

Ethylene Producers' Committee Meeting
Minutes – December 1st, 2016
FINAL

Following are the minutes of the December 1, 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 – Jake Berret, Bala Devakottai, Jeff Edwards, Aivars Krumins, Ravi Lal, Tom Pickett, Walter Postula, Mark Schmidt, Paul van Helmond, Sasha Vragolic, and Tim Zygula

Not present – Richard Beleutz, Toby Darbonne, Chaka Elam, David Gent, Sanjeev Kapur, Jeff Nichols, Gene Osborne, Richard Rolke, Micheal Smith, Michael Tallman, and Greg Yeo

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 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:

Sasha Vragolic presented on “Death by Christmas Decoration” to remind the group on special hazards that exist during this time of year. There were no slides for this presentation.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Tim Zygula sent the draft minutes of the October 27th meeting to all members on November 6, 2016. The comments received are reflected in the final minutes. The final minutes were published by Tim on November 15, 2016. Aivars Krums proposed to approve the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Mark Schmidt and approved unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Tom Pickett presented the current EPC finances and the proposal for 2017 budget (including 2017 member dues).

There has not been much activity since the last meeting except for dinner expenses and one subscription. It looks like there will be about \$9,000 in the General Fund at the end of the year (compared to ~\$7,500 estimated at this time last year). Tom is projecting that there will be ~\$6,500 in the General Fund at the end of 2017.

Tom mentioned that it appears that there are two different links available more subscriptions. One goes directly to our payment site and one goes through Omnipress. The Omnipress link costs us 15% (\$450 on a \$3,000 subscription). Suggested that Mike Tallman follow up to make sure subscription payments are not processed through Omnipress.

Tom proposed that the budget be approved and member dues be increased from \$900 to \$950 to help defer the main costs of the Committee (meeting dinner cost and Speakers' Dinner). Aivars Krums made motion to approve and Jake Berret seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sasha Vragolic will send out the dues letter by December 15th, with a deadline for payment of February 28, 2017. Sasha will ensure Tom Pickett's company address is correct in the letter.

There was discussion on potential new members (and some returns) to the Committee. Some that may be invited when they begin to produce ethylene are Oxychem, Shintec, Indorama, and Formosa. A couple that can be revisited for membership are Huntsman and Total. Various members of the Committee have contacts at each of these companies.

A copy of the Treasurer's report is included in **Attachment 3, 4.**

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

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

7. **Nominating Committee**

Walter Postula reminded the members that Officer election will be done at the next meeting and serving as an officer (starting with Program Co-Chair) is an important part of membership on the Committee. Program Co-Chair, Committee Vice-Chair, and Treasurer are the three positions to be voted on. Any Committee member willing to serve in one of these positions should contact one of the Nominating Committee members.

8. **2017 Program Chair Conference Report**

Jeff Edwards presented his report on the program chair activities for the 2017 EPC conference. The sessions are in excellent shape. Jeff is sending out reminders to the Session Chairs on formatting. The slides for his presentation are in **Attachments 6**.

Jeff will send out his “slide deck” for comment (since we did not have projector set up at meeting).

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

Jeff Edwards presented the Program Co-Chair report for Richard Rolke. There were no slides for this presentation.

The Fire Marshall is allowing our breaks to be held in the “atrium.” The requirement is that tables will be on the perimeter. There will be space for 40 tables. Richard is working on finalizing the language in the sponsor letter for distribution in early December.

Richard sent out the sponsor letters in early December. Richard is also working on sending out the invitations for the speaker’s dinner.

A venue needs to be arranged for the EPC/EEPC lunch/meeting. Sasha communicated with Jos Vankevelaer (BASF) and he indicated he would be in attendance and would like a formal meeting.

There was more discussion on simplifying the break sponsorship effort. Jeff Edwards, Richard Rolke, and Aivars Krumins have had one telecon since our last meeting. Jeff suggested that the Committee come to agreement that this item is important to work and form an “official” subcommittee to develop a proposal.

10. **Break**

11. **Subcommittee Reports**

Safety – Jake Berret reported.

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

The main session will be the General Safety session. This session has 6 abstracts uploaded. One of those is still in legal review.

The second sessions will be on SIS methods used to prevent cold embrittlement failure. The session has 5 abstracts uploaded. The 1st presentation for the tutorial on SIS basics will be twice the “normal” time.

Environmental – Aivars Krumins reported.

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

Operations – Jeff Edwards reported.

The operations session currently has six abstracts uploaded. Jeff will follow up on a potential duplicate paper (Hua Mo, Baker-Hughes) that may have been submitted to multiple sessions. Jeff will send out a list of what is in confex to the operations subcommittee.

Maintenance – Paul van Helmond reported.

The maintenance subcommittee will have three papers before the break. After the break there will be one lead in paper followed by a panel discussion.

Technology & Fundamentals – Aivars Krumins reported.

The technology subcommittee will have three sessions.

- a. Fundamentals – Has 7 abstracts in place. All 7 selected abstract authors have been contacted & they have confirmed their plans to prepare presentations & complete papers. The U-Minn author Mansi Shah, has expressed a possible concern with an earlier ACS copyright on their paper, Greg Yeo has said he can resolve the problem. Humera R. confirmed that Siluria will be the sole author of their paper, which will include some demo plant production data. The actual session paper order will still be set up in time for AIChE’s deadline of Dec 7 (date confirmed by Aivars). Darren requested an abstract summary paper.

- b. Large Capacity Plants – Has 6 abstracts that have been uploaded into Confex. There will be one intro paper, followed by three licensor and two supplier papers. Krishna sent out an email with an outline of all planned sessions – as the individual authors have written the drafts. Krishna has requested that draft slides be turned in to him by March 1, so that actual presentation emphasis can be adjusted.
- c. Technology Solutions to Address Ethylene Plant Environmental Challenges. Seven abstracts have been uploaded to Confex. A slightly extended session (to 11:30 AM) is planned. This session will be held on Thursday morning.

Process Control – Sasha Vragolic reported.

Ended up with 9 abstracts in their session. The subcommittee has voted on the four they want to include in their session. The session is on Monday morning (shortened because of AIChE keynote. The remaining papers were transferred to the general pool.

Rotating Equipment – Sasha Vragolic reported.

Rotating will have two sessions; one will include a round table. The subcommittee will start to review drafts of papers in early January.

Feedstock – Tom Pickett reported.

The feedstock session has six uploaded abstracts.

12. Knowledge Management

Sasha Vragolic reported for Greg on topics below.

- The aiiche.org/epc website is updated with current Leader profiles, meeting announcements, program development timeline, and meeting minutes.
- We've had a lot of turnover in subcommittee leader positions, and several of the subcommittees had stopped sending meeting minutes to the ethylene producers email address. Greg has issued an action item to all subcommittees to send final meeting minutes, attendance sheets and other related materials to the following Gmail address. ethyleneproducerscommittee@gmail.com
- The knowledge management subcommittee is following up on the question at the last meeting about copyright on Ralph King's brittle fracture presentation.

Walter Postula added that the language to clarify the intent of individual subscriptions on the Omnipress site has been updated.

13. Old Business:

Low Temperature Embrittlement subcommittee – Bala Devakottai reported that the subcommittee had received a few questions on who would see company responses and that the subcommittee had sent a clarification e-mail before Thanksgiving. No responses have been received yet (deadline is December 2nd), though several

Committee members indicated they were close to sending. There will be a meeting on February 2nd 2017 at the Linde facility.

There was a question from the subcommittee on who should present the results at the conference. Per past practice it is typically one of the subcommittee members.

14. New Business:

Tom Pickett indicated that dates for our 2017-2018 meetings need to be communicated to the Hotel soon. Tim Zygula will come up with a tentative list to communicate to Tom and present the list for approval at the January 26, 2107 Committee meeting.

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 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

The next meeting of the planning cycle will be at 6:00 pm January 26, 2017 at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX with social beginning at 5:30 pm.

17. Adjournment:

Chairman Sasha Vragolic adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

ACTIONS SUMMARY

ITEM	BY	WHEN
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 out to the session chairs the EPC guidelines for papers and presentations.	Jeff Edwards	Ongoing
Jeff will communicate to all session chair to tell all authors that papers are a requirement to be a contributor at the EPC conference.	Jeff Edwards	Ongoing
Jeff will remind all the session chairs that they will need to get permission to publish and permission to record from all authors.	Jeff Edwards	Ongoing
Obtain clarification on copyright on pictures in the Ralph King presentation.	Greg Yeo	January 26, 2017
Remind all subcommittees to meeting minutes, attendance sheets and other related materials to the ethylene producers gmail account.	Greg Yeo	January 26, 2017
Decide if dedicated subcommittee should be formed to make proposal to streamline the sponsorship process.	All	January 26, 2017
Aivars and Richard will work together to develop modified sponsorship guidelines for this year's conference.	Richard Rolke Aivars Krumins	December 1, 2016
Investigate payment link for archive subscriptions to avoid 15% Omnipress fee.	Mike Tallman	January 26, 2017
Jeff will send out a list of what is in Confex to the operations subcommittee.	Jeff Edwards	December 31, 2016
Send Program Chair "slide deck" for comment	Jeff Edwards	December 8, 2016
Check on potential duplicate paper from Hua Mo and inform affected subcommittees	Jeff Edwards	December 8, 2016
Jeff needs to get the session templates to the session chairs.	Jeff Edwards	January 26, 2017
Make proposal to update Article V, Section 7 bylaw to clarify recipients of subcommittee minutes	Walter Postula	January 26, 2017
Make initial contact with Oxychem regarding Committee membership (Nominating Committee to follow up once correct contact is identified and Oxychem is producing ethylene)	Aivars Krumins	January 26, 2017
Re-establish contact with Huntsman to gauge their interest in rejoining the Committee. (Nominating Committee to follow up once correct contact is identified and interest expressed)	Sasha Vragolic	January 26, 2017