

Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2010

Illinois Structural Pest Control Advisory Council (SPCAC) Subcommittee for Exam Review

General Meeting Information

The meeting of the Structural Pest Control Advisory Council (SPCAC) Subcommittee to Review Exams was held on December 2, 2010. The meeting was held at the Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson Street in the 3rd floor small conference room located in the Office of Health Protection, Springfield, Illinois 62761.

Participants and SPCAC Subcommittee to Review Exams Members Present

IDPH Representative(s) Present:

- Fred Riecks, Program Manager
Structural Pest Control Program
- Dr. Curt Colwell, Entomologist
Division of Environmental Health
- Derrick Pehlman, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator
Structural Pest Control Program

Subcommittee Members Present:

- Harry Frost, Cargill Corn Milling
- Chris Haggerty, American Pest Control, Inc
- Gary Pietrucha, Envirosafe Pest Management
- Ron Hodgkins, Bel-O Pest Solutions - Late

Subcommittee Members Absent:

- Doug Jones, University of Illinois Extension Williamson County Unit

SPCAC Subcommittee to Review Exams Meeting Summary

Fred Riecks called the meeting of the SPCAC Subcommittee to Review Exams to order at 10:45 AM and determined by the number of members present as reported above, a quorum was present (three of five present). Mr. Riecks advised the members that Doug Jones advised him via e-mail earlier in the day that he was unable to attend (e.g., his vehicle broke down in Cape Girardeau, Missouri late on the evening of December 1st and he did not arrive home until 4:00 AM on December 2nd). General introductions were made and the discussion turned to the reason for the meeting. Mr. Riecks advised members to recall the last full meeting of the SPCAC in October when he indicated that a meeting would be held at a later date to discuss two new exams created by the Department and that meeting would be a closed to the public to maintain the integrity of the exams. He then focused his discussion on the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (specifically those that pertained to the closing of the meeting), read the exception listed

in Section 2(c) of the Open Meetings Act as the reason for closing the meeting (e.g., Exception 15 – Professional ethics or performance when considered by an advisory body appointed to advise a licensing or regulatory agency on matters germane to the advisory body’s field of competence), advised of the need to take a vote to close the meeting in order to review drafts of the new exams (Insects, Rodents and Other Pests and Termites and Other Wood Destroying Organisms) explaining that if a vote was not taken to close the meeting and the meeting remained open, that the meeting could not take place to review the exams. Mr. Riecks called for a vote to close the meeting. A vote was taken with three members voting “Yes” to close the meeting, none opposing and two members absent. (Mr. Hodgkins arrived after the vote had been taken approximately ten to 15 minutes late due to traffic). A verbatim recording of the entire meeting was attempted utilizing a digital recorder; however, upon playback during the preparation of the meeting minutes, it was discovered that the discussion concerning the Insect and Rodents exam could not be found. Discussions concerning the Termite exam were satisfactorily captured, however.

Members were given basic instructions concerning the exam content advising that the Insects and Rodents exam was comprised of 80 questions while the Termite exam was comprised of 104 questions. Mr. Riecks explained that the correct answer to each question was in bold print and that certain items in the question also in bold print would remain for the benefit of the person taking the test. The subcommittee began its review, first with the Insects and Rodents exam. The Termite exam was reviewed after the Insects and Rodent exam review was finished and turned in to Mr. Riecks. During the review of each exam, subcommittee members were asked to silently read each exam, question by question. When a member wanted to discuss a particular question, he was instructed to raise the question for member/Department discussion. Each member was asked to list any corrections on a question next to the exam question. Fred Riecks also wrote all the suggestions on his copy of the exams. Curt Colwell and Derrick Pehlman were present to discuss their positions for all questions posed. Questions addressed by members were resolved either by rephrasing the question, changing the answer, or tossing the question if consensus could not be obtained from the group.

By the end of the day, both the Insects and Rodents exam and the Termites and Other Wood Destroying Organisms exam were reviewed and a consensus among the members present was reached that the Department could proceed to utilize the new exams with suggested changes in early 2011. Members were assured that any problem questions would be brought back to the group and that an item analysis of the new exams would be attempted. The members were advised that the subcommittee findings would be brought to the full Committee’s attention.

Harry Frost left the exam review at 2:00 PM during the beginning discussions on the Termite exam whereas the remaining three members did not adjourn until the meeting ended. All exams were collected by Fred Riecks and a motion to adjourn was made by Chris Haggerty and seconded by Gary Pietrucha. The meeting ended at 3:45 PM.