



**October 22, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Crooked Pint, Maplewood, MN 55117
651-252-6500**

The following were in attendance:

Stephen Kells: University of Minnesota
Dr. Mohammed El Damir: Adam's Pest Control
Bob Hansen: Bob the Bug Man
Mike Harman: Pest Management Supply
Larry Ruffedt Sr.: Westside Pest Control
Rob Greer: Rove Pest Control
Staci Johnston: Ecolab
Caroline Kirby: Plunketts Pest Control
Roger Mackedanz: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Chahal Gurinderbir: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Mike Fresvik: Minnesota Pest Management Association

2019 MPMA President Staci Johnston opened the meeting at 11:30 AM, calling for any old business, being none, she opened the meeting to new business.

MPMA President Staci Johnston asked for a roll call of those present.

Dr. Stephen Kells: University of Minnesota

Dr. Kells discussed the upcoming 2020 Minnesota Structural Pest Control Management Conference to be held March 9 & 10, 2020 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The plan is to offer on line training for individuals that are unable to attend the March 9 & 10 conference dates.

Dr. Kells is contacting possible speakers for the conference agenda. He mentioned that topics of increased mice populations and bed bugs will be on the agenda.

Exhibitors will have time on the program agenda to introduce new items.



Dr. Kells stated that the 2020 Conference agenda will be finalized and available earlier to allow states such as South Dakota to review and approve applicators living in the state.

The Structural Pest Manual is close to completion. The goal is to provide the manual to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for final approval. Dr. Kells is of the opinion the manual will be offered for sale by mid-November. The test based on the new manual is completed and approved.

Dr. Kells stated he is working on a six hour on line training course for those unable to attend the conference.

Mike Fresvik mentioned exhibitors that will be attending the conference. The exhibit location and fee structure will be the same as last year. The location will allow for approximately 40 booth spaces. Applications for booth space will be emailed to past exhibitors in early January. If anyone is aware of possible new exhibitors contact MPMA at minnpest@gmail.com.

Caroline Kirby: Bat control in Minnesota

Caroline stated that individuals doing bat control are not licensed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Several years ago, individuals doing bat control were licensed by the MDA. Because they were not applying pesticides, the individuals used the political process, and were successful in eliminating the licensing requirement. Currently, the Department of Natural Resources is the agency involved with individuals doing bat exclusion.

The current problem is that some individuals are doing bat exclusion at the wrong time of year, when young bats are trapped in the structure and die. It seems that individuals with bat problems continue to contact companies until they find one willing to do exclusion no matter what time of the year. If these individuals were required to be licensed by the MDA, some type of control could be set to regulate the exclusion time frame.

Staci Johnston: MPMA Legislative Day

Staci introduced the topic of a MPMA Legislative Day and asked Mike Fresvik to discuss his meeting with the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MN&LA).

On October 15, Mike met with Forrest Cyr, Government Relations and Lobbyist for the MN&LA. MN&LA is a large Association of approximately 1200. Members include nurseries, landscapers, architecture landscaping, landscape irrigation, and snow and ice removal.



MN&LA is involved in a number of issues that surface at the Minnesota Legislature including pesticide regulations.

Mike and Forrest discussed a number of items and agreed that our Associations would benefit by working together on pesticide issues impacting our members.

MN&LA has a Legislative Day each year. Next year's Legislative Day is scheduled for March 4. First, they hold a meeting of members, normally 40 to 50 members attend. At this meeting they discuss the Association's Legislative agenda and then meet with key legislators. They do not offer coffee and pastries for legislators at this event. This was tried in the past and was abandoned for lack of success.

MN&LA is of the opinion that the delegation language will again be introduced during the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.

Forrest was very appreciative of the information MPMA has provided and expressed an interest in working together on pesticide related issues. This would include correspondence and meetings with legislators.

Staci suggested that the idea of a MPMA coffee and donuts day not be planned. If delegation or other legislative language impacting our industries arises, MPMA and MN &LA plan to work together.

Dr. Mohammed El Damir: NPMA/MPMA PESTVETS Program

Dr. El Damir attended a meeting of the PESTVETS Program at the recent National Pest Management Association Convention.

PESTVETS Program Goals are the following:

Provide Guidance to Assist Veterans with transitioning to the Pest Management Industry.

Recognize Veterans for their Industry Contributions.

Give Back to the community and show appreciation for Active Military.

In summation, the PESTVETS Program encourages support, hiring and mentoring of military veterans.



Staci suggested that PESTVETS may want to have a booth at the 2020 Structural Pest Management Conference. Mohammed indicated he would explore the organizations interest in having a booth at our upcoming Conference.

Mike Fresvik: Upcoming 2019-2020 Minnesota Legislative Session

Mike opened the discussion with a review of the below correspondence.

Roger Mackedanz:

As the new Assistant Director of the Pesticide & Fertilizer Management Division overseeing pesticide regulation, it is my understanding that you will be the lead Division contact person for MPMA.

During the 2018-2019 Minnesota Legislative session, the Minnesota Pest Management Association was very involved in dealing with proposed legislative language that would allow MDA to delegate pesticide regulatory authority to cities of the first class.

The final determination came as a result of a conference committee between the Minnesota House and Minnesota Senate relating to whether or not this language would be included in a larger Omnibus Agriculture Bill. The final result of the six-member conference committee was 4 to 2 to not include the language.

During the conference committee discussion between the two different versions of the language, MDA did not offer an opinion on the language. An MDA staff person stated that the agency was seeking comments from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding this issue.

MPMA is concerned as to the possible introduction of similar language during the 2019-2020 legislative session. It would be very helpful to know MDA's position on this type of language, and if your agency has received a response from EPA.

MPMA does not favor such language. Cities of the first class do not have the expertise and experience that is present within the staff and resources of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

MPMA is under the impression that this would complicate MDA's mission and adversely impact regulated industries. MPMA has concerns regarding training, licensing, regulations, and enforcements if this language is adopted. If such language were to become law, the precedent would be set. Future legislation could include delegation to Class II cities or counties. Another major concern is if this language would impact future pesticide usage in agricultural production.

If delegation language is introduced during the 2019-2020 legislative session, MPMA would strongly recommend that MDA take a position in opposition.

MPMA is planning for the upcoming session and would appreciate a response from MDA regarding their position on this issue. For the purpose of planning for the 2019-2020 Minnesota Legislative Session, MPMA is wondering if MDA has received a reply from EPA relating to delegation.



MPMA continues to appreciate the working relationship with MDA.

Please direct comments and replies to Mike Fresvik, MPMA Secretary/Treasurer, minnpest@gmail.com.

Staci Johnston, MPMA
President

Rich Hodgson, MPMA
Board of Directors

Caroline Kirby, MPMA
Board of Directors

Dr. Mohammed El Damir, MPMA
Board of Directors

Matthew Eickman, MPMA
Board of Directors

Rob Greer, MPMA
Board of Directors

Larry Ruffedt, MPMA
Board of Directors

In summation, the letter to Mr. Mackedanz poses two questions.

Has the Minnesota Department of Agriculture received a reply from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) relating MDA delegation of pesticide regulations to cities?

Does the MDA have an official position relating to pesticide regulatory delegation?

Mr. Mackedanz was present at the MPMA October meeting and stated, that MDA has not heard back from EPA, and MDA does not have an official position regarding pesticide regulatory delegation.

Roger did state that MDA Commissioner, Thom Pederson, will be scheduling listening sessions for interested parties to express their opinions on MDA delegation language.

Once the times and dates are set for these meetings, Roger will notify all interested individuals or groups. Once notified, MPMA will contact members in order to be well represented at this meeting.



In addition, Mike stated that he has contacted other associations that may have an interest in MDA pesticide delegation.

Financial Report:

The following is the financial status report ending September 30, 2019. MPMA balance is \$29,670.35.

Being no other business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Please me with any questions or corrections.

Thanks for your membership and support.

Mike Fresvik, MPMA
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