

Ethylene Producers' Committee Meeting
Minutes – September 15th, 2016
DRAFT

Following are the minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting of the Ethylene Producers' Committee (EPC) held at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX.

Minutes prepared by Tim Zygula

1. **Attendance**

Present – Richard Beleutz, Jeff Edwards, Bala Devakottai, Richard Rolke , Chaka Elam, David Gent , Aivars Kruminis, Jeff Nichols, Toby Darbonne, Greg Yeo, Sanjeev Kapur, Ravi Lal, Gene Osborne, Tom Pickett, Walter Postula, Mark Schmidt, Micheal Smith, Michael Tallman, Paul van Helmond, Sasha Vragolic, and Tim Zygula.

Not present – Jake Berret, and Jeff Nichols.

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 Sasha Vragolic called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Tim Zygula 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:**

Rick Beleutz presented “Petrobras Oil Platform Accident”. The presentation appears as **Attachment 3**.

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

Tim Zygula sent the draft minutes of the August 4th meeting to all members on August 10, 2016. The comments received are reflected in the final minutes. The final minutes were published by Tim on August 29th. Mike Tallman proposed to approve the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Richard Rolke and approved unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

Tom Pickett presented the current EPC finances.

In the General Fund there was a total \$1,937.59 in expenses. Most of the expenses were related to EPC dinners at the Doubletree Hotel. There was a \$530.68 dollar expense for the break sponsors for the 2016 conference. The balance of the general fund is less than the balance of the general fund in 2015. The balance is \$1,883.01 lower than the prior year's balance at the end of August. In the knowledge management fund the OmniPress bill was paid and the cost of the learning module was also paid. Therefore, we should have adequate capital to continue to fund the normal operations of this Committee. A copy of the Treasurer's report is included in **Attachment 4**.

Greg Yeo made a request for follow up on total income from sponsors versus total spend for refreshments.

6. **Review of the EPC Bylaws, Article II**

Sasha Vragolic presented Article II of the EPC Bylaws. The slides presented are in **Attachment 5**.

7. **Nominating Committee**

Walter Postula presented and chaired the execution of the business of the Nominating Committee. His presentation is attached as **Attachment 6**.

As a member's 5 year term expires, the Nominating Committee, with concurrence of the member, reviews and, as appropriate, recommends renewal of membership and submits a proposal to the Committee for ratification.

The following members are nominated for renewal of membership:

- Toby Darbonne (6/8/2006)
- Aivars Krumins (8/17/2006)
- Sasha Vragolic (8/11/2011)
- Tim Zygula (2/10/2011)
- All have indicated willingness to continue their service

The Nominating Committee recommends renewal of membership for Toby, Aivars, Sasha, and Tim. The Committee voted on these renewals and they were approved by unanimous vote.

8. **EPC Membership Continuation Requests**

Sasha Vragolic received a request from Sanjeev Kapur to continue his Committee membership for another year. Sasha endorsed Sanjeev's continuing membership and per Article II, Section 6 of the EPC Bylaws, Sasha brought Sanjeev's request to the Committee for approval (see **Attachment 7**)

Continuing Member – Sanjeev Kapur

- Member in good standing
- Very active member
- Strong contributor to the committee and the Knowledge Management Subcommittee

Sanjeev's membership continuation was approved by unanimous vote.

9. **2017 Program Chair Conference Report**

Jeff Edwards presented the slides in **Attachment 8**. The preliminary program grid and list of session chairs and co-chairs are given in **Attachment 9** and **Attachment 10**, respectively.

Planning with AIChE is in progress.

AIChE site visit was completed. Jeff initialize confex and session chair notifications complete.

Jeff requested a hard wire connection from Warp Speed instead of a Wi-Fi connection.

The room set in the convention is still in progress.

Jeff is in the process of updating the session list with the session chairs information.

The program grid is not finalized yet and may change depending on whether we have a keynote speaker. If we do not have a keynote speaker then we will swap the feedstock session with the large plants session. If we have a keynote speaker no changes will be made.

10. **2017 Program Vice Chair Conference Report**

Richard Rolke presented the slides in **Attachment 11**

Richard Rolke is working on setting up venues to look at for the Speakers dinner and the networking lunch.

Richard presented three options for the speaker's dinner. His recommendation was the "Little Rhein Steak House" Richard made a motion to approve this venue and to get permission to set up a contact with them for a maximum of \$16,000. The motion was seconded by Aivars and was approved by unanimous vote.

Richard presented three for the Networking lunch. His recommendation was Rio Rio Cantino at a cost of \$50.00 per person. The venue was approved and he is currently working with AIChE to set up a contract with this venue.

Sasha will contact the EEPCC to see if they are going to attend this year's conference before a joint lunch is set up between the EEPCC and the EPC.

The Sunday EPC reception will be held at the New Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (target Sunday 5:00-6:00 PM).

11. **Break**

12. **Subcommittee Reports**

Safety – Toby Darbonne reported.

The safety subcommittee will have two sessions at the 2017 conference.

The first session will be the General Safety session. This session has two papers and two abstracts. Part of this session will be used to review the CSB finding from the Williams incident.

The second sessions will be on SIS methods used to prevent cold embrittlement failure. The session will have four papers and a tutorial on SIS basics.

Environmental – Richard Beleutz reported.

The technology/environmental joint session update is in the technology subcommittee update section.

Operations – Richard Rolke reported.

The operations session currently has four abstracts in hand.

Maintenance – Paul van Helmond reported.

The maintenance subcommittee will have one session. The session has received one abstract. The committee is working on getting more abstracts in before the call for papers closes.

Technology & Fundamentals – Michael Tallman reported.

The technology subcommittee will have three sessions.

a. Fundamentals – Has 6 abstracts in place. The committee is looking to get more abstracts in before the end of the call for papers. The fundamental session will have enough papers for a full session.

b. Large Capacity Plants – Sanjeev will have a kick-off paper. They have 5 – 6 potential papers now from equipment vendors. They would like to have a paper from an operating company.

c. Review of process technology solutions to ethylene plant environment challenges. Aivars reported - The Environmental SC had a committee meeting this afternoon to review the status of the potential papers and the group is in good shape. First, the environmental/technology session will require a full session. Having this session on Monday morning will not work.

Here is a high level summary of the papers:

1. **Environmental Consultant** – Overview on current/future requirements. Need to identify speaker and a back-up. Request for people on our committee to check with their environmental people for recommendations for consultants.
2. **KBR/Indorama** – they will present a paper on Wet Air Oxidation for treating discharge of sulfidic streams and identifying solutions for handling them.
3. **Lyondell/Bassell w/ Halder Topsoe** – Paper discussing SCR solutions (HT) and operating experience (LYB)
4. **Linde** – Flameless Thermal Oxidizers. While the paper is not necessarily from an ethylene plant, but the experience would be applicable to an ethylene plant.
5. **CB&I** – Environmental Challenges with Ambient Air Quality Standards. Paper will focus on PM10 vs PM2.5, what is the current practice and what will need to be done in the future. The paper will also discuss secondary contributions to PM10/2.5 associated with SCRs.
6. **Flare Emissions Regulatory Update/John Zink** - Robert heard JZ's presentation at a JZ seminar in Beaumont this past July where they made a presentation on this subject for refineries. At the time, they indicated that they are willing to modify this presentation to suit ethylene producers. We went back to them today to confirm if they are interested and to get a copy of the presentation that they did make.

7. **Emissions Credits (Consultant – Mike Taylor)** – The paper would provide a useful overview on planning and costs for emissions credits. Brandon Lithgoe from Williams has heard him speak and thought it was quite good and believes it would be beneficial.

Process Control – Sasha Vragolic reported.

The process control subcommittee would like to have their session held in the Monday time slot that it was in last year.

The session will hold a round table discussion on real time optimization. This session has received two papers.

Rotating Equipment – Michael Tallman reported.

That the subcommittee is anticipating having two sessions as usual which includes a panel discussion at the end of the second session. Currently they have 5 abstracts in hand and are looking to get 4 or 5 more abstracts before the call for papers closes on October 21.

Feedstock – Tom Pickett reported.

The feedstock subcommittee is looking to have one session this year. Currently the session has 3 papers and no abstract that have been submitted.

The feed stock survey was sent out to operating companies on 8/31/16. Tom is asking for all operating companies to fill out the survey on-line.

The contaminate database is in the process of being updated.

13. **Knowledge Management**

- A) Greg reported that AIChE has released the EPC from an obligation to share technical data. A written agreement will follow.
- B) Sanjeev reported that the committee is working on the Cryogenic NO_x tutorial package.

14. **Old Business:**

- A) Low Temperature Embrittlement subcommittee is proceeding - Micheal Smith reported that the committee is still working on the template of information on embrittlement practices. The template will be sent out to be filled with a deadline of October 24th. Micheal also reported that he expects to present the filled in template to the main committee by early December.

15. **New Business:**

Sasha reported – That there was no new business on the agenda.

16. **Review Action Items List**

See action item summary listed on last page of minutes.

17. **Next Meeting:**

The 2017 EPC conference is scheduled for March 26-30, 2017 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

The next meeting of the planning cycle will be at 6:00 pm October 27, 2016 at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX with social beginning at 5:30 pm.

18. **Adjournment:**

Chairman Sasha Vragolic adjourned the meeting.

ACTIONS SUMMARY

| ITEM | BY | WHEN |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Jeff will update the program outline | Jeff Edwards | October 27, 2016 |
| Jeff to send out reminders that the session call closes October 21, 2016 | Jeff Edwards | September 30, 2016 |
| Richard to finalize contracts for the speaker's dinner and the networking lunch. The contracts will be sent out for review to the EPC directors. | Richard Rolke | October 27, 2016 |
| Discuss later in the year about the possibility of electronic feedback on our conference sessions using the AIChE APP. | Sasha Vragolic | December 31, 2016 |
| Sasha will contact the EEPC to see if they are coming to the EPC conference this year. Sasha will decide if there is going to be an EPC-EEPC joint lunch meeting this year. | Sasha Vragolic | December 1, 2016 |
| Sanjeev will look into making the By-Laws Gender Neutral | Sanjeev Kapur | March 26, 2017 |
| Provide comparison of total 2016 sponsor income with total refreshment spend. | Jeff Edwards and Tom Pickett | October 27, 2016 |
| The session chairs will look at the session titles and send any updates to Jeff. | Jeff Edwards | October 27, 2016 |
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