

# Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2011

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

## General Meeting Information

The meeting of the Structural Pest Control Advisory Council (SPCAC) was held on April 13, 2011 at the Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson, Springfield, IL, fourth floor conference room.

## Participants and SPCAC Members Present

IDPH Representative(s) Present:

- Ken Runkle, Chief  
Division of Environmental Health
- 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

Members Present:

- Susan DiGrino, McDonough County Health Department
- Warren Goetsch, Illinois Department of Agriculture
- Harry Frost, Cargill Corn Milling
- Chris Haggerty, American Pest Control
- Gary Pietrucha, Envirosafe Pest Management Inc.
- Susan Ratcliffe, University of Illinois Extension
- Ronald Hodgkins, Bel-O Pest Solutions L.L.C./N/A
- Rachel Rosenberg, Safer Pest Control Project
- Scott Beckerman, USDA APHIS-Wildlife Services

Members Absent:

- Joseph Kath, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

## SPCAC Meeting Summary

Ken Runkle called the meeting of the SPCAC to order and determined that all members were present as reported above, a quorum was present. All made general introductions and the discussion turned to the agenda as provided to all members.

- Mr. Runkle began the discussion of old business as outlined on the April, 13, 2011, meeting agenda (**Attachment 1**).

- Meeting minutes from the October 27, 2010 SPCAC meeting and the December 2, 2010 exam subcommittee meeting were passed out for review. Mr. Beckerman made the motion to approve the SPCAC meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Mr. Frost. Mr. Hodgkins made the motion to approve the exam subcommittee meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Mr. Pietrucha. All committee and subcommittee members voted in favor of approving both meeting minutes.
- Discussion moved to member contact information. Mr. Runkle went over the columns of the SPCAC contact sheet and asked if there were any corrections to be made. One correction was annotated.
- The discussion moved to bed bug detection dogs and Mr. Runkle asked Mr. Riecks to report on what information the Department had found regarding bed bug detection dogs. Mr. Riecks began the discussion on bed bug dog accreditation. He stated that there are several certifying agents out there but the National Entomology Scent Detection Canine Association (NESDCA) not only certifies the canine team (dog and handler together) but also certifies the training schools. Currently there are three businesses in Illinois that are certified through NESDCA, all of which are in the Chicago area. A handout describing NESDCA was distributed (**Attachment 2**). Mr. Pehlman brought up the association's website and the committee reviewed the board of directors and their board of entomology advisors. The association's rules for certifying bed bug dog teams as well as recertification were discussed. Mr. Hodgkins stated that this is very similar to the certification that termite detection dogs had to go through and explained the process to the committee. Mr. Pietrucha discussed a company that he often uses and stated that they take the dogs to Florida for certification. Mr. Riecks advised that he contacted the States surrounding Illinois as well as all of the states in US EPA Region V and found that no state licenses or certifies bed bug dog teams. Mr. Riecks provided the committee a copy of Illinois Statutes pertaining to "structural pest control" and "device". He also provided a link to the National Pest Management Association's policy on bed bug dogs. Mrs. Rosenberg stated that for a public consumer advocacy issue the Department could make the recommendation that one should look for accreditation or certification that is accepted and buyer beware if they hire a company that does not have a certification. Mr. Hodgkins commented that a dog team is just a tool and even if a dog indicates that there are bed bugs, a human still needs to confirm it. Dr. Ratcliffe asked if there have been any complaints filed against bed bug dogs. The committee could not confirm if any complaints have been filed against bed bug dog teams though Mrs. Rosenberg stated that she has heard of dogs alerting to false positives resulting in the needless application of pesticides. Dr. Ratcliffe stated that consumers should be given information on where to file a

complaint. Mr. Beckerman asked if the Department's website has a fact sheet on bed bug dogs or if the U of I Extension had done one. Dr. Ratcliffe stated that they were working on a student fact sheet. Mr. Runkle suggested that the Department add another bullet on the bed bug fact sheet discussing bed bug dogs. Dr. Colwell stated that he has already started on one. Mr. Runkle asked if it was a consensus of the group that the Department pull together some information on bed bug dogs and create an additional bullet on the bed bug fact sheet discussing bed bug dogs. The committee agreed.

- Mr. Pehlman discussed an item that was brought up during the bed bug subcommittee meeting held on April 12, 2011 about bed bug dogs requiring a license under the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004 [225 ILCS 447]. A copy of the Act was displayed on the screen for review. The committee agreed that after reviewing the requirements, bed bug dogs do not fall under this Act.
- Mr. Runkle moved the meeting to new business
  - Mr. Runkle asked Dr. Colwell to give the committee an update on the bed bug subcommittee. Dr. Colwell went over the four topics that the subcommittee has been concentrating on. Those areas were determining responsibility of landlord's verses tenants on bed bug infestations, a system where people could file complaints against hotels, amendments to the Illinois Safe & Hygienic Bed Act [410 ILCS 68], and programs that subsidize low and no income populations who have bed bugs. Dr. Colwell indicated that by the June subcommittee meeting, a rough draft of the report including costs and suggested funding mechanisms could be completed. Target date for review/approval of the report by the SPCAC was the fall meeting. Mr. Runkle reminded the committee that the report would have to go through all the various Department offices (Environmental Health, Deputy Directors Office of Health Protection, Office of Governmental Affairs) before it could go to the legislature.
  - Mr. Runkle asked Mr. Riecks to update the committee on the exam subcommittee results. Mr. Riecks discussed the December 2, 2010 meeting on the rewrite of the Insects and Rodents (80 question) and the Termites and Other Wood Destroying Organisms (100 question). He also indicated that the subcommittee gave approval to utilize the exams and that both were administered at the March 23, 2011 exam with four to five individuals taking each exam. Mr. Hodgkins thanked the Department for allowing industry to take part in the exam review and Mr. Pietrucha agreed.

- Mr. Pehlman moved to exam review and provided the committee with an analysis of the Insects and Rodents (I&R), Termites and Other Wood Destroying Organisms (TOWDO), and the General Standards exams (**Attachment 3**). Mr. Hodgkins asked how those results (for the new I & R and TOWDO) compared to the last couple of years. Mr. Riecks stated that the results were poor based upon small sample size (five and four test takers respectively) and all who took these two exams were re-examination applicants (meaning applicants had taken previous old versions of I&R and TOWDO exams and may have know what they needed to pass versus having to take a brand new exam). Mr. Pehlman advised that on the I&R exam, applicants missed 45% of the questions on rules and regulations, 57% on the pest identification and 47% on pesticide and trap placement. He advised the average score was 48.6% on the I&R exam. Mr. Pehlman further advised that on the TOWDO exam, applicants missed 22% of the questions pertaining to rules and regulations, 55% of the subterranean termite questions, 47% of the wood destroying organism questions, 48% of the wood destroying insect control questions and 51% of the label questions achieving an average score of 53%. The General Standards exam results were also reviewed. The standard reference for each exam is the Truman's Scientific Guide to Pest Control Operations. Mr. Haggerty asked Mr. Riecks if there has been any consideration for the Department to put on a review classes prior to exams similar to Agriculture. Mr. Riecks advised no but further indicated that the Department has been trying to get the U of I Extension to hold training classes prior to exams. The committee discussed whether or not people should be able to review their exams. Mr. Goetsch informed the group that the Illinois Department of Agriculture lets people know the scores per area but does not allow people to look at the exam to see what they missed. Mr. Pehlman indicated that the Department is looking at software that will allow the tests scores to be broken out by sections to allow people to know the areas they need to review. Mr. Runkle indicated that the group consensus is for the Department to look into a way to share the exam results categorically.
- At this point, Mr. Runkle had to leave and placed Mr. Riecks in charge of meeting.
- Mr. Riecks began to discuss the four most noted violations cited during routine inspections. The committee was provided a handout (**Attachment 4**) listing the violations. Mr. Riecks discussed the violations in some detail to include recordkeeping, service vehicle requirements, pesticide storage area, and pesticide storage practices of service containers. Dr. Ratcliffe asked about secondary containment requirements. Mr. Riecks indicated that there is nothing in the Code about secondary containment except if there is a potable water well within 200 feet of the storage area.

Mr. Haggerty asked how often these are noted. Mr. Riecks indicated that these types of violations are noted all the time. Dr. Ratcliffe asked about the penalty provisions for these violations. Mr. Riecks explained the actions the Department takes when a violation is noted and answered several other questions regarding re-inspections and fines from other committee members. Mr. Haggerty asked if there were any violations due to the misapplication of a pesticide to which Mr. Riecks indicated that there are currently two cases in the legal process resulting from use inconsistent with labeling (one involved the use of an agricultural pesticide in homes and schools and the other involved the use of a child's beverage container as an application device).

- Mr. Riecks moved to the next agenda item, other business and asked Dr. Ratcliffe if she wanted to discuss what the U of I Extension is doing with IPM.
  - Dr. Ratcliffe explained what U of I Extension is doing towards IPM at the Westville School District and the East Central Illinois School Coalition. She also discussed what the U of I is doing to combat the bed bug issues and implementing an IPM program in two of the U of I dining halls.
  - Mrs. Rosenberg discussed their program on natural lawn care.
  - Mr. Beckerman mentioned that the previous SPCAC meeting it was discussed that the Department was going to review other exams as well as the two that had be re-written. Mr. Riecks indicated that the Department probably will but has not looked at which ones or a timeline to review them.
  - Mr. Beckerman gave the committee an update on the re-licensing of Avitrol, a restricted use pesticide used to control pest birds. Mr. Beckerman advised that the USDA may be assuming the label registration if the current owners do not pursue the data call in requirements with EPA.
- Mr. Riecks indicated the next meeting of the SPCAC is scheduled for November 16, 2011 at 10:30 am in fourth floor conference room at the Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson Street in Springfield. Dr. Colwell indicated that the finalized bed bug report should be available for review and consideration at that time. *[Note: The November 16, 2011 meeting was moved from the Illinois Department of Public Health location to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources building located at One Natural Resources Way, Lake Level Rooms A & B, in Springfield on October 18,2011. Meeting Minutes approved at the November 16, 2011 meeting].*

BOARD MEETING ADJOURNED