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# Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2017

## **Illinois Structural Pest Control Advisory Council (SPCAC)**

## **General Meeting Information**

A meeting of the Illinois Structural Pest Control Advisory Council was held on November 14, 2017. 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)
- Jamie Byrd, Egyptian Health Department
- Chris Haggerty, American Pest Control
- Joe Kath, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Ruth Kerzee, Midwest Pesticide Action Center (MPAC)
- Cynthia Stricker, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)
- Gary Pietrucha, EnviroSafe Pest Management

Council Members Not Present:

- Warren Goetsch, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA)
- Dr. Susan Ratcliffe, North Central IPM Center
- Eric Ruesken, Arab Termite & Pest Control

IDPH Representatives Present:

- Dr. Curt Colwell, Division of Environmental Health

Guests Present:

- none

## **SPCAC Meeting Summary**

- Dr. Curt Colwell, acting as Chairman designate, called the meeting to order after determining a quorum (6) was present.
- Approval was sought for the Minutes of the Council's meeting of May 3, 2017. Gary Pietrucha motioned to approve. Scott Beckerman seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

- The first order of business involved a discussion of the latest statistics for IDPH Structural Pest Control Program examination testing and passing rates, as well as the latest tallies of violations cited by IDPH pest control inspectors. Dr. Colwell announced he had rewritten the Public Health Pest Control subcategory examination, although demand to take that exam was quite low. In light of the dangerous aspect of pest control fumigation, Gary Pietrucha suggested that persons holding Fumigation subcategory certification might be required to retake the Fumigation exam every three years to renew that certification. Chris Haggerty suggested that it might be best to instead require that the 9 continuing education hours also required for renewal be made category-specific, i.e., requiring 9 hours of training on fumigation-related topics. It was agreed that such hours might be difficult to acquire due to the typically poor availability of fumigation-specific training seminars. Dr. Colwell added that such persons might have to attend out-of-state fumigation seminars, but a change to the Structural Pest Control Act or Code would need to be made to require fumigation-specific hours or retaking of the Fumigation subcategory exam. He also advised that he had submitted a few Code rule changes to the appropriate IDPH office, but that he had heard nothing of their disposition for several months and could not say if or when those rule changes might be promulgated. Colwell further stated that any changes to the Structural Pest Control *Act* require a legislator-sponsored bill.
- Discussion ensued regarding the recurring topic of utilizing the Council's 2011 report to the legislature regarding suggestions to mitigate the bed bug epidemic in Illinois. The Council's report was mandated by the Illinois legislature, but once presented to the legislature, no further word was heard on this topic. It was the Council's contention that the report be used to enact a statewide bed bug regulation to improve bed bug mitigation and enable action to be more easily taken with regard to improving the response of residents, landlords and pest control operators to bed bug problems. Ruth Kerzee advised that she was receiving more bed bug-related calls than ever before. Curt Colwell stated that he receives many calls from small towns whose municipal codes are not written to allow the municipality to act, for example, against landlords who refuse to control bed bugs in their rental properties. Jamie Byrd agreed that this was a big problem especially in his area (southern Illinois) where many municipalities and local health departments have no statute allowing them to act against delinquent landlords in this regard. Byrd said he would mention this topic at an upcoming meeting of the Illinois Environmental Public Health Association in his area. It was agreed that promoting the fact that many especially low-income residents of rental properties are underserved with regard to bed bugs infestations, i.e., with no pest control service being provided by the landlord, an no recourse.
- The next topic of discussion was that of training, proposed by IDPH's Joe Mitchell, for food establishment inspectors. Chris Haggerty advised that the Illinois Pest Control Association (IPCA) had for some time been in touch with Mitchell, offering to conduct the training which could be incorporated into one of the IPCA's conferences. However, Haggerty related, ultimately Mr. Mitchell had declined the

offer, possibly due to IDPH budgetary constraints. Thus the proposed training was cancelled.

- Ruth Kerzee explained her non-government entity's progress regarding the Council's plan to provide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training online for school and daycare staff per the State's IPM regulations which currently require in-person seminars. Dr. Colwell advised that changes to the Act or Code would be made to enable the online training. Ms. Kerzee said that her organization was hired by the University of Illinois to analyze the "Stop Pest" IPM online curriculum to determine the extent of modifications necessary to provide the required IPM training on a website yet to be identified. She agreed that part Illinois' training should include how to write an IPM plan, as required by the regulations for facilities choosing to implement the principles of IPM. However, Kerzee felt the required 6 hours of training might be too excessive, and suggested it be reduced to 3 or 4 hours, via changes to the Act or Code. She estimated that if all went well, the new online IPM training could be ready by the Fall of 2018.
- The hazards of using dry ice for rodent control were the first New Business topic. Gary Pietrucha led the discussion, expressing his doubts about the recently registered dry ice pesticide, Rat Ice. He maintained that the product's label was not restrictive enough and that it might be misused by those who might use the product most frequently – municipal workers. Pietrucha estimated that most pest control companies would not use the product because other rodenticides were easier, safer and less restrictive in terms of purchasing the material which would need to be acquired within 3 days of using it.
- Dr. Colwell advised that he had drafted changes to the Structural Pest Control Act, including those to allow third-party vendors to conduct the program's examinations, and to extend the Act's sunset date beyond its current date of 12/31/19. He said the IDPH had placed this on its legislative calendar, ensuring that the bill to enact the specified changes would be forwarded to the legislature.
- With no further comments, the Council was adjourned after the motion of Chris Haggerty and a second by Ruth Kerzee.