

## **Ethylene Producers' Committee Meeting Minutes – October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Following are the minutes of the October 10, 2013 meeting of the Ethylene Producers' Committee (EPC) held at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX.

Minutes prepared by Paul van Helmond.

### **1. Attendance**

Present – Toby Darbonne, David Gent, Michael Kennedy, Ravi Lal, David Mullenix, Robert Nussbaum, Tom Pickett, Walter Postula, Paul van Helmond & Sasha Vragolic

Not present – Jake Berret, Jeff Edwards, Sanjeev Kapur, Aivars Kruminis, Michael Moran, Rick Prickett, Richard Rolke, Jonathan Sterne, Michael Tallman Jack Tindel, Greg Yeo and Tim Zygula.

The updated EPC member contact list appears in **Attachment 1**.

*[The contact list also includes attendance records since 2008. The attendance records are utilized by the Nominating committee in accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 6]*

### **2. Call To Order:**

Chairman Michael Tallman was unable to attend due to business travel. Vice Chairman Paul van Helmond called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and read the Antitrust Statement:

“No activity of the Committee shall involve the exchange, collection or dissemination of information among competitors for the purpose of bringing about or attempting to bring about any understanding or agreement, written or oral, formal or informal, express or implied, among competitors with regard to costs, prices or pricing methods, terms or conditions of sale, distribution, production quotas or other limitations, on either the timing, or volume of production, or sales, or allocation of territories or customers.”

The meeting agenda was published in advance and appears in **Attachment 2**.

### **3. Five Minutes on Safety:**

Toby Darbonne presented a safety incident following a failure on a quench exchanger. The slides that were presented are enclosed in **Attachment 3**.

#### 4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Approval of the minutes of the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting proposed by David Gent, seconded by Toby Darbonne, approved unanimously.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report:

Michael Kennedy reported. The only activity on general fund checking account was payment of the dinner associated with the August Meeting. Copy of Treasurer's report is included in **Attachment 4**.

Two new members are showing interest for subscription to our database.

Mike will prepare a budget for next year and make a suggestion for membership dues at our next meeting on November 21.

#### 6. 2014 Program Chair Report

Walter Postula reported. Walter's slides are included in **Attachment 5**. The program will go live on December 9 and on-line submission of papers can be accepted till March 28. Different from other years in 2014 there will only be an electronic version of the proceedings. AIChE will no longer have paper proceedings.

As in other years we will have two presentation rooms. We will also have a separate sponsor room which will consist of the combined "River, Starboard and Port" rooms.

Permission for voice and video recording will be handled directly by AIChE to the presenters as was done in recent years.

A preliminary program is discussed. Suggested is to swap fundamentals and technology. Operations may go to Thursday? Walter will update the preliminary program for finalization at the next meeting on Nov 21.

#### 7. 2014 Program Vice Chair Report

Michael Moran is absent. Walter Postula presented on Michael's behalf. Slides are included in **Attachment 6**.

Michael Moran and Greg Yeo visited New Orleans to view arrangements for breaks and refreshment, EPC luncheon and speaker's dinner. Catering costs at the convention center are higher than last year in San Antonio. We may consider higher fee (\$950) for sponsors. A decision will need to be made in November.

Three restaurants were visited for network luncheon. Mulate's is preferred location. Lunch cost would be \$43 pp.

Two restaurants were considered for speaker's dinner. Recommendation is for Galatoire. Cost is \$120 per person inclusive. Michael Moran will have to check that this includes cocktail hour. A non-refundable \$5,000 deposit is required for Galatoire. A motion to allow up to \$15,000 costs for the speaker's dinner and authorization to execute a contract was presented by David Gent, Tom Pickett seconded, all in favor. A deposit check for Galatoire in the amount of \$5,000 will be provided to Michael Moran.

## **8. Subcommittee Reports**

**Safety** – Robert Nussbaum reported

Safety s/c is in good shape. Six abstracts expected, five in hand. Safety is preparing for one paper session. The joint workshop with the Technology s/c is not fully organized yet but there are many ideas. There will be a workshop, either safety alone or safety/technology. Ralph King is chair for this workshop/tutorial. Bob Krinock (DOW) from technology is contact person from technology. Rick Swain as chair.

**Environmental** – Walter Postula reported

Environmental has one unsolicited abstract, and three further commitments, two of which are solid and one not. The sub-committee is still looking for a co-chair of the session. They are also looking for session chair preferably from main committee. Members are requested to provide leads for one more paper.

**Operations** – Jeff Edwards (not present) reported to Walter prior to meeting requesting Walter to provide the update in the meeting:

The committee has five good leads and a potential sixth paper.

**Maintenance** – Paul van Helmond reported

The subcommittee is planning two sessions. There will be a furnace maintenance tutorial and a paper session. Both sessions will have the same chair and co-chair (Trobie Thompson – SASOL & Mohammed Imran – Technip Stone & Webster). The s/c has majority of abstracts in hand and we look OK to finalize program and abstracts well prior to Oct 28 deadline.

**Technology & Fundamentals** – Ravi Lal reported

Two sessions are being planned.

Fundamentals – has four papers committed papers and abstracts are being collected. They are searching for two more. Jack Buehler and Brian Bahr will once again chair the session. The s/c has one paper from Lamar University that they may transfer the process control s/c.

Technology – is planning a joint session with the safety s/c.

**Process Control** – Sasha Vragolic reported.

The s/c only has one paper committed at their meeting today. The s/c needs help locating more papers. The s/c will meet again on Nov 7 to identify additional papers.

**Rotating Equipment** – Michael Tallman (not present) reported to Walter Postula prior to meeting requesting Walter to provide the update in the meeting:

The s/c will have two sessions. The Monday morning session will have a late start and less papers. At this point three abstracts are in. The afternoon session has currently four papers with two pending.

**Feedstock** – Tom Pickett reported

The s/c has four abstracts in hand. One presentation will be an update on the contaminant database. They are looking for one more paper.

**Knowledge Management** – Paul van Helmond reports information provided to him by Knowledge Management Committee member Greg Yeo.

Greg discussed the Permission to Publish issue with Lauren Deitch (AIChE). Outcome is that AIChE will prepare a simple message that Session Chairs can send to authors in the event that the author doesn't upload the paper himself. Walter will need to provide this message to session chairs so they can send to authors and get a confirmation back. The replies shall be collected and will be archived by AIChE.

The issue here is ensuring that authors don't bypass the permission to publish process when they get help with uploads.

Uploading – up loads of papers and presentations are ready but have still not been uploaded on the Omnipress site.

## 9. BREAK

## 10. Nominating Committee Report

No new business.

## 11. Old Business:

**Knowledge Management Excess Funds** – We had scheduled to discuss the plans of the KM subcommittee as presented in the August 22 meeting. Due to absences of several of the KM sub-committee members this agenda topic will be moved to the November 21 meeting. Greg Yeo and Sanjeev Kapur did provide an update with request to share at the meeting:

*"We had intended to lead a committee discussion on the proposed Ethylene Process Hazard training topic on behalf of the Knowledge Management Subcommittee. Neither of us can be present at the October meeting due to business travel, but we will be prepared to discuss the proposal at the next Committee meeting.*

*Sanjeev and Greg have met with Ralph King (retired, LyondellBasell, now consulting at Stress Engineering) to discuss the an outline of a module to pilot the process, utilizing Ralph's expertise in ethylene plant cold safety and the hazard associated with brittle fracture. The discussion has only been at the conceptual level so far, but it is enough for us to be in a position to put flesh around the idea and enable a productive discussion by Knowledge Management and the full Committee.*

*We have also discussed the concept further with AIChE staff and have an understanding of what kinds of roles the Institute might have in support of this initiative.*

*We will bring this message together at the next meeting of the Committee, along with a motion for potential next steps."*

## 12. New Business:

None

## 13. Review Action Items List

See actions summary listed on last page of minutes

**14. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX with social beginning at 5:30 pm.

**15. Adjournment:**

Vice Chairman Paul van Helmond adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

