



April 20, 2021
Minnesota Pest Management Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting

2021 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
Rob Greer-Rove Pest Control
Matt Ferguson-Rainbow Pest Experts
Gurinderbir Chahal (G)-Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Roger Mackadanz-Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Mike Weissman-Syngenta
Dr. Mohammed El Damir-Adams Pest Control
Matthew Eickman-Abra Kadabra Environmental Services
Travis Chambers-BASF
Staci Johnston-Ecolab
Todd Leyse-Adams Pest Control
Travis Chambers-BASF
Kathy Watrin-Granite Pest Control
Jake Plevelich-National Pest Management Association
Angel Egan-Ecolab
Liz Turner-Catchmaster
Lane Zimmerman-Rainbow Pest Experts
Tina Valdivia-Wildlife Management Services
Mike Fresvik-Minnesota Pest Management Association



The below information are highlights of the April 20 meeting.

Dr. Stephen Kells-University of Minnesota:

Dr. Kells discussed the 2021 Minnesota Pest Management Conference.

As of April 20, 2021, 1142 individuals were invited to register for the Annual 2021 Structural Pest Management Conference. Out of that number, 906 individuals have registered to attend the Conference. As of April 20, 2021, out of that 906 people 678 have completed the required courses. Please keep in mind that the end date for completion of the required courses is June 1, 2021.

Dr. Kells mention that overall, the online Conference went very well. There were a few issues, primarily early on.

Dr.Kells reviewed Conference evaluations that have been submitted. Again the Conference evaluations gave a favorable rating for the overall Conference which includes speakers and subject matter.

Some of the evaluations indicated that they favored the online Conference versus in person. For those from out state Minnesota it reduced cost, time away from work, and concerns about weather conditions.

Regarding the 2022 MN Structural Pest Management Conference, Dr. Kells noted that with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture they will evaluate the situation and hopefully make an early decision on how the Conference will be held, stay tuned.

Caroline Kirby-Plunketts Pest Control:

Caroline opened the discussion on the subject of Pest Daily.

Pest Daily is a e-learning platform that gives participants specific knowledge from subject matter experts in the pest control industry. The subject would include sales, marketing, finance, operations and accounting.

Every week Pest Daily is developing new training. The platform currently has over 300 lessons and more than 250 in development. Each lesson is 7-12 minutes in length.



Matthew Eickman subscribes to Pest Daily and has participated in their training. He shared his comments on the program and the value it provides to his company. Both Caroline and Matthew agreed that the program may provide valuable information to smaller companies that do not have multiple business resources.

Pest Daily is not affiliated with the Minnesota Pest Management Association or the National Pest Management Association at this time.

If you would like to learn more about Pest Daily go to: [Pest Daily.com](http://PestDaily.com).

Jake Plevelich-National Pest Management Association (NPMA):

Jake opened the discussion on legislative issues that would have an adverse impact on the Structural Pest Management Industry in Minnesota. Basically, HF 718 contains legislative language that eliminates Pesticide Preemption and allows local units of government to enact pesticide regulations in Minnesota.

HF 718 would allow all 853 statutory and home rule charter cities in Minnesota to enact an ordinance that sets their own licensing, penalty, and enforcement provisions regarding pesticides. Additionally, HF 718 would allow these 853 municipalities to ban the outdoor use of many pesticides, products with a “bee box” or pollinator advisory language on the label, that are used to protect public health and property by licensed structural pest management professionals.

Jake emphasized that an additional layer of licensing and regulation at the local level will not result in protecting pollinators. It is more likely the opposite will happen. Local units of government licensing and regulating pesticides will dilute the enforcement ability of MDA and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The comment was made, given the problems associated with HF 718 and the potential dilution of MDA’s pesticide regulatory authority one would have thought MDA would have taken a position. MDA has not taken an official position on HF 718. Consequently, MPMA/NPMA and other impacted industries are working alone to defeat HF 718.

NPMA & MPMA have worked tirelessly in an effort to inform the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate on the unintended consequences of HF 718. MPMA/NPMA has done Voter Voice, countless emails to Minnesota House of Representatives, Minnesota Senators, and individuals that we hoped would provide assistance.



HF 718 has been incorporated into HF 1076; the House Environment Omnibus Bill. HF 1076 has been passed on the floor of the Minnesota House of Representatives and will be discussed with the Minnesota Senate.

HF 1076 will be negotiated with the Senate version of their Environmental Bill. Here's the positive note, the Senate did not hear the companion bill to HF 718. Thus, the language which relates to HF 718 is not in the Senate Environmental Omnibus Bill.

The Senate Conference Committee will likely be Senator Ingebrigtsen, Alexandria, MN, and Senator Carrie Ruud, Breezy Point, Mn, with one other individual. MPMA/NPMA has already been in contact with Senators Ingebrigtsen and Ruud and will contact the third Senator once that individual has been named.

Once the Senate Conference Committee has been officially named, MPMA/NPMA will continue voicing our concerns, explaining the unintended consequences and request the Senate Conferees not except the language in HF 1076 that relates to HF 718.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture:

The discussion related to the Structural Pest Control Applicator test with the main concern centering on insect photos for test question identification.

A number of individuals in attendance expressed concern about a few of the photos. They themselves or received comments from other individuals about the photos. Photos made it difficult to answer test questions

The discussion continued for some time and the result is as follows.

Roger Mackedanz, Assistant Director, Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division, stated that MDA does not want individuals failing the examination because of faulty insect photos. The MDA will review the photos for a determination of proper details in the photo and make corrections where needed.

MDA will keep MPMA updated.



Mike Fresvik-Minnesota Pest Management Association:

Mike, on behalf of MPMA and personally thanked Jake Plevelich, NPMA, for the tremendous work and expertise he has provided in our efforts to deal with HF 718.

Now that the language in HF 718 is headed to a conference committee, MPMA will continue to rely on Jake's guidance and expertise.

Mike presented the MPMA Financial Status Report for March 2021.

2021 MPMA March Income: \$3,171.25

2021 MPMA March Expenditures: \$3,114.86

2021 MPMA Balance as of March 31, 2021: \$39,257.05

A motion was made, seconded, and the financial status report was approved.

Mike then presented a report on 2021 MPMA Active and Allied Memberships:

MPMA Active Members as of April 28, 2021 is 27 companies.

MPMA Allied Members as of April 28, 2021 is 27 companies.

Mike mentioned that MPMA can expect a few more memberships for calendar year 2021.

MPMA President Caroline Kirby made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded and approved.

Michael Fresvik, MPMA
Secretary/Treasurer
651-402-8837
minnpest@gmail.com