



MPMA Board of Directors Meeting
Moe's American Grill 2400 Mounds View Blvd. Mounds View, MN 55112

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: (TBD)

In person: Todd Leyse, Adam's Pest Control; Mohammed El Damir, Adam's Pest Control; Jay Bruesch, MPMA; Dr. Stephen Kells, U. of M.; Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control; Lance Watrin, Granite Pest Control; Christine Wick, ASPCRO/MDA

Remote via Zoom: Christina Valdivia, Wildlife Management Services; Evan Hutchcraft; Matt Ferguson; Bob Hansen; Travis Chambers, BASF; G, MDA. Brent Kostka.

Rob Greer, Director

Called meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.; an attendance sheet was passed around; in-person and remote attendees were invited to introduce themselves.

Julie Baskerville, PWIPM

Request and budget for continued funding of PWIPM by MPMA were tabled for a future meeting. Alternately, PWIPM can submit a budget at any time – there is no need to wait for a formal meeting.

Christine Wick, MDA/ASPCRO

Christine is an ASPCRO (Association of State Pesticide Regulatory Officials) Board member-at-large. ASPCRO is currently very much involved in EPA's proposed rules/interim decision for rodenticides. They recently met with a rodenticide task force representative. Comments are due February 12, 2003. ASPCRO has asked for an extension of this, but EPA denied this request. A recording of this session will be available for those that want one.

MPMA offered to provide our position paper on rules to ASPCRO; Christine will check with her co-workers to see if this is appropriate.

Dr. Stephen Kells, University of Minnesota

Steve is going to be increasing his involvement in teaching, as opposed to research and outreach. He wants to increase undergraduate exposure to industry.

The Department will begin to offer Entomology as an undergraduate minor, and may later add this as a major as well. This is in large part a response to pressure to increase teaching as opposed to research.



Steve wants to set up a job board for undergraduate students looking for internships and employment opportunities.

Steve discussed mist blower, drift issues, and training (via MN PMP Conference and online) to help prevent these issues. After all, as Todd Leye pointed out, mist blower mosquito applications tend to be focused on vegetation near property lines – right where drift would be most likely.

Christine Wick stressed the need for training on calibration of mist blowers, etc. ASPCRO committee Education and outreach to Category “L” applicators (during training for Category “L”) helped a lot. Property lines and drift off-target; open windows; these all need to be addressed.

Agenda for the 2023 SPCA Conference is ready; Dr. Kells is still trying to get a couple of speakers, particularly for Category “J.” A copy of the tentative agenda is attached, subject to a few changes Dr. Kells is negotiating at present.

- Robyn Frederick from MDA will kick off the Conference with a presentation on regulatory issues and MDA, as always.
- The Conference will include a pest ID and solutions workshop as always, created by Dr. Mohammed El Damir and Caroline Kirby.
- Coby Schal: Effective cockroach control and health concerns regarding histamines from exposure to cockroaches.
- Bobby Corrigan: Mice; and excluding pests.
- Joe Jonovich, Business opportunities for termite control in Minnesota are increasing. He'll cover ladder safety as well.
- Joleen Warnke will address new respirator resources, in response to worker protection standards that cover industry groups that are not directly involved with OSHA. She will present via live Zoom; all other presenters will be in-person.
- Rick Cooper: System for identifying pests for non-entomologists, in lieu of his previously planned presentation on bed bugs.

Special sessions: All Commercial categories will be offered both in person and online.

- Fumigation will be handled by Degesch.



- Vertebrate Control: Steven Van Tassel is a wildlife control consultant.
- Category “L” will be offered; presenters from Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD).

The entire General session, as well as Special sessions, will be in person, and will be recorded for inclusion in the online version of the Conference.

Christine Wick, MDA stated that MDA could offer presenters from the inspection or enforcement side; this may not work out for this year, but there is an open invitation. For this year, we can add material to Robyn’s talk as necessary, considering that the agenda is pretty well packed.

- Bed bug dogs: Do we need a dog certified? Let Steve know if you do. He would then contact NESDCA.

If members need copies of the agenda, they can contact Steve. A copy of the tentative agenda is attached, subject to the adjustments Steve mentioned, above.

Dr. Kells is finalizing the Website that will serve as a platform for the online version of the 2023 Conference; he is adding some redundancy into the site to monitor time.

Verifying training to MDA standards: the system takes control of the user’s computer; camera is actively on the user. At some point during the session, the system will take a picture, and that picture will be part of the attendance record. Caution: If a user happens to be looking away when their picture is taken, that won’t be usable. 70% of pictures taken must be of the user looking into the camera. Users should make sure they can see themselves on their screens. There will be ample written and spoken instructions regarding this matter.

Pictures will be deleted after use so that privacy is maintained.

People entering the wrong license number during the registration process is a problem: MDA and the U. of M. are going to be strict about insisting on everyone’s license number.

Steve needs 100 people to test this program; he made a request for support here. He needs to test Android mobile devices to see if the program works on those.

Vendor support: Steve solicits ideas for supporting vendors.

An estimated number of people who will be present at the Conference in person is up in the air right now; Dr. Kells should have an answer by next week. Vendors will want to know this in order to decide whether they will rent booth space and send representatives to the Conference.

Travis Chambers, BASF: Deadline for videos from vendors; length of videos? Steve answered



that videos would ideally be under 2 minutes, but this is somewhat flexible.

Steve mentioned that questions asked as part of the online course will be more specific; wrong answers will prompt the program to rewind and then re-ask a question.

New Business:

National core manual initiative through PERC: This topic was tabled for now, and it could be brought up at a future meeting of MPMA.

Roundtable: How can we encourage in-person attendance at the 2023 MN PMP Conference? (Benefits of in-person attendance; communicating with members and non-members of both the Minnesota pest management industry and our Allied partners.) This was also tabled indefinitely.

Introducing MPMA board lineup for 2023: Matt Eickman, AbraKadabra Environmental, is President; Dr. Mohammed El Damir, Adam's Pest Control, is Past President. Board members are Rob Greer, Rover Pest Control; Christina Valdivia, Wildlife Management Services; Matt Ferguson, Rainbow Pest Control; and Nathan Heider, Spidexx.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, April 18, 2023; 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.; venue TBD but will likely be Moe's American Grill again. Members may also attend via Zoom.

Mark your calendars!

Adjourn

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.