

Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2015

Illinois Structural Pest Control Advisory Council (SPCAC)

General Meeting Information

A meeting of the Illinois Structural Pest Control Advisory Council was held on September 22, 2015. The meeting was held at the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), 525 W. Jefferson, in Springfield, Illinois.

Participants and SPCAC Members Present

Council Members Present:

- Scott Beckerman, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Chris Haggerty, American Pest Control
- Ruth Kerzee, Midwest Pesticide Action Center (MPAC)
- Gary Pietrucha, EnviroSafe Pest Management
- Dr. Susan Ratcliffe, North Central IPM Center
- Eric Ruesken, Arab Termite & Pest Control
- Cynthia Stricker, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)

Council Members Not Present:

- Warren Goetsch, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA)

IDPH Representatives Present:

- Dr. Curt Colwell, Division of Environmental Health

Guests Present:

- (none)

SPCAC Meeting Summary

- Dr. Curt Colwell, acting as Chairman designate for Ken McCann, called the meeting to order after determining a quorum was present.
- Approval was sought for the Minutes of the Council's meeting of April 30, 2015. Chris Haggerty motioned to approve. Gary Pietrucha seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved by vote.
- The first item of Old Business; the Advisory Council's membership status, recalled the Council's open position, noting that Jamie Byrd, of the Egyptian Health

Department, had been nominated as the Council's local health department representative, but for many months the Governor's Office has held Byrd's nomination request and failed to act on his appointment to the Council.

- The next topic of Old Business was discussion of recent legislative changes to the Structural Pest Control Code which, along with its parent Structural Pest Control Act, comprise the statutes by which the department regulates structural pest control in Illinois. Dr. Colwell related that the Council had already discussed the "rules" changes at the time he first proposed them, but asked for questions. He added that he had sent a summary list of the changes to the Illinois Pest Control Association (IPCA) and the Greater Chicago Pest Management Alliance (GCPMA) for publication on their websites and newsletters. Gary Pietrucha said that the GCPMA had published the list. Chris Haggerty asked why the violation type (i.e., fine schedule) had been changed for the violation of failing to provide information or for providing false information, upon request of the department. Colwell advised that previously the violation carried no initial fine, essentially allowing companies to refuse to provide requested information. Scott Beckerman wondered if companies were required to provide records of their services to those whose properties or residences were treated. Colwell said they were per the recent rules changes, but upon request of the party whose premises were treated. He added that a reasonable amount of time to provide copies of applicable service records might be within 7 days.
- The next topic of Old Business was the status of Structural Pest Control Program examinations. Dr. Colwell announced that, with the help of members Gary Pietrucha, Cindy Stricker and others, a new fumigation subcategory exam had been written and put into service as of August 2015. Colwell also stated that he had written a practice exam for those studying to take the General Standards Examination, and that the exam had been posted on the department's website in August. However, less than ten percent of examinees at one of the department's recent exam sessions had raised their hands when Colwell asked how many were aware of the practice exam online. He added that he expected the word would, however, spread quickly and that the practice exam should elevate the General Standards Examination's passing percentage. Passing rates for all of the Program's exams were later discussed, and a general trend toward increasing passing rates was noted.
- The final topic of Old Business was a report on the 2015 IPM Seminars coordinated by the IPCA in cooperation with the IDPH, University of Illinois and Illinois Department of Agriculture. Chris Haggerty related that about 60 people, mostly day care center staff, had attended the three IPM Seminars. Dr. Susan Ratcliffe asked how the outdoor inspections went. Gary Pietrucha said the on-site inspection at the Brookfield location went well, finding pest entry points as well as unattended rodent bait stations, but that conditions were poor, i.e., approximately 95F degrees and humid. Colwell said that due to the extreme heat, the on-site inspections scheduled for the other two seminars had been cancelled in favor of indoor instruction. He went on to say that about half of those school and day care facilities he had sent letters to,

reminding them of their obligation to send staff to attend one of the seminars, had contacted his office to change their facility's status to that of implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in their pest control operations. Colwell believed this was done so that the facilities could avoid the obligation of attending an IPM Seminar every 5 years as the statute specifies. Others agreed; that facilities indicating they are doing IPM are not necessarily doing IPM, and that verifying IPM at all public schools and day care centers was a difficult task.

- Ways to improve IPM Seminars for 2016 were discussed. Colwell suggested that Department of Children and Family Services' day care inspectors should be invited to the IPM Seminars next year, and that they might be empowered to review each day care's written "IPM Plan" required by the statute. This could help verify a facility's conduction of IPM-based pest control. Ruth Kerzee reported that her organization had provided online training in IPM for day care center staff, as part of continuing education requirements for those facilities, in cooperation with accrediting organizations. She wondered if online training could be made part of the IPM Seminars in some way, and if a "homework" assignment might be given to prospective attendees – one that would take several hours to complete and, if properly completed, would count against the six hours of training mandated for those employees. Kerzee said that past evaluations had mentioned that the Seminars were too long. She said such a homework assignment could be used to provide training and reduce the number of hours an individual would be required to attend, e.g., it might allow those completing the assignment to attend a half-day of the seminar rather than the whole day of training that would be provided to those that didn't do the assignment. Scott Beckerman suggested that an IPM Seminar subcommittee be formed to determine what might be viable options for improving the 2016 Seminars. Chris Haggerty advised that the IPCA intended to continue its commitment to coordinating the IPM Seminars. Dr. Colwell commended the IPCA's involvement, saying he appreciated it greatly and was proud of what the IPCA and the other cooperators had done in putting the IPM Seminars together. He commended the service of Haggerty, Pietrucha, Eric Ruesken and James Hockenyos in spearheading and conducting the Seminars in 2015. He asked for volunteers for an IPM Seminar subcommittee. Pietrucha, Ruth Kerzee and Cindy Stricker answered the call, agreeing to communicate as needed in discussing the options for 2016, and to meet as a subcommittee in conjunction with the Advisory Council meeting expected in spring of 2016.
- The only item for discussion under New Business was the legislation of the 2011 report of the Council's Subcommittee on Bed Bugs, a report requested by the state legislature. In light of the recently enacted Bed Bug Ordinance in the City of Chicago, and its arguable success, Chris Haggerty asked if behavior had changed with regard to bed bugs in Chicago as a result of the Ordinance's implementation. Gary Pietrucha said behavior had been greatly changed; landlords had become more in touch with their tenant's situations and needs. Ruth Kerzee added that her organization was presently surveying the effects of the Ordinance, and that she believed it had

succeeded in defining the roles of landlord, tenant and pest control professional. Colwell asked if the Ordinance had resulted in many fines. Ruth Kerzee said no, and Gary Pietrucha said that simply knowing that fines might be levied had made landlords more circumspect regarding the procurement of professional pest control, enabling professionals to do their job without having to cut costs and service just to get bed bug work. Chris Haggerty added, however, that he believed about 50 percent of rental properties were being treated by the property owners or employees thereof. He also said that the Council's 2011 Report went beyond Chicago's Ordinance, indicating that implementation of the Report's proposal statewide would be beneficial. Members of the Council agreed that the next step toward statewide bed bug regulation like that achieved by the City of Chicago would be to secure a legislative sponsor or sponsors for a bill based on the Council's 2011 Report and refinements per Chicago's subsequent experience with the City's Bed Bug Ordinance.

- With no further comments, the Council meeting was adjourned after a motion from Dr. Ratcliffe was seconded by Eric Ruesken.