



Minnesota Pest
Management
Association

MPMA

2020 Board of Directors
Caroline Kirby, Plunketts Pest Control, President-Dr.Mohammed El Damir, Adams Pest Control,Director-Matthew Eickmann,
Abra Kadabra Environmental,Director-Rob Greer,Rove Pest Control,Director-Lance Watrin,Granite Pest Control,Director-Staci Johnston,Ecolab,Past President

2414 Elm Drive • White Bear Lake MN 55110

July 21, 2020
Minnesota Pest Management Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting

2020 MPMA President Caroline Kirby opened the Zoom meeting at 11:00 AM. Calling for any old business, being none, she opened the meeting for new business.

Those in attendance:

Caroline Kirby-Plunketts Pest Control
Dr. Stephen Kells-University of Minnesota
Jake Plevelich-National Pest Management Association
Staci Johnston-Ecolab
Bob Hanson-Bob the Bug Man
Rob Greer-Rove Pest Control
Matt Ferguson-Rainbow Pest Control
Matthew Eickman-Abra Kadabra Environmental Services
Dr. Mohammed El Damir-Adams Pest Control
Todd Leyse-Adams Pest Control
Gurinderbir Chahal (G)-Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Julie Schmidt-Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Mike Fresvik-Minnesota Pest Management Association

Dr. Stephen Kells-University of Minnesota:

Dr. Kells discussed a survey from last year's 2020 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference. This was a survey of topics presented at the 2019 Conference and how it impacted applicator's work activities for 2019. Topics included: questions regarding spider control, small fly control, gloves, cockroach control, environmental conditions, imaginary bugs, green products, pesticide resistance, callbacks, and overall 2019 business. A total of 218 individuals completed the survey.

MPMA has attached a copy of the survey.

Next, Dr. Kells discussed the plans for the 2021 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference. At this time, Dr. Kell is working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) planning for next year's conference. Dr. Kells and Gurinderbir Chahal both indicated that they may be looking at



in person training, but with the Covid-19 situation continuing, they are looking to approve on line training. The MDA Commissioner will make that final decision in the near future.

With the likelihood of on line training and the extra work involved, Dr. Kells will be holding the Conference planning session the week of August 10th. The planning session will be held on line.

Jake Plevelich, NPMA, commented that other states are also looking at various options for training of applicators other than in person conferences. NPMA is working with the states and encouraging them to explore options.

Staci Johnston noted MPMA's income would be adversely impacted if an in-person conference is not held. Approximately 35% of MPMA's yearly income is generated from collection of exhibit space fees. From the 2020 Conference, MPMA collected \$11,640.00 exhibit space fees out of a total income of \$29,919.00. MPMA will need to explore various avenues to make up for this income loss.

Next, Dr. Kells discussed his thoughts relating to the Covid-19 Virus. Dr. Kells has done an excellent review of the current situation. From a business perspective, he stated that companies need to look at the virus long term as it's not going away anytime soon. Authorities had hoped that the warm weather of summer would lessen the impact of the virus. That has not happened. Dr. Kells is very concerned that the virus will continue through the summer, fall, and into the winter months. He noted, until we get a vaccine there appears to be no relief in sight.

From a business stand point, employees need to realize what they do today will show the impact in two weeks. Masks, gloves, and social distancing are the words to live by. Dr. Kells has observed applicators treating locations without masks.

Bob Hanson mentioned that his company has a policy of masks, gloves, and social distancing. He informs his employees that their individual actions can impact the other employees. One positive individual Covid-19 test has the potential to close down a company. Employees need to understand their actions not only affect them, but the company as a whole.

Dr. Kells then raised the subject of schools opening this fall. It's likely eating arrangements will change from past years and will likely not take place in a large cafeteria setting. College students will likely eat in their dorm rooms. This could possibly move the pest populations to areas where the pest management applicator will need to monitor and treat.

The University has seen a decline in issues relating to multi housing locations. For some reason, tenants are not reporting pest problems. Dr. Kells mentioned this may be due to a decrease in cloverleaf inspections due to COVID. Technicians aren't able to inspect units surrounding the focus



unit.

Jake Plevelich-NPMA:

Jake thanked Dr. Kells for the excellent information presented and the guidance to the Minnesota pest management industry.

The Department of Home Land Security has designated the pest management industry as essential. This was an important step in that some states used their listing to designate essential industries.

Even though the industry has been designated essential, they still need to meet federal and state requirements relating to licensing. This has been a problem because some states did not have a contingency plan. Certain states developed a backlog of individuals that need to be tested and licensed. As an example, Massachusetts had a backlog of 500 individuals waiting to be licensed.

The pesticide industry in Minnesota has been fortunate in the fact that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has continued its testing and licensing.

Jake then discussed proposed legislation nationwide. From a national point of view, most proposed legislation has related to neonic pesticide. At this point, only three states have passed restrictions on neonic pesticide products.

Jake mentioned a Report on Pesticide Risks that was developed by the Environmental and Human Health Institute. The report contains recommendations that would impact our industry. Here is a link to that report: https://www.ehhi.org/recommendations_pest.pdf

The Minnesota State Legislature (2019-2020) proposed legislation that would allow cities and towns to enact restrictions on pesticides that had the bee warning box on the label. MPMA, with assistance from NPMA and Dr. Kells, were able to stop passage of this legislation. The movement to delegate State pesticide regulatory authorities to the local level is active and not going away.

Depending on outcome of the state fall elections, there is a possibility of states having to deal with language that would adversely impact the pest management industry.

Bob Hanson raised a very interesting point. What are the amounts of pesticides used by the agriculture industry in Minnesota as compared to the Structural Pest Management industry? All in attendance agreed our industry uses a fraction of the amount used in agriculture.

It's a complicated issue, agriculture in Minnesota is very large compared to our industry. They have the resources to deal with legislative language that might be proposed.



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Todd Leyse and Mike Fresvik spoke to the helpful working relationship we have with various members of the agriculture community. MPMA should continue to foster this relationship.

Lastly. Jake discussed the 2020 Pest World Conference. The NPMA Board of Directors are reviewing plans for the Conference. One approach would be a hybrid, part of the Conference on line and part in person. At this time, the plan is to hold the 2020 Pest World Conference as has been held in past years. UPDATE, JUST ANNOUNCED 2020 PEST WORLD CONFERENCE WILL BE VIRTUAL.

Mike Fresvik-MPMA:

At this time, MPMA needs to select another individual for the Board of Directors. The Board has suggested Larry Ruffedt Jr. I will be contacting Larry to determine if he is willing to become a MPMA Board Member.

Mike then raised the following question: does Caroline serve only to January 31, 2020, or continue to hold the MPMA President position through calendar year 2021?

Todd Leyse stated that precedence would be that Caroline continue as MPMA President through calendar year 2021. Caroline agreed to serve through 2021.

Mike presented the MPMA Treasurers Report for calendar year 2020 as of July 21.

Income \$29,919.00
Expenses \$21,637.70
MPMA Balance \$37,140.65

Mike thanked Dr. Kells and Jake Plevelich for being part of the agenda subject items.

Being no further business items MPMA President Caroline Kirby adjourned the meeting.

Mike Fresvik, MPMA
Secretary/Treasurer
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