

# Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2016

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

## General Meeting Information

A meeting of the Illinois Structural Pest Control Advisory Council was held on April 5, 2016. 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:

- Chris Haggerty, American Pest Control
- Ruth Kerzee, Midwest Pesticide Action Center (MPAC)
- Gary Pietrucha, EnviroSafe Pest Management
- Cynthia Stricker, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)
- Jamie Byrd, Egyptian Health Department
- Joe Kath, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Council Members Not Present:

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

IDPH Representatives Present:

- Ken McCann, Division of Environmental Health
- Dr. Curt Colwell, Division of Environmental Health

Guests Present:

- James Hockenyos, Sentinel Insect Control Lab

## SPCAC Meeting Summary

- Dr. Curt Colwell, acting as Chairman designate for Ken McCann, called the meeting to order after determining a quorum (6) was present.

- Approval was sought for the Minutes of the Council's meeting of September 22, 2015. Gary Pietrucha motioned to approve. Ruth Kerzee seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved by vote.
- The first item of Old Business was discussed, being the Advisory Council's membership status. Dr. Colwell announced that, despite there being only 6 members present at the meeting, the Advisory Council no longer had any member vacancies, due to the return of Joe Kath and the appointment of Jamie Byrd. Colwell advised that, as the day's meeting had nearly failed to achieve a quorum, the Council's by-laws should be checked and amended if necessary to allow a meeting to be held without a quorum. Attendees would not be allowed to vote on issues, but would be able to discuss them instead of having to leave without meeting in cases where five or less members were present. He also brought the topic of teleconferencing as a way to ensure attendance of those who at times found it impossible to make the long trip to meet, noting that several Council members lived and worked several hours by car from Springfield. The Council agreed that the by-laws could be checked and modified as necessary to allow less-than-quorum meetings and teleconferencing, and that such modifications might be presented for vote at the Council's next meeting.
- The status of Structural Pest Control Program examinations was the next topic of Old Business. Dr. Colwell present data on the passing rates for the various Program examinations and a brief discussion followed. It was mentioned that many examinees were apparently unaware that a practice exam had been posted on the IDPH website for use in preparing for the General Standards Examination. Colwell suggested that this may be accounting in part for the approximately 25 percent passing rate recently observed at a testing session in Skokie, Illinois, where only about 1 in 10 of the examinees said they had used the practice exam. Chris Haggerty and Gary Pietrucha, representing the Illinois Pest Control Association and Greater Chicago Pest Management Alliance, respectively, said that their associations had and would continue to advertise the practice exam's existence to their membership, but cautioned that perhaps nearly half of pest control companies in Illinois did not belong to either of the two and thus would not be reached. Colwell offered that even though examinees may be made aware of the practice exam, they may not be inclined to use it, or even the similarly posted General Standards Manual, to prepare for the exam.
- The Program's Institutional and Multi-Unit Residential Examination was mentioned by Gary Pietrucha, wondering if it could be updated to reflect changes in pest management since the exam was written. Dr. Colwell advised that indeed he had begun working of a revision of the exam, but was having difficulty writing enough questions (perhaps 50) for the exam because of a general lack of study materials specific to that category, so work on the revision had stalled. Joe Kath remarked that it would be beneficial for the Program to place a notice, possibly in the heading of the Bird Control Exam, to advise examinees that becoming certified in that category would not allow the certified individual to exterminate bats, which requires passing the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' exam for nuisance wildlife contractors

as well as an exam concerning bat control. Dr. Colwell advised that this might be done in the Program's letters sent to examinees confirming their exam dates, or perhaps elsewhere. He also stated that there was a question, in at least one of the Program's exams, designed to inform examinees that pest control certification did not permit them to harm bats. Kath added that anyone could install exclusion devices to rid structures of bats, but that bats could not be harmed or killed by anyone without the proper qualifications.

- Gary Pietrucha was then asked to provide an overview of the recent Chicago Bed Bug Forum. He advised that about 200 had attended the conference and that all the presentations were of value to pest management professionals – because the bed bug epidemic in Chicago had not plateaued but was escalating especially in multi-unit structures. The discussion then merged with the next topic: the effects of the Chicago Bed Bug Ordinance, requiring property owners to provide effective bed bug control in their rental properties, two years after its inception, and the prospect of similar regulations becoming statewide and based on the 2011 bed bug report that had been requested by and provided to the state legislature by the Advisory Council after holding several public meetings to formulate recommendations to curb bed bug infestation across the state. Ruth Kerzee commented on the effect of Chicago's Ordinance, reporting that bed bug-related calls to Chicago City Services (dial 3-1-1) were actually up in 2015, after the Ordinance had been in effect for more than a year, though she felt it had had an overall positive effect on Chicago's bed bug problem. She said her organization was preparing a survey of bed bug stakeholders, to help define the bed bug situation, and asked the Council for help in reviewing the survey's questions. Kerzee also wondered, after implementation of the Chicago Bed Bug Ordinance why the popularized lists of Orkin and Terminix continued to list Chicago as the foremost bed bug infested city in America. Chris Haggerty and others suggested that the data obtained by those companies was biased to some extent. Kerzee then told the Council that she would soon begin seeking a legislator to sponsor a set of statewide bed bug regulations as the Council had suggested. Ken McCann, Chief of the IDPH Environmental Health Division, commented that language for such a bill existed, but had not been pushed forward. He said that the IDPH might help formulate language and that it would then be sent to the Legislative Review Board to be set in the proper bill format for consideration by legislators perhaps in the upcoming January 2017 legislative session.
- Discussion then switched to the use, and potential misuse, of pesticide products containing the active ingredient Vapona, also known as DDVP. Gary Pietrucha as well as James Hockenyos and Dr. Colwell related they had encountered use of Vapona-containing "Nuvan" or "Hot Shot" strips hanging in public facilities such as bars and restaurants – a use that is not permitted by the products' labels and is therefore a violation of state and federal law. Pietrucha added that an aerosol foam product containing Vapona might be even more prone to misuse, especially since the product, intended for professional use, could be purchased by anyone on the Internet. He suggested that Vapona products be labeled as Restricted-Use Pesticides. Colwell

advised that the Illinois Department of Agriculture registered pesticides in Illinois and might be approached on the subject and that, for example, Indiana had attempted to state-label methomyl products as Restricted-Use Pesticides due to many incidents involved misuse of the fly baits to kill “nuisance” wildlife such as raccoons.

- The Council continued with a conversation on House Bill 5900, a bill banning certain uses of neonicotinoid pesticides which had been implicated as contributors to mass die-offs of pollinators including honey bees, observed most notably in the U.S. and Europe. Chris Haggerty, in his capacity as a government affairs liaison for the National Pest Management Association, reported that the legislature’s consideration of the Bill had been postponed twice. He said he was concerned with three parts of the Bill, all of which he believed posed unintended consequences, contending that the bill would: 1) ban indoor use of “neonic” pesticides, applied where they would not come into contact with pollinators, 2) ban the use of neonics around the foundation of homes, which are commonly done to protect against termites and many other pests that enter homes, and 3) the bill seems to allow local governments (e.g., municipalities) to make their own laws to ban the use of pesticides such as the neonics. Haggerty added, in reference to points 2) and 3) above, that neonic products currently include some of the industry’s most effective pesticides against bed bugs and termites – two pests of widespread concern to households and property owners. Thus he cautioned that the bill was obviously intended to protect pollinators outdoors, but its passage would devastate not only the pest control industry but the public that relied on that industry as well. Moreover, passage might lead to a “home rule” interpretation of pesticide regulation, resulting in a crazy quilt of laws governing pesticide use in Illinois – something that the Illinois Pesticide Act currently prohibits.
- The next New Business topic was led by Ruth Kerzee who proceeded to report on her non-profit organization’s efforts to offer online training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for day care centers. The online training module was made available on the website of INCCRRA (Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies), as continuing education training for day care staff. Kerzee said the free training had generated very positive comments from users totaling approximately 400 to date. Dr. Colwell added that the training would be valuable for day care facilities deciding whether to implement IPM or not, per the state’s IPM regulations which the IDPH administers in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. But when asked if the training could suffice for the regulations’ requirement that facilities choosing not to implement IPM are required to attend 6 hours of IPM training every 5 years, Colwell said that the regulations disallow IPM training online, requiring in-person training of 6-hour duration that even if allowable would be difficult to provide entirely online.
- With no further comments, the IPM subcommittee consisting of Gary Pietrucha, Ruth Kerzee, Cindy Stricker and James Hockenyo, met to discuss upcoming IPM Seminars for school and daycare staff, as required by state IPM regulations. The remainder of the Council was adjourned.