



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

October 20, 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
Staci Johnston-Ecolab
Bob Hanson-Bob the Bug Man
Rob Greer-Rove Pest Control
Matt Ferguson-Rainbow Pest Experts
Lane Zimmerman-Rainbow Pest Experts
Todd Leyse-Adams Pest Control
Gurinderbir Chahal (G)-Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Dwayne Sanders-Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Julie Schmidt-Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Mike Fresvik-Minnesota Pest Management Association
A number of MPMA Allied Members

I failed to ask for a roll call of those in attendance. I'm sure the above list is not complete. If you attended and are not listed above please contact me. I need to become more familiar with Zoom Meetings.

Dr. Stephen Kells-University of Minnesota:

Dr. Kells discussed the retirement of Jeff Hahn. At this point, the University of Minnesota has not elected to replace his position. Dr. Kells suggested that MPMA might want to write a letter supporting the replacement of that position. Dr. Kells will be providing Mike Fresvik with email addresses should MPMA or individual companies want to contact the University supporting replacement of that position. Jeff handled calls from the Structural Pest Control Industry relating to pest problems of homeowner. The loss of Jeff's position will increase the work load on Dr. Kells. Todd Leyse made a motion to nominate Jeff to the MPMA Hall of Fame. The motion was seconded by Staci Johnston, and a vote was taken approving Jeff's nomination.



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Next Dr. Kells discussed the 2021 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference. Given the Covid-19 situation, there are many obstacles in holding an in-person conference. The Minneapolis Convention Center is placing a limit on the number of individuals attending a particular event. The timing of an effective vaccine availability is in question. Selecting speakers would be a challenge, due to the Covid-19 situation.

The decision has been made to conduct the 2021 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference on line. At this time, Steve is working on the details of how to conduct the Conference. He is reviewing the National Pest Management Associations recent Pest World Meeting which was held on line.

There are a variety of methods to conduct an on line training conference. Examples being: in person presenters, prerecorded speakers, or a module system. Steve is favoring the module system. This system allows for a variety of ways to take part in the training conference. Steve is formulating the details; however, the system must allow for tracking attendance.

Steve is initially looking at setting up rooms for vendors that register to participate in the Conference. Todd Leyse addressed his experience with vendors at the recent NPMA Pest World Conference. Attendees were provided with a list of participating vendors. An attendee could click on a particular vendor and enter their “booth”. Upon entering, an attendee could look at their products and talk to a vendor representative. Vendors were aware of who had entered their booth. The suggestion was made that each vendor have a recorded presentation for their company. It was also suggested that attendees be required to visit a certain number of vendors.

The group then discussed a possible change in the March date. Bob Hanson mentioned that movement to the fall (November) would be a problem. Employees have had a busy summer and are looking forward to some down time. It was brought forward that the date may not be an issue in that on line viewing once available, can be attended any time during the year.

Steve will be setting up a future zoom meeting with vendors to discuss their involvement in the 2021 Minnesota Structural Pest Management Conference.

Gurinderbir Chahal (G) & Dwayne Sanders-Minnesota Department of Agriculture:

G mentioned with the onset of Covid-19, several states have modified their approach to applicator testing. Some states have expanded their use of the “under direct supervision” provision and/or on-line testing.

Minnesota is currently conducting in person testing of new individuals seeking a pesticide applicator license. Currently, Minnesota conducts in person testing at 45 locations. For more information, visit



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MDA Pesticide webpage. Most Structural Pest Management applicators test at the St. Paul location. When the individual arrives at the testing location, they must wear a mask. MDA has developed safety protocols for in person testing. Individuals must call ahead in order to schedule a test. MDA sends the individual instructions that must be followed in order to test.

Individuals can call MDA (651-201-6633) or email pesticide.testing@state.mn.us for questions on testing procedure.

Next discussed the revised Category L Manual and exam. The revised test and manual are for mosquitos, black flies, and tick pest control. The new manual and new exam were rolled out on September 15. In the old manual, it covered mosquitoes and black flies only. In the new manual ticks are included. If you already have Category L, continuing education (attending a recertification workshop) in Category L is all that is required for mosquito, black fly, a tick pest control.

If you only have Category E, but wish to continue spraying for tick control, you may do so until December 31, 2020. Beginning January 1, 2021, you must possess Category L for tick control applications. Applicators must have the Category L on their license to apply pesticides for hire to control these pests.

Dwayne then discussed the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) requirements for approval of applicator recertification training. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MDA is adapting to meet the needs of sponsors and applicators. In the past, MDA required monitored attendance at all recertification programs. At this time, MDA has implemented changes to recertification programs to ensure attendees feel comfortable about their safety and is allowing on line training.

MDA approval of recertification workshops is based on time dedicated to each license category, educational content for each license category, and the consultation of an educational institution in the development of the recertification workshop.

MDA has requirements for time required for each license category, educational standards, and workshop agenda approval timelines. The workshop sponsor must submit the final agenda to MDA for approval.

Forrest Cyr-MN Nursery and Landscape Association, Legislative Government Affairs:

Forrest noted that the MN Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) is a professional organization in landscape & hardscape design, garden services & landscape management, garden centers, nursery & greenhouse growing, irrigation & water management, and arboriculture & tree services. The Association also includes snow and ice management services and has approximately 1200 total members.



Forrest detailed the working relationship between MNLA and MPMA. He further stated that no matter the results of the upcoming election our Associations will need to continue the present working relationship on legislative items that impact our members.

At this time, there is a high degree of uncertainty relating to the upcoming Minnesota Legislative Session due to Covid-19. As with on line training sessions for applicator recertification, the Minnesota Legislature may have to look to this for conducting their business. If the Minnesota Session is conducted on line, there may be a reduction in committees and committee members. Forrest noted that the outcome of the Minnesota election could impact legislative direction relating to pesticide use.

Forrest mentioned that pesticide use according to label direction is critical to members of both Associations. The two parties, Democrats and Republicans, have a tendency to look at use of pesticides in accordance with label directions somewhat differently. Forrest believes that legislators from the metro seven county area will continue to have concerns relating to pesticide use.

Pollinator protection is an issue of concern for various legislators, as it is with members of our two Associations. The main difference is how the subject is approached. Some legislators favor restrictions on pesticide use, while the industry looks to the proper use of pesticides according to label directions.

While a lot of attention has been focused on the national election level it is the local Minnesota election including city counsels that will impact pesticide use within the state.

Forrest suggested that given the size of the budget deficit, legislators will be occupied with this issue and may not have time or an interest to deal with routine pesticide use. Associations need to make real world arguments when pesticide restrictive legislation is up for discussion at the legislature.

Todd Leye questioned; how can an association get ahead of an issue that may surface in the legislature impacting our industry. MPMA seems to be more reactive to a particular issue. Forrest indicated the only thing to do is maintain contact with particular legislators and other associations that share your same concerns. Be flexible and courteous when you have discussions. There is always going to be a need for a reactionary response. Given MPMA and MNLA share similar concerns relating to pesticides, we will be working together as needed.



Caroline Kirby-Plunkett's Pest Control:

Caroline discussed company adjustments relating to Covid-19. Top on the list is flexibility when dealing with a customer. Gloves, masks, and social distancing all come into play in their business approach. Emails and calls are used more than in person contact in dealing with customers. More time is devoted to an understanding of what the customer expects as far as Covid-19 protection. Again, adapting to the customer's needs.

Technicians are wiping down equipment and vehicles on a routine basis. In addition, the company has changed their billing approach, sending out invoices later and offering a discount for annual payments. If not able to get inside a home or business, they will do appropriate treatments on the exterior. A new service to customers is sanitization services.

Matt Ferguson mentioned his company is also making similar business changes. In addition, if the technician enters the home or business, they limit the time to twenty minutes. Todd Leyse noted that he is aware of one-member firm that does not enter the structure, gives the customer traps and increase the control measures on the outside. Staci Johnston stated they do not accept checks for payment in the field and no longer leave door hangers.

Todd mentioned that MPMA has lost one member due to Covid-19. Larry Ruffedt Sr. passed away several weeks ago. Larry was an outstanding MPMA member and will be missed by the entire Minnesota industry.

Mike Fresvik-Minnesota Pest Management Association

Mike announced that Matt Ferguson, Rainbow Pest Experts has been selected and agreed to serve as a new member of the MPMA Board of Directors.

Mike presented the MPMA Financial Status Report. As of October 20, 2020 MPMA, has a net balance of \$32,903.73.

Caroline Kirby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Todd Leyse and approved by the MPMA Board of Directors.

Michael Fresvik, MPMA
Secretary/Treasurer
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