



April 21, 2020
Minnesota Pest Management Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting

2020 MPMA President Rich Hodgson opened the meeting at 11:00 AM. Calling for any old business, being none, he opened the meeting for new business.

Roger Mackedanz-Minnesota Department of Agriculture:

Roger opened his discussion with the issue of testing applicants. Until recently, MDA was only offering testing for essential categories. MDA is now offering testing for all license categories. MDA is testing in the St. Paul office Monday-Thursday; St. Cloud Monday-Wednesday and Friday. MDA now has an office in Mankato and testing at that location Thursday and Friday.

Roger also noted there are several counties that offer testing. All listed locations are testing in all categories, including Structural Pest.

Roger recommended going to the MDA Web Site for details on what testing is available, when, and how to make arrangements. Roger also mentioned that MDA is not at maximum testing levels, thus there should not be an issue in scheduling a testing time.

The MDA Web Site: mda.state.mn.us, type applicator testing in the search bar.

MDA is asking that applicants not feeling well or showing COVID-19 symptoms not to schedule testing. In addition, testing staff may question the applicant as to how they feel.

When the applicant arrives at the testing location, he or she is required to bring and wear a facial mask. In addition, testing staff will be wearing appropriate protection.

Roger noted that desks and computers used by the applicants will be wiped down and disinfected prior to the next applicant.

The next major item Roger discussed was next year's training sessions. MDA is scheduled to start license renewal training in September for certain categories. In case large group training sessions are not allowed, MDA is pursuing various options for license renewal. At this point, MDA has ruled out the do-nothing option for license renewal.



MDA is concerned as to whether the March 2021 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference will be held. MDA and U of M are brain storming to considering alternative training.

Dr. Stephen Kells-University of Minnesota:

Dr. Kells discussed the new Structural Pest Management Manual. The new manual is now available through the University of Minnesota book store. The new manual includes both the Journeyman and Masters categories. The manual cost is \$129.00 and includes the online E version of the book.

Here is the link for ordering the manual: <https://bookstores.umn.edu/product/book/category-spc-structural-pest-control-applicator-master-journeyman-applicators>

There are two colors for the manual, blue is for the commercial applicants and green is for noncommercial applicants. Make sure you purchase the blue colored manual as there are differences in the content. Dr. Kells stated that the manual is not sharable.

Roger Mackadanz stated that 30 days after availability of the manual, MDA will begin administering the new test based on the new manual. Update, I have just been informed that MDA will start using the new tests on July 1, 2020.

Dr. Kells then reviewed the evaluations from the 2020 March Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference. Ninety two attendees responded with their evaluations. The results were as follows: 32% very satisfied, 43% satisfied, and 20% were neutral. This is actually a better rating than past conferences.

The next topic related to recertification training for the upcoming year. At this point, the University of Minnesota is unwilling to allow Dr. Kells to sign a contract for holding the Conference next March at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The deadline to hold the Convention Center is April 31.

Due to possible future problems, Dr. Kells is working with MDA regarding holding the Conference in an online format. Dr. Kells has always had an interest in expanding educational experiences beyond the one-time annual meeting. In particular, this will help people who miss the meeting and smaller companies who are at a distance from the Twin Cities. Dr. Kells is also exploring various options to include vendors should the 2021 conference be moved to an on line event.

Those that participated in the Zoom MPMA Board Meeting encouraged Dr. Kells to continue sharing the COVID-19 information he has been emailing to MPMA members.

Mike Fresvik, Minnesota Pest Management Association:



Mike discussed topics related to vendor comments. Comments received from vendors at the conference were positive. Vendors indicated they liked the exhibit space arrangement and the large number of attendees. After the conference, Mike emailed vendors a listing of all attendees and again asked for comments relating to the conference. MPMA received a couple of responses questioning why the meeting has to be on a Monday and Tuesday.

Mike than discussed Minnesota House File 1255. MPMA, with the help of the National Pest Management Association (NPMA), spent a significant amount of time and effort relating to HF 1255.

Basically, HF 1255 would allow all statutory and home rule charter cities to enact ordinances relating to pesticide use. It is MPMA's understanding this would include nearly all Minnesota cities. The ordinance would relate to pollinator protection and states: "A person may not apply or use a pollinator lethal pesticide within the geographic boundaries of a city that has enacted an ordinance." According to the NPMA staff entomologist Dr. Brittany Campbell, HF 1255 would eliminate almost all outdoor applications of pesticides.

With the onset of COVID-19, Minnesota legislative action on HF 1255 was put on hold. This is language MPMA will monitor during upcoming legislative sessions.

Mike next discussed MPMA's Financial Status Report. As of April 21, 2020, MPMA has a balance of \$41,299.00.

MPMA thanks Dr. Stephen Kells for arranging the Zoom Meeting.

MPMA President Rich Hodgson adjourned the meeting.

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