



Minnesota Pest
Management
Association

MPMA

Larry Rufflett, Westside Pest Solutions, President-Corey Colburn, Guardian Pest Solutions, Director-Staci Johnston, Ecolab, Director Rich Hodgson, Orkin, Director-Caroline Kirby, Plunketts Pest Control, Director-Brent Kostka, Bug Busters, Director-Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control, Past President

2018 Board of Directors

2414 Elm Drive • White Bear Lake MN 55110

Minnesota Pest Management Association
April 17, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Crooked Pint, Maplewood, MN 55117
651-252-6500

The following is a listing of those in attendance:

Stephen Kells: University of Minnesota
Sabrina Hymel: University of Minnesota
Dr. Mohammed El Damir: Adam's Pest Control
Todd Leyse: Adam's Pest Control
Bob Hansen: Bob the Bug Man
Larry Ruffledt Sr.: Westside Pest Control
Larry Ruffledt Jr.: Westside Pest Control
Rob Greer: Rove Pest Control
Kathy Watrin: Granite Pest Control
Staci Johnston: Ecolab
Matthew Eickman: Abra Kadabra Environmental Services
Rich Hodgson: Orkin
Lauren W-Foley: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Erin Smilanich: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Kelly Olson: Ecolab
Rick Leece: Pest Management Supply
Sara Knilans: Bell Laboratories
Jim Lynch: Target Specialty Products
Gary Vande Linde: Gary's Pest Control
Kim Middendorf: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Mike Fresvik: Minnesota Pest Management Association

Calendar year 2018 MPMA President, Larry Ruffledt Sr., opened the meeting at 11:30 AM, and calling for any old business, being none, he opened the meeting to new business.

MPMA has had a Board of Director member resignation. Corey Coburn, Guardian Pest Solutions is no longer a Board member. After discussions and Board meeting attendance consideration MPMA President placed the name, Dr. Mohammed El Damir in nomination. After a brief discussion the MPMA Board of Directors approved the selection of Dr. El Damir.

MPMA President, Larry Ruffledt, asked for a roll call of those present.



Dr. Stephen Kells: University of Minnesota:

Dr. Kells opened the discussion with a review of the 2018 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference. The Conference was held March 5 and 6, 2018, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Attached to these minutes are the results of the survey conducted from 2018 Minnesota Structural Pest Management attendees;

The first table of survey results indicates benefits 2017 conference participants received from their attendance. As indicated, a high percentage of attendees received positive benefits from subject matter presented at the 2017 conference.

The second table indicates 2018 Minnesota Pest Management Conference attendees were satisfied or very satisfied with previous year conferences. The survey results indicated continuous yearly conference approval ratings.

The third table indicates survey results from the 2018 Minnesota Pest Management Conference by speaker. The table indicates attendees understood the message and engagement during the presentation. Overall, those present at the Board Meeting felt the table shows interesting, appropriate subject matter and excellent speaker delivery.

The fourth table asks attendees to indicate how the conference can improve. You can look at the results to determine your individual thoughts for improvement.

Tables five and six provide an indication of 2019 Structural Pest Management Conference subject matter and format.

Those that attended the April 17 MPMA Board of Directors Meeting, felt that the 2018 Minnesota Conference was well done as to subject matter and presentation. Those present expressed appreciation to Dr. Kells for his work with the Conference and help for our industry.

Sabrina Hymel: University of Minnesota:

Two new study manuals are in Phase III (design and production phase), with anticipated availability in print form by September 2018. Electronic versions of these manuals will be formatted for eBook readers (e.g., Kindle, iBook's) and will be for sale as well.

- 1) SPCA license (Journeyman and Master)
- 2) Category M (Food Plant)/Category S (Noncommercial Structural)

Presently, we do not have details at present with regard to the sales information, but will be sure that MPMA, MDA, UMN Extension (PSEE) and all relevant parties know how to purchase the manuals well in advance of release.

We do not have final information as to how the copyrighted manuals may be adapted for state-specific use outside of Minnesota.

Sabrina brought a sample chapter to the meeting to show the board members the new layout of the SPCA manual. For



the first time, this manual will have all of the content for both entry-level applicators and those who are studying for the Master License. The advanced material for the Master License will be clearly identified in the form of learning objectives and terminology. MDA is in charge of the exam development, and any questions should be directed to them.

At this point, the content of the manuals is approved by MDA. We have asked the board members to comment on the design elements as to the readability and instructive value. Please direct comments to Sabrina (hyme0003@umn.edu) or to Steve Kells (kells002@umn.edu). As this is copyrighted material, we ask that the sample chapter not be shared outside of the MPMA Board.

We thank the Board and the members of our previous Subject Matter Expert Groups who have assisted us with development of the manuals from the very beginning. The SPCA manual has not been updated since 1996. This has been a long process, and was carried out in 3 phases:

Phase I (2015-2016) Development of outlines of the manuals for SPCA (Journeyman/Master) and Noncommercial/Food Plant (Cat. M and Cat. S)

Phase II (2016-2017) Writing content of the manuals

Phase III (2018) Production of the manuals in print and eBook formats

At the July board meeting, we hope to have examples of the final design to display, as well as the status of print and eBook production.

Kimberly Middendorf: Minnesota Department of Agriculture:

Kimberly discussed MDA's program relating to pesticide misuse investigations. Given the number of pesticide applications completed each year by the Minnesota structural pest management industry, MDA does very few investigations. MDA is very careful not to go beyond its legal authorities.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently had occasion to revisit its role in structural remediation. The Minnesota Department of Health recommended that MDA should advise property owners to hire an insured, private contractor to manage pesticide misuse incident response. It has been MDA's experience that in most cases, structural applicators and homeowners have been able to successfully resolve such issues without MDA involvement. In some cases, MDA may work collaboratively with USEPA on such cases or serve in a consultative role to an outside project lead. Lastly, MDA is more likely to play a more active role in pesticide misuse incident response when there are broader public health implications at stake. The widespread misuse of acephate for bedbug control within the Karen community in 2016 is one example of this. Some reasons for this position is that the sampling protocols used by MDA investigators (e.g., sampling of walls, ceiling fans) is not always applicable to this type of risk assessment, which requires comparison of clearance values to concentrations in areas of the home where human exposures are most likely to occur. Further, use of the values as "bright lines" to make decisions that have major financial implications and result in great personal disruption and distress may not be consistent with our level of confidence in the values.

During the discussion, the subject of pollinator protection surfaced. Kimberly indicated that during the summer of 2017 MDA was involved in few alleged honey bee investigations. Those investigated involved agriculture.



A MPMA member reported to Todd Leyse that they had completed two spider control services indoors in a particular part of the state using Demand CS. In both cases, the customer complained somehow about the use of Demand. A cleanup company got involved giving the homeowner an estimate for cleaning up the pesticide used in their house. In the first case, the proposal was for \$25,000. Insurance settled for \$15,000, even after the pest control company swabbed and found expected normal levels of pesticides. After the pest control company cleaned the house following Syngenta's (maker of Demand CS) recommendations, the homeowner still wanted the house professionally cleaned. Now there is another case and the pest control company is wondering if there is a scam going on out there. Has any other pest control company experienced this?

At the meeting no other incidents were reported. Members are encouraged to share incidents of this nature with Todd Leyse so he can discreetly help connect the dots. Meanwhile, members should be aware of this possibility when doing indoor spider treatments, especially for new customers.

Sara Knilans: Bell Labs:

Sara reviewed Bell Laboratories new product Rat Ice, kills rats in burrows.

Rat Ice:

Made from frozen carbon dioxide (dry ice)

The pelleted form of dry ice is optimally sized for burrow placement

Use for control of rats within the rat burrow and tunnel system

As Rat Ice sublimates, it displaces oxygen in burrows with carbon dioxide causing rats to die from asphyxiation

Rat Ice placed into burrow will sublimate in a few hours. Rat Ice into a cooler will sublimate in 1-4 days

Rat Ice is registered for use in Minnesota, but it is not yet available. Bell Labs has a pilot program for Chicago, once solidified discussion will follow on how to distribute Rat Ice to other states.

Todd Leyse: ADAM'S PEST CONTROL:

Todd discussed raising honey bees on business property. Information was distributed to those present relating to honey bee physical description, behavior, housing, and management. Given the national and local concerns of pesticide use and honey bees, healthy hive locations at a structural pest management company may relieve some public concern.

Honey bees on business property is good for the planet, good for public relations, and demonstrates honey bees can exist near pesticide warehouses and treated buildings.

If members would like more information please contact Mike Fresvik, MPMA, 651-402-8837 or minnpest@gmail.com.



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Mike Fresvik: Minnesota Pest Management Association:

Mike reviewed comments received from the vendors that participated at the 2018 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference.

Vendors had a concern with letting attendees out early on break, especially 30 minutes early, without notifying the vendors ahead of time. This meant a lot of vendors were not at their exhibit for at least 2 breaks, while possible customers milled around.

Another concern voiced by vendors relates to the gifts given away during the conference. Some vendors would like to know who won their individual gift. Vendors at the Board meeting stated they would like to see the MPMA Reception reinstated. They appreciated visiting with attendees and participating in the drawing of prize winners.

Mike then presented the MPMA Financial Report. As of April 17, 2018, MPMA has total assets of \$39,973.01. A motion was made and seconded and the financial report was approved.

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

MPMA thanks you for your membership and support.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Mike Fresvik, MPMA
Secretary/Treasurer
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