

**Ethylene Producers' Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes – August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**FINAL**

Following are the minutes of the June 9, 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 – Rick Beleutz, Jeff Edwards, Aivars Krumins, 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, Bala Devakottai, Richard Rolke, Chaka Elam, David Gent.

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. 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:**

Greg Yeo presented “Understanding Risk and Solution Is Not Enough”. The presentation appears as **Attachment 3**.

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

Tim Zygula sent the draft minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to all members on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The comments received are reflected in the final minutes. The final minutes were published by Tim on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Aivars Kruminis proposed to approve the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Jeff Edwards and approved unanimously.

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

Tom Pickett presented the current EPC finances.

There was not activity in the General Fund the balance of the general is very close to the balance of the general fund in 2015. The balance is within \$1,747 lower than the prior year's balance at the beginning of August. One subscription was received in the knowledge management fund. 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. Nominating Committee**

Walter Postula presented and chaired the execution of the business of the Nominating Committee. His presentation is attached as **Attachment 5**.

Walter reported on the following:

At June 9, 2016 Main Committee Meeting the Nominating Committee was asked to review EPC Program Chair and Program Vice-Chair roles and recommend any changes. Specifically "Does the Program Chair and/or Program Vice-Chair Need an "assistant"?"

The recommendations of the committee are as follows:

No creation of an "assistant" position, EPC has developed good processes which are documented in guidance documents.

Update Guidance Documents

Update the EPC Program Chair Guidance

Update the EPC Program Vice-Chair Guidance

Update the EPC Guide for Session Chairs

Make the Permission to Publish procedure clear to follow.

Make an offer for experienced members to also attend site visit with the new program chair and vice chair.

## **7. Review of the EPC By-Laws - Chairman Report**

Sasha Vragolic presented Article 1 of the EPC By-Laws. The slides presented are in **Attachment 6**.

## **8. 2017 Program Chair Conference Report**

Jeff Edwards presented the slides in **Attachment 7**

Planning with AIChE is in progress.

During the San Antonio trip the program chair will work on developing.

Room seating sizes

Develop program outline – session count, opposition issues

Jeff is requesting an updated list of session chairs and co-chairs for this year's conference.

Jeff will send a link to confex to all session chairs and co-chairs.

Conference Timeline –

Sessions entered into Confex: May 2, 2016

Call for abstracts: May 23, 2016

Site visit planned Aug 18-19, 2016

Call for abstracts closes: Oct 24, 2016

Papers Accepted/Rejected: Nov 21, 2016

Draft Schedule ready: Dec 7, 2016

Online registration begins: Dec 14, 2016

AIChE draft paper due: Feb 22, 2017

AIChE final papers due: Mar 1, 2017

AIChE draft slides due: Mar 13, 2017

Conference: Mar 26, 2017

## **9. 2017 Program Vice Chair Conference Report**

Richard Rolke is working on setting up venues to look at for the Speakers dinner and Networking Luncheon. He will visit the selected venues during the trip to San Antonio.

Walter has touch base with Richard prior to the site visit to assist, if necessary, in developing plans for venue visits. . Walter will attend the site visit with Jeff and Richard to offer advice on conference set up.

## **10. Break**

### **11. Subcommittee Reports**

**Safety** – Toby Darbonne reported.

The safety subcommittee is looking to have two sessions at the 2017 conference. The first sessions will be on SIS methods used to prevent cold embrittlement failure. The session has two potential papers. {I don't think the SIS session will be focused on cold embrittlement. The output of the Low Temperature Embrittlement subcommittee will be a paper in the general session. Check with Toby on specifics.} The second session will be the General Safety session. This session has three papers/abstracts. Part of this session will be to review the CSB finding from the Williams incident.

Micheal Smith – Will be the session chair for the general session.

Anne Balinsky – Will be the session co-chair for the general session.

**Environmental** – Rick Beleutz reported.

The environmental subcommittee is planning to hold a joint session with the technology subcommittee on “Process technology solutions for ethylene plant environmental challenges”. There will not be a stand-alone environmental session.

Rick Beleutz will be the session chair of the joint session

Aivars Krumins will be the session co-chair of the joint session

**Operations** – Jeff Edwards reported.

Two new members have joined the subcommittee.

The operations subcommittee is looking to have one session at the 2017 conference. Currently the subcommittee has two abstracts in hand.

Richard Rolke – Will be the session chair for the general session

Patty Summers – Will be the session co-chair for the general session.

**Maintenance** – Paul van Helmond reported.

Their maintenance subcommittee has scheduled their first meeting for August 11<sup>th</sup>. The session has not received any abstracts yet.

The maintenance subcommittee has voted on allowing Sanjeev Kapur to meeting a member of this subcommittee. His application for membership was approved by vote.

Mike Pelton with LyondellBasell and Mike Kudijaroff of Williams Olefins will be the session chair and co-chair respectively for the 2017 session.

**Technology & Fundamentals** – Michael Tallman reported.  
The technology subcommittee will have three sessions.

- a. Fundamentals – the annual session and there is a starting point with several abstracts held over from 2016. Jack Buehler and Robert Krinock will again chair the session.
- b. Review of maximum size of ethylene plants and constraints. Plants have been getting larger over time and this session would review the equipment size limitations, potential to design around current constraints and etc. Sanjeev, Krishna and Bala agreed to further develop this idea for further discussion at the next meeting.
- c. Review of process technology solutions to ethylene plant environment challenges. This would entail a review of technology and means to address various environmental concerns facing ethylene plant operators – such as flare, SCR and NOx reduction, WAO and other spent caustic treatment options, etc. There may be an introductory paper reviewing MACTs, permitting, etc. There is agreement to move forward with the environmental subcommittee on a joint session. Session chair and co-chair roles given in the environmental report out.

**Process Control** – Sasha Vragolic reported.

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

It looks like the session will hold another round table discussion.

This session has not received any abstracts yet.

Sasha Vragolic – Will be the session chair for the general session

Eddy Fontenot – Will be the session co-chair for the general session.

**Rotating Equipment** – Michael Tallman reported.

Nothing to report – The subcommittee is looking to hold two sessions as they normally do. The rotating equipment subcommittee has not held their first meeting yet. They are pushing to get started as soon as possible.

**Feedstock** – Tom Pickett reported.

The feedstock subcommittee has held two meetings. The feedstock subcommittee is looking to have one session this year. Currently the session has one abstract that has been submitted.

The feed stock survey is 89% complete and should be ready to put out in two weeks.

The feedstock contaminate abstract survey is currently being updated.

## **12. Knowledge Management**

- A) Greg reported that the final upload of papers to the web site has been completed. These include the oral and written responses for questions during session 40 as well as some papers from the 1989 Spring Meeting (First EPC).
- B) Learning Modules – Sanjeev Kapur reported that the final version of the first learning module is complete and has been uploaded to the web site.
- C) The committee want to recognize Ralph King for the work he did on the first learning module. It was proposed that a letter of appreciation be drawn up and signed by the chairman. The EPC would also offer Ralph a free subscription to the Omnipress web site as a token of appreciation. The complimentary subscription will be offered to all future learning module authors. The EPC board voted on this proposal and it was approve unanimously.
- D) Sanjeev reported that the committee is pursuing the next tutorial – It will either b Cryogenic NOx or Ethylene Decomposition.
- E) The invoice for Omnipress has come due. The amount of the invoice is \$5,160

## **13. Old Business:**

- A) Low Temperature Embrittlement subcommittee is proceeding - Micheal Smith will be sending out an information template of information on embrittlement practices to the main committee to have a meeting this year in either late October or early November.
- B) Bala Devakottai and Mark Whitney was approved as the Co-Chairs for the Low Temperature Embrittlement subcommittee.

## **14. New Business:**

- A) Aivars Reported - I had my Events Planning group review our current contract with Doubletree and in summary, we have a really good deal and should be happy. Here are her specific comments:
  - i. “After reviewing your contract I believe for the hotel and area of town you are in, and the services you are requesting (plated dinner, meeting space, av, bar) you are getting a good deal. The only way I see you could save money is to go to a lower level hotel (Holiday Inn, etc).
  - ii. You are doing well by getting the room rental waived by meeting a \$1000 minimum in F&B, and dinner for roughly 20 people with a hosted bar that price. The plated dinner looks like a nice meal

with elevated quality items for the price of \$35/person. The AV (even if it's just a screen you are renting) would generally run at \$500/day for the screen and projector rental. I don't think you can do much better than that anywhere.

- iii. I would say that you might be hard pressed to find a better deal in that area with the same level of quality you are getting at the Doubletree.

#### **15. Review Action Items List**

See action item summary listed on last page of minutes.

#### **16. Next Meeting:**

The 2017 EPC conference is scheduled for March 26-30, 2017 at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio.

The next meeting of the planning cycle will be at 6:00 pm September 15, 2016 at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX with social beginning at 5:30 pm.

#### **17. Adjournment:**

Chairman Sasha Vragolic adjourned the meeting.

## ACTIONS SUMMARY

ITEM	BY	WHEN
Follow-Up with Omni Press to understand the terms of Payment with Credit Cards	Mike Tallman	August 30, 2016
Develop a meeting agenda item to look at the possibility choosing a different venue for our meetings.	Sasha Vragolic	August thru October 2016
Add the date to finalize sessions to the timeline and communicate this to the session chairs.	Jeff Edwards	September 15, 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
Jeff will send a link to confex to all session chairs and co-chairs	Jeff Edwards	September 15, 2016
Walter will reach out to Richard before the site visit to see if he needs any help.	Walter Postula	August 15, 2016
Greg to get agreement with AIChE that the EPC has intellectual content that AIChE does not have the right to distribute.	Greg Yeo	September 15, 2016
Inform the safety and technology subcommittees that the date of January meeting has changed from 1/19/17 to 1/26/17.	Mike Tallman	September 15, 2016
Distribute Schedule of Paper Timeline – <b>See Attachment 7</b>	Michael Tallman and Tim Zygula	September 15, 2016
The Olefins Feedstock subcommittee needs to verify that all of the requirements for a survey has been completed.	Tom Pickett	September 15, 2016