted the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) relating to the logistics of holding such an event and securing their assistance, should MPMA move forward.

A motion was made by Todd Leyse to hold the event and seconded by Matt Eickman. The MPMA Board of Directors voted on the motion and it past unanimously.

Staci Johnston, Rob Greer, and Todd Leyse were selected for the 2019-2020 MPMA Legislative Day working committee.

### **Dr. Stephen Kells: University of Minnesota**

Dr. Kells opened the discussion with a review of the 2019 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference. The conference was held March 4 and 5, 2019, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Dr. Kells is currently working on the conference evaluation forms returned by attendees. Results of the evaluations will be presented at a future MPMA Board meeting.

An area of concern surfaced during the conference was use of cell phones. A few conference attendees were using cell phones during conference presentations. While there might be some limited need for business related cell phone use, video games do not fit into the category of essential business. Cell phone use during conference presentations will be addressed at next year's conference.

Dr. Kells then presented information relating to online options for conference attendance. There are methods to present conference subject matter online. The difficult factor is to ensure proper compliance.

A question was raised, who would be eligible to use the online training option in lieu of attending the conference? At this point in the discussion of online training, any licensed applicator would be eligible, location in the state would have no bearing on eligibility.

Several in attendance expressed concern about moving forward with the online training option. No target date has been set for implementation of an online training option.

Dr. Kells then discussed next year's conference. Because of conflicts at the Minneapolis Convention Center normal conference dates are not available. At this time, available dates are March 9 and 10 or February 24 and 25.



A discussion followed relating to available dates or the possibility of changing conference location. Changing location would be more difficult than selecting a date change. A vote by those in attendance selected the March 9 and 10 date for the 2020 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference.

MPMA Secretary/Treasurer will email 2019 conference vendors for comments relating to the March 9 and 10 dates.

University of Minnesota Dr. Kells and Minnesota Department of Agriculture Erin Smilanich discussed new manual development and the upcoming Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) meeting scheduled for the Twin Cities.

The Structural Pest Management new manual should be available towards the end of May. The Structural Pest Control Applicator (SPCA) manual has both Journey and Master information together with Journeyman covered in the first half and Master covered in the entirety of the manual. There will no longer be a need to buy additional manuals.

ASPCRO conference planners visited the Twin Cities in April, 2019. Planners toured sites for entertainment and pest management tours. They toured the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Zoo. For entertainment purposes, they visited Paisley Park, First Avenue, and a number of local breweries.

ASPCRO will be holding their national conference in August of 2020, at a Twin Cities' location.

MPMA will likely be involved in some aspect of the convention.

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

Mike opened with a discussion regarding the 2018-2019 Minnesota Legislative session.

The Minnesota House of Representatives introduced the below proposed legislative language:

#### **18B.02 PREEMPTION OF LOCAL LAW.**

(a) Except as [provided in paragraph \(b\) or as otherwise](#) specifically provided in this chapter, the provisions of this chapter preempt ordinances by local governments that prohibit or regulate any matter relating to the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides. It is not the intent of this section to preempt local responsibilities for zoning, fire codes, or hazardous waste disposal.



(b) An ordinance adopted and enforced by a city of the first class that prohibits or regulates any matter relating to the use, application, or disposal of pesticides is not preempted by the provisions of this chapter.

The original proposed language would allow cities of the first class to enact pesticide regulatory language without MDA approval.

MPMA responded with emails to Minnesota House Representatives, Minnesota Senators, and the Governor detailing the detrimental impact of this language should a city want to regulate pesticides within their jurisdiction.

In addition, MPMA attended and provided testimony at House Committee hearings relating to the proposed language.

To a degree MPMA's efforts were successful. The proposed language was modified as shown below:

#### **18B.02 PREEMPTION OF LOCAL LAW; DELEGATION.**

(a) Except as specifically provided in this chapter, the provisions of this chapter preempt ordinances by local governments that prohibit or regulate any matter relating to the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides. It is not the intent of this section to preempt local responsibilities for zoning, fire codes, or hazardous waste disposal.

(b) The commissioner may enter into agreements with cities of the first class and delegate the commissioner's duties under this chapter and rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 18B.06 regarding the use, application, or disposal of pesticides. A fee established by a city of the first class to recover costs of enforcement must be established by ordinance and must be fair, reasonable, and proportionate to actual costs incurred pursuant to the delegation agreement. An agreement entered into by the commissioner and a city of the first class pursuant to this paragraph must:

(1) specify minimum staff requirements and qualifications and other reasonable standards as determined by the commissioner;

(2) establish specific criteria the commissioner will use to determine if the city of the first class meets appropriate standards and is sufficient to replace enforcement by the commissioner; and

(3) provide for termination procedures if the commissioner determines that the city of the first class has failed to comply with the delegation agreement.

The proposed language provides that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture may delegate duties relating to pesticide regulation to first class cities. The language has certain requirements that must be met and a mechanism for termination as listed above.



The following are Minnesota first class cities: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, and Duluth.

In order for this proposed language to move forward, there must be companion language in the Minnesota Senate. At this point, there is no companion language in the Senate and MPMA will continue its efforts to keep the status quo.

At present the proposed House of Representatives delegation language is part of the Agriculture bill.

MPMA appreciates the work efforts of Staci Johnston, Rob Greer, Todd Leyse, and Dr. Steve Kells for their expertise provided to inform the legislature on the adverse impact of the proposed language.

Attached is a letter written by Dr. Kells to Senator Weber that fully explains the situation. Thank you Dr. Kells for your efforts on behalf of the MPMA.

### **VOTER VOICE PROGRAM:**

MPMA/NPMA emailed 458 Voter Voice messages to licensed structural pesticide applicators. Records indicate that 106 applicators followed through and messaged their Minnesota Representative and/or Senator.

Jake Plevelich, NPMA, has provided the lead relating to the Voter Voice program. Jake will be emailing Voter Voice applicators that have not emailed their Minnesota Representative, Senator, and Governor. Thank you Jake, for your efforts relating to the Voter Voice program.

### **Additional Items:**

MPMA emailed 2019 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference vendors requesting comments on the 2019 Conference. MPMA received a number of comments which will be shared with 2020 Conference planners. The goal is to improve the Conference for the vendor and attendees. Vendors, it is not too late to submit your comments.

MPMA Secretary/Treasurer Mike Fresvik presented the MPMA Financial Report. As of April 15, 2019, MPMA has total assets of \$40,525.02. A motion was made and seconded and the financial report was approved.

MPMA President Staci Johnston called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made and seconded, the meeting adjourned.



**2019 Board of Directors**  
Staci Johnston, Ecolab, President-Rich Hodgson, Orkin, Director-Caroline Kirby, Plunketts Pest Control, Director-Dr.Mohammed El Damir, Adams Pest Control,  
Director-Mathew Eickman, Abra Kadabra Environmental, Director-Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control, Director-Larry Ruffedt, Westside Pest Solution, Past President

Minnesota Pest  
Management  
Association

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MPMA thanks you for your membership and support.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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