



2023 Board of Directors: President: Matthew Eickman, Abra Kadabra Environmental • **Directors:** • Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control • Morgan Manderfield, Ecolab • Nathan Heider, Spidexx • Travis Chambers, BASF • Caroline Kohnert, Plunkett's Pest Control
Past President: Dr. Mohammed El-Damir, Adam's Pest Control

Jay Bruesch, **Executive Director**, minnpest1@gmail.com, 6563 Bracken Drive Minnetrista MN 55331

**MPMA Board of Directors Meeting
Office of Plunkett's Pest Control, Inc. 40 52nd Way NE Fridley, MN 55421**

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Prior to Meeting:

MPMA Active and Allied members were notified of the meeting date and time, and that it was going to be both in-person at Plunkett's Pest Control's main office, and remotely via Zoom.

In Attendance: (TBD)

Attending in person:

Todd Leyse, Adam's Pest Control
Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control
Keith Gordon, Vesperis
Brian Elm, Vesperis
Kathy Watrin, Granite Pest Control
Morgan Manderfield, Ecolab
Shawn Wilson, Cardinal Professional Products
Dr. Stephen Kells, University of Minnesota
Caroline Kohnert, Plunkett's Pest Control
Christine Wicks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Nathan Heider, Spidexx Pest Control
Rusty Binkley, Rockwell Labs
Matt Ferguson, Rainbow Pest Experts
Matt Eickman, Abra Kadabra Environmental
Dr. Mohammed El Damir, Adam's Pest Control
Jay Bruesch, MPMA
Travis Chambers, BASF
Janet Hou, BASF

Attending remotely via Zoom:

Roger Mackedanz, MDA
Lane Zimmerman, Rainbow Pest Experts
Josh Reynolds, National Pest Management Association (NPMA)
Troy Timermanis, Bear Pest Control
Robert Hansen, Bob the Bug Man
Dave Johnson, Catchmaster

Call to order:



The President called the meeting to order at 11:35 am; an attendance sheet was circulated, and attendees were invited to introduce themselves.

Board lineup for 2023:

The 2023 Board of Directors was nominated, seconded, and voted on. The 2023 Board of Directors consists of:

President: Matthew Eickman, Abra Kadabra Environmental

Directors: Rob Greer, Rove Pest Control
Morgan Manderfield, Ecolab
Nathan Heider, Spidexx
Caroline Kohnert, Plunkett's Pest Control
Travis Chambers, BASF

Past President: Dr. Mohammed El-Damir, Adam's Pest Control

A vote was taken to approve the April 2023 meeting minutes, and was unanimously approved.

Dr. Stephen Kells, University of Minnesota

1. Follow-up from the 2023 conference and plans for next year: All pictures that were taken of online conference participants will be wiped from Dr. Kells' server; he will supply proof of this so that members can assure their employees that no images of them are vulnerable to theft or fraud.

The online Conference program was audited by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): everything looked good; MDA is happy with the program as it now exists.

Regarding the 2023 online Conference option, there were only a few issues with registration; for example, a few people didn't get credit for programs they completed; these things can usually be traced back to registration – wrong name format, etc.

Dr. Kells will meet with MDA in the near future to plan for 2024.

The conference planning committee for 2024 will meet on September 7, 2023.

There were 700 online participants.

Dr. Kells thanks Roger Mackedanz, MDA, for MDA's help with refining the Conference program and bringing it to fruition.

In the future, Dr. Kells would like more vendor involvement.



2. Dr. Kells is looking for a team to initiate revisions to the Structural training manual; he will need help from this group after our October meeting.
3. Dr. Kells is looking for industry involvement for contact with the General Public when they encounter pests (Jeff Hahn's position will not be replaced). Currently, people are calling the Farm Line; the pictures they send are of poor quality, and the Farm Line staff are not familiar with commonly encountered structural pests. Steve would like to get a program using a grad student to bridge pest ID with advice.

For the time being, Steve refers callers to the "Find A Pro" service of NPMA's PestWorld.org.

Dr. Mohammed El Damir suggested that he was required to do 5 hours of bug ID per week as part of his job when he was a graduate student. This is one possible solution to the need for a public pest-identification service.

The public wants a credentialed person doing their pest identification, e.g. ACE, BCE or Ph. D.

Morgan Manderfield cautioned that it is important to set boundaries and a point at which the University and/or Extension service ends its involvement with callers. Otherwise, they could turn themselves into a free problem-solving service.

Keith Gordon offered a reminder that there could be a problem with recommending local companies, and doing so in a fair manner; To Morgan's and Keith's concerns, Steve replied that they refer callers to NPMA's "Find A Pro" service.

Travis Chambers, BASF:

Travis introduced and welcomed Janet Hou, BASF's regulatory and legislative representative in Minnesota. She reported that HF 2310 of the 2023 legislature allows cities of the first class to rule on products with bee labeling. This means Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Paul, and Rochester. St. Paul will likely be the first city to act on the new rules. Minneapolis is not ready to do anything.

Travis gave a report on Allied members' feedback on newsletter advertising – whether it is of value or not. Surely, this is a revenue driver for our organization, but we want to make sure that advertising in the newsletter is of value to Allied members.

The contract and pricing sheet for Allied member newsletter advertising needs to be revised; Travis will share Missouri's contract as an example we can follow, and Jay Bruesch will revise the contract and pricing sheet accordingly.

Newsletter:

President Matt Eickman stated that MPMA needs a newsletter layout editor. Rob Greer has kindly covered this position for the April and July 2023 issues.

We could hire someone, which of course creates a new budget item.



How about members offering the help of their chosen printing companies? This idea was offered but did not generate much enthusiasm among members.

Todd Leyse volunteered to look into outside vendors, and will get back to Jay Bruesch on this.

Todd will help Rob with the July issue; he will come back with pricing on outside vendors.

Shawn Wilson said he thinks MPMA has a good newsletter, layout is good. The newsletter staff thanks Shawn for the moral support!

Jay Bruesch, Secretary/Treasurer

Financial report and vote to approve financial report:

Executive Director Jay Bruesch reported on revenues and expenses that were recorded between the time of our April 2023 meeting and today's date.

MPMA had \$398.00 in revenues between April 18, 2023 and July 18, 2023 (check from NPMA).

Expenses between April 18, 2023 and July 18, 2023 were as follows:

- Secretary/Treasurer salary, cell phone and Internet allowances for April, May and June 2023: \$2,880.00
- Special projects supplemental pay for April 2023 (for legislative work) \$1,400.00
- Special projects supplemental pay for May 2023 (for legislative work) \$940.00
- Special projects supplemental pay for June 2023 (for legislative work) \$760.00
- Adam's Pest Control for donation to PWIPM for 2023: \$600.00
- Reimbursement for personal credit card use to pay for April 23, 2023 meeting: \$527.04
- Reimbursement for personal credit card use to pay for two dinners for legislative meetings: \$524.32
- Reimburse for meeting expense: meeting with BASF's Burlington Smith: \$111.60
- Total expenses from April 1, 2022 – July 18, 2022: \$7,742.96.00

As of this reporting, MPMA has \$27,929.21 in its Wells Fargo Initiate Checking™ account, and \$16,794.58 in its Business Market Rate Savings account, for total assets of **\$44,903.79**.

A vote was taken to approve the financial report; approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Bed bug issues:

Should MPMA communicate with the multi-housing group in our response to bed bug legislation? Todd Leyse mentioned that the Minnesota Multi Housing Association would prefer that we left this topic alone.



New Business:

MPMA's response to new rules from 2023 legislative session: In a nutshell, legislation was passed that will give the four largest cities in Minnesota limited rights to regulate pesticide use. Mostly, this pertains to the use of pesticides that have a "bee box" warning on their labels; these cities can ban the use of such products.

To what extent will MPMA take part in policymaking? The group discussed benefits and pitfalls of getting involved. Todd Leyse suggested that offering help to the cities, getting on policymaking work groups, etc. is the way to go.

All MPMA members have received emailed updates on our activities in this area, and may want to go to their email inbox (and deleted emails, maybe? :-\) to find more details. Alternately, members may contact Jay Bruesch if they'd like these materials re-sent to them.

MN Landscape Association collaboration:

Josh Reynolds, NPMA's manager of legislative and regulatory affairs, made contact with the Minnesota Landscape Association, which like us is lobbying to get licensed pesticide applicators exempted from the rule that rolls back State preemption of pesticide regulation. If we are successful at this, the pesticide bans allowed to cities would apply to home- and business owners, but not to Commercial or Structural applicators. We need the pesticides that some cities would otherwise ban, in order to protect public health, property, and peace of mind.

MPMA drafted a letter to mayors and other city officials, offering our members as informational resources and possibly as members of policymaking work groups. We offered this to the MN Landscape Association leadership as an example of how they – and we – can reach out to cities and be proactive in our response to the new powers granted to the four largest cities. MPMA members were copied on this letter.

Political campaign giving – should we do this?

We discussed the benefits and possible pitfalls of political campaign giving – both for the purpose of supporting legislators who are friendly to the goals of MPMA, and to thwart the interests of those who oppose our goals. Mostly, it looks as though this is a decision for individual persons and companies to make. MPMA does have a limited amount of cash available, but our war chest is not large, and probably would not be enough to contribute to as many legislators' campaigns as we might want to.

Maximizing Allied member benefits from the annual PMP conference (ad-hoc working group report

(Matt Eickman) Rob Greer led a group of MPMA members in pursuing ways that the annual MN PMP Conference could become a better opportunity for Allied members. After all, MPMA needs its Allied members not only for their input into the affairs of the Association, but also to bolster our finances every year. The more Allied members we have, the better shape our bank accounts are in. This topic generated a lot of discussion and many good ideas from members – too many to note here. A few highlights of Rob's notes:



- The conference schedule and layout must be structured to increase interaction between vendors and attendees.
- The conference must be made more attractive to PMPs as an option for recertification training; the more PMPs can be enticed to attend, the more PMPs there are for vendors to see.
- We should advertise the benefits of in-person attendance vs. online participation, so that more employers will send their employees to the conference in-person. For example, one benefit of in-person vs. online participation is that in-person attendance eliminates the possibility that participants might disqualify themselves from credit for a session because they were looking away when their pictures were taken, or because they gave the wrong license number, or any of the other potential pitfalls of online participation.

Rob's notes are included as an Appendix at the end of these notes.

MPMA meeting with Burleson Smith of BASF: Running with the big dogs

Several MPMA members – Rob Greer, Jay Bruesch, and Travis Chambers – met with Burleson Smith, the legislative and regulatory affairs manager of BASF Corporate. Mr. Smith offered advice on how our organization can influence city-level policymaking on pesticide issues. Bottom line: keep your ear to the ground and look for opportunities to serve on work groups, etc.

We look forward to staying in touch with Burleson, as with BASF's Minnesota regulatory and legislative affairs manager, Janet Hou. As we go forward, their counsel will be invaluable.

Comments from Josh Reynolds, Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, NPMA

Josh Reynolds of NPMA has been a hardworking advocate of MPMA as we sought to influence the course of this year's pesticide legislation; he presented his take on how MPMA ought to respond to new pesticide rules, and that it should offer to participate in the law- and rulemaking process.

Josh announced that the organization RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is hosting Advocacy training on August 8, 2023. This will take place at the University of Minnesota – exact location to be determined. RISE will offer a half day of training on how to best get our message out to lawmakers, municipalities, and the public.

MPMA thanks Josh for his tireless work on our behalf, and for traveling to Minnesota to meet with some legislators and with MPMA.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.; venue to be determined. Members may also attend via Zoom. The meeting is scheduled for October 10th instead of the usual third Tuesday, since that date conflicts with the annual NPMA PestWorld convention, which many of our members will want to attend.



Minnesota Pest
Management
Association

MPMA

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn, was voted on, and unanimously approved. President Matt Eickman adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.