



Minnesota Pest  
Management  
Association

6563 Bracken Drive Minnetrista, MN 55331

**President:** Dr. Mohammed El Damir, Adams Pest Control

**Directors:** Matthew Eickman, Abra Kadabra Environmental • Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control  
Lance Watrin, Granite Pest Control • Matt Ferguson, Rainbow Pest Control

**Past President:** Caroline Kirby, Plunkett's Pest Control

**2022 Board of Directors**

**MPMA Board Meeting  
January 18, 2022  
Crooked Pint Ale House Maplewood, MN**

**Minutes**

**In attendance “live:”**

Jay Bruesch, MPMA  
Todd Leyse, Adam's Pest Control  
Mohammed El-Damir, Adam's Pest Control  
Caroline Kirby, Plunkett's Pest Control  
Christina Valdivia, Wildlife Management

**Remote Via Zoom:** (Thanks to Todd Leyse for Zoom setup)

Matt Ferguson  
Steve Kells  
Matt E Abra Kadabra  
Roger Mackedanz  
Brent Kostka, Bug Busters Inc.  
Bob Hansen  
Michael Dufort, Bug Busters, Inc.  
Angel Egan, Ecolab  
Kathy Watrin, Granite Pest Control

**Mohammed El-Damir**

Called the meeting to order and welcomed participants at 11:30 A.M. Invited participants to introduce themselves.

**Roger Mackedanz, MDA**

Continuing to work on virtual training and licensing options; working with Dr. Kells at the University of Minnesota. No regulatory issues concerning any Minnesota pest management professionals.

**New Business**

Mohammed was invited to take part in MDA microbial committee; Roger Mackedanz indicated that no changes to policy are yet in the works.



## Dr. Stephen Kells, University of Minnesota

Steve asked for license numbers to be submitted so that he could track Conference registrations; P, E, F., M, etc. Need to make sure everyone knows they may have to submit their Commercial license multiple times.

MN Conference agenda: It is going to be a hybrid event this year; option to take part remotely via a course consisting of “live” presentations on March 7; all special sessions will be online. All Commercial license categories will be available this year online. You can do the whole thing online, or just the Commercial categories that you need.

### General Session:

Steve Kells: Welcome (in person)

Dr. Fred Whitford: Are your stored pesticides still good?

Pest ID workshop (Caroline Kirby, Dr. Mohammed El-Damir)

Marc Bramhall, Univar: New Technologies

Assessment-based roach control

Dr. Rick Cooper: Bed bug control in commercial offices (live)

MN pest scenarios: Dr. El-Damir, Caroline Kirby

Special sessions; fumigation, mosquito control, vertebrates re-offering P, J and E; also L

Tuesday morning: How many need dog re-training? (One, I believe.)

Caroline: When do you need the final version of the pest ID workshop? Steve: By February 18, if possible.

Mohammed: What if almost everyone needs to do the Conference online? A.: We need to know by February 18 whether people will attend live or virtually. The online registration form has a question regarding how people will take part.

### EPA:

Discussion on EPA's proposal to designate all rodenticides as Restricted-Use Pesticides.

Caroline: Sent out a query regarding making all rodenticides RUPs, which would make it impossible for consumers to obtain rodenticides.



Christina: How far along is the bill? (No answer was available at present.)

Caroline: Have we contacted EPA? (Not yet.)

Jay: Has NPMA contacted EPA regarding this bill?

Christina: Jake Plevelich is on vacation this week. Christina has a meeting with NPMA on where this issue stands. Collecting dead rodents 4 days later; this will be difficult. Bell Labs would like MPMA to draft a letter to EPA; they have contact information. Letter should explain how this would make life harder for PMPs. There will be pushback from clients; extra charges create financial hardship for those most affected by rodents, including low-income clients who cannot afford to pay for extra visits. Other states will have a bigger problem with this than Minnesota, since Minnesota requires all applicators to be licensed.

Jay: Will we put this on the back burner or take action on our own initiative? Todd: Window of opportunity is running out fast, so we should take action. Who is going to write this letter? Jay will get feedback from members, and then write the letter; cc NPMA and Sara at Bell Labs.

Mohammed: What is the purpose of this? It will be hard to enforce; people are more or less on the honor system.

Kathy: Why this? Todd: Some environmentalist group probably petitioned for this rule to reduce the risk of secondary poisoning.

Mohammed: Everybody should call EPA and tell them about hardships for our industry.

Matt: We should send a letter. (See above: Jay will solicit feedback and write/send the letter.)

Bed Bug Legislation: Todd: MMHA would like it if we would leave this alone. We should sit back and see what happens. A vote was taken: Ayes from all: MPMA will wait and see.

### **Future Meeting Format**

Todd says: Meetings should be strictly virtual until further notice. A motion made, seconded; Todd's proposal was unanimously accepted. All future MPMA meetings will be via Zoom, until further notice.

Todd: To Steve Kells: Future meetings should be recorded.

Todd: Members should encourage their people to attend "live" conference in order to keep vendors supporting our Conference. As many as possible need to come in order for us to gain the benefits of a live meeting.



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Todd Leyse: Should MPMA have a newsletter? It could be a way for sponsors to communicate with us by advertising in the newsletter; we could get people to write articles, and to contact with vendors. Who is going to write it? Who is audience?

Michael Dufort: Newsletter should include a section on technician viewpoints.

Caroline: Audience should consist of MPMA members.

Jay: Doesn't want the Secretary/Treasurer position to become a full-time job, which it would be if he were solely responsible for the newsletter; would need help with this. Todd: If we made it a quarterly thing, it would be doable.

Mohammed: Format of newsletter? What should it look like? Theme for each newsletter?

Christina: Offers help with layout.

Jay: Can we delay the start until Q3? Todd: Yes.

Mohammed: Committee to formulate newsletter? A.: Todd, Mohammed, Caroline, Jay, Steve.

Todd: This could be a revenue generator as "live" Conference sponsors bow out of participation in the annual PMP conference.

Mohammed: Leaves it to newsletter committee members (see above) to assemble somehow.

Nominate New Board Member? Not necessary.

### **New Business:**

Caroline: Should we have a vendor on our Board? We can investigate this in the bylaws. We could poll Allied members to see if there is any interest. Do they need to be MN residents?

Mohammed: NPMA VetPest committee discusses how to recruit veterans. Mohammed feels he should not be the representative for MN; anyone else care to volunteer? Mohammed will provide information on this in order to educate the Association on what this group does.

### **Jay Bruesch, Secretary/Treasurer**

Financial information on MPMA was disclosed:

For calendar year January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021:

Income: \$21,875.36

Expenses: \$25,995.13



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Balance in checking: \$10,964.70

Balance in savings: \$16,877.64

Total assets: \$27,842.34

### **Adjourn**

Moved, seconded and unanimously accepted. Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.