

**Ethylene Producers' Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes – September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**FINAL**

Following are the minutes of the September 24, 2015 meeting of the Ethylene Producers' Committee (EPC) held at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX.

Minutes prepared by Sasha Vragolic

**1. Attendance**

Present – Rick Beleutz, Jake Berret, Toby Darbonne, Bala Devakottai, David Gent, Sanjeev Kapur, Aivars Krums, Ravi Lal, Robert Nussbaum, Tom Pickett, Walter Postula, Mark Schmidt, Michael Smith, Jonathan Sterne, Michael Tallman, Trobie Thompson, Paul van Helmond, Sasha Vragolic, Greg Yeo, and Tim Zygula.

Not present – Neil Amedee, Jeff Edwards, and Richard Rolke.

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 Walter Postula called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Sasha Vragolic 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:**

Mark Schmidt discussed lightning hazards. The presentation appears as **Attachment 3**.

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

Sasha Vragolic sent the draft minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to all members. There were no corrections but there was an action item to get a version of the safety minute presentation that did not have any references to proprietary information. The final minutes were published by Sasha on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Greg Yeo proposed to approve the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Tim Zygula and approved unanimously.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report:**

Tom Pickett presented the current EPC finances.

This year's end of July balance in the General Fund is within \$300 of the balance at the same time, last year. 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**.

#### **6. 2016 Program Chair Report**

Tim Zygula presented the slides in **Attachment 6**.

#### **7. 2016 Program Vice-Chair Report**

Walter Postula reported the following for Jeff Edwards:

- Dinner at 3 Forks. Date reserved. Contract going back and forth to include pricing, minimum, etc. It should be complete next week.
- Lunch at Irma's. Technically, the negotiation is still in progress. His minimum is higher than the multiple of 150 guests times the 55 dollar lunch price. Having a little trouble conveying the math. I think we'll get there soon. AIChE involved and doesn't see any issues.
- Sponsor room design shows room for 32-34 tables (double checking door widths/locations). I need to get the sponsor distribution list ready.
- Hilton break room menus not yet resolved (prices very similar to Austin)
- Sunday reception is on AIChE's to-do list, but they are busy with other programs, and have not given me the details I would like in a plan.

## 8. Subcommittee Reports

**Safety** – Jonathan Sterne reported.

The safety subcommittee already has received 4 abstracts and they expect the fifth to arrive within a week. They are making very good progress in organizing their session.

**Environmental** – Walter Postula reported.

The subcommittee has several papers and they are considering a possible panel discussion. They may have enough papers for two sessions.

**Operations** – Walter Postula reported for Richard Rolke.

The subcommittee is currently considering 3 papers and a tutorial. They plan to have one session.

**Maintenance** – Paul van Helmond reported.

The subcommittee is progressing well in preparing their session. They are still seeking papers.

**Technology & Fundamentals** – Mike Tallman reported.

The subcommittee is currently considering 3 sessions:

- A) One session would be on Ethane Feed issues. They have 5 abstracts and 2 others have been promised.
- B) The second session would be on Fundamentals. The subcommittee has 5 abstracts.
- C) The third session would be a panel discussion on Capital Cost Strategies. Sanjeev Kapur will chair that session.

**Process Control** – Sasha Vragolic reported.

The subcommittee is currently considering 3 papers and a panel discussion on maintenance of Advanced Process Control applications.

**Rotating Equipment** – Mike Tallman reported.

The subcommittee plans to have two sessions. They do not have any abstracts in hand but they should have plenty of papers before the deadline.

**Feedstock** – Tom Pickett reported.

The subcommittee has 5 possible papers but no abstracts in hand.

**EPC Keynote** – Walter Postula reported.

The intended speaker will not be available and Walter is working with another potential speaker but has not gotten a firm commitment.

## 9. **Knowledge Management**

- A) Learning Modules – Sanjeev Kapur reported that we have a firm contract with Ralph King for delivering the first module. The subcommittee is exploring topics for the second learning module. The list of possible topics includes: Ethylene Decomposition, NOx in the Cold Box, and safety issues with furnace steam generation equipment. Jonathan Sterne provided feedback from the Safety Subcommittee that we should start with a safety primer and use the outline of that primer as a list of topics for future modules.
- B) Greg Yeo reminded the members to ask the subcommittees to send meeting minutes to “ethyleneproducerscommittee@gmail.com”.
- C) The Directors need to ask the Session Chairs to make paper requirements clear to potential authors.
- D) The Committee members are asked to add their pictures to their AIChE profiles. Only 12 of the members have their pictures uploaded.
- E) Greg Yeo will update the leadership page of the EPC website.

## 10. **Old Business:**

## 11. **New Business:**

- A) The Nominating Committee needs to consider a replacement for Robert Nussbaum.

## 12. **Review Action Items List**

See action item summary listed on last page of minutes.

## 13. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm October 29, 2015 at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX with social beginning at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be in the Sam Rayburn room on the Concourse Level instead of our usual 20<sup>th</sup> floor location.

## 14. **Adjournment:**

Chairman Walter Postula adjourned the meeting.

