



## Ethylene Producers' Committee Meeting Minutes – December 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

Following are the minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting of the Ethylene Producers' Committee (EPC) held at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX.

Minutes prepared by Walter Postula.

### 1. Attendance

Present – Jake Berret, Daryl Bitting, Toby Darbonne, Jeff Edwards, Jeff Elam, David Gent, KJ Han, Sanjeev Kapur, Aivars Kruminis, Jeff Nichols, Jennifer Port, Walter Postula, Richard Rolke, Mark Schmidt, Micheal Smith, Mark Whitney, and Tim Zygula

Not present – Rick Beleutz, Bala Devakottai, David Gent, Ravi Lal, and Michael Tallman

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:

Richard Rolke called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Walter Postula 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 an 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:

Jeff Edwards presented on “learnings” from several incidents and group discussed whether identified root causes were valid. Also discussed other strategies to minimize “human performance” impacts on incidents. Presentation is included in **Attachment 3**.

### 4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Rick Beleutz sent the “final” minutes of the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tim Zygula made a motion to approve and Micheal Smith seconded. All approved.

## 5. Treasurer’s Report:

Tom Pickett (substituting for Bala Devakottai) presented the current EPC finances. The report is given in **Attachment 4**. With current account levels Bala recommended that the EPC dues for 2020 remain at \$1050. Committee approved. Richard Rolke will send out dues request letter.

Was noted that check for CD that was erroneously closed was redeposited. Accounted for as Knowledge Management “savings.”

## 6. Nominating Committee

Aviars Krumins led introduction of new Committee members present, Daryl Bitting (Eastman) and KJ Han (Lottechemical). The other members of Committee present introduced themselves also.

Proposed updates to the EPC Bylaws were reviewed. Changes related authorities of the subcommittees (Article 5, Sections 1 & 2). The proposed changes are shown in the marked-up Bylaws in **Attachment 5**. The Bylaw provision for amendments is shown in **Attachment 6**. Both changes were unanimously agreed to by all members present (17). Bylaws require a 2/3 affirmation by all members, which would be 15 members.

Aivars is following up with Dan Euhus at Shintech regarding membership. Mark Whitney has been discussing membership with the plant manager at the MarkWest Javelina plant in Corpus Christi.

## 7. Chair Update

Richard Rolke informed Committee that the speaker for the EPC Keynote has changed. New speaker is Victor Zapata, Dow Recycling Commercial Director.

## 8. Program Chair Report

Mark Schmidt provided the update. See **Attachment 7** for details.

The call for abstracts has closed (had been extended from 11/22 to 11/27). The next key date for Session Chairs is 12/13 (accepting/rejecting papers and ordering session).

The new A/V company has yet to provide updated layout drawings for EPC’s session rooms. Should get some more traction now that AIChE’s Annual meeting is over. Larger screen size than proposed might be possible since ceiling height is not

a restriction. Visibility might be enhanced if screens were canted toward the center and placed more toward corners. Number of seats in room for keynote may be lacking as there will be high interest. Might reset room to current proposed layout after Monday. Put in more theater seating rows for Monday.

Upon review of session schedule, and with Joint Safety/Operations session withdrawal, it was decided to move Maintenance & Reliability to Tuesday afternoon and Feedstock to Wednesday morning. This will leave Operations unopposed on Tuesday morning and Environmental opposite Feedstock.

Mark will remove joint session from Confex and transfer abstract to Operations (Done). Mark will also send new session layout grid with break times included (to Session Chairs/Co-Chairs and Directors).

There are currently 72 abstracts “in-hand” among 11 sessions (not including keynote). Action for Session Chairs/Co-Chairs to finalize sessions by December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Program Co-Chair Report**

Jake Berret provided the update. See **Attachment 8** for details.

EPC Reception on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> (5-6 pm), will be in prefunction space of 4<sup>th</sup> floor grand ballroom (outside of session rooms). AIChE to provide soda/water and hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar will also be available. AIChE has some ideas on reception sponsorship. Jake will bring proposal(s) to January Committee meeting.

Speakers' Dinner is set. \$15k for buyout of Potente restaurant. Networking lunch information/contract with AIChE.

Wi-Fi will be available, option to have EPC dedicated Wi-Fi under consideration

The break area will fit 55/56 sponsor tables. Schedule for e-mailing invitations is set.

## **10. Break**

## **11. Subcommittee Reports**

**Safety** – (Jake Berret) One session. Joint session with Operations dropped. Currently 4 abstracts in-hand, pretty sure on 1 more (light ends fouling). May decide to extend NOx update presentation to better fill time.

**Environmental** – (Walter Postula) One session. Met earlier on 12/5, decided on 5 abstracts to include (one is double length presentation) and ordered the session. Four additional abstracts are available, but not sure fit (or room) in other sessions.

**Operations** – (Richard Rolke) One session. Four abstracts submitted for Operations in Confex, will add two from the dropped joint session with Safety.

**Maintenance & Reliability** – (Sanjeev Kapur) One session. Will meet on 12/11. Have 9 abstracts in Confex, but will choose 6 (maybe 5) for session.

**Technology & Fundamentals** – (Sanjeev Kapur/Mark Whitney) Three sessions focused on the following topics:

Fundamentals – Have 9 abstracts, will finalize to 6 early next week

Tutorial for Acetylene Hydrogenation – Have 3 committed, 4<sup>th</sup> going through legal

Future of Ethylene – Two presentations (HIS & Braskem) followed by panel

Action: Provide questions on Sli.do to help shape the Future of Ethylene session.

**Industry 4.0** – (Richard Rolke) Have 4 abstracts.

**Rotating Equipment** – There are 5 & 4 abstracts in Confex, respectively, for the two rotating equipment sessions. No other update available.

**Feedstock** – (Tom Pickett) One session. Subcommittee met on 12/5. Have 6 abstracts.

## 12. Knowledge Management

Based on subscriptions to the paper archive received in 2019 there will not be a maintenance fee assessed in 2020. Mike Tallman will send out notification to subscribers (including “cautionary” language that potential exists for maintenance fee in 2021).

Sanjeev Kapur informed the group that Steve Coleman is targeting completing the Ethylene Decomposition learning module in January. Dane Grenoble should have NOx learning module completed by (or soon after) conference.

## 13. Old Business

Micheal Smith has sent the minutes of the NOx Subcommittee meeting to the participants for comment. Once finalized the gmail address will receive as well.

Aivars Krumins provided update on “EPC Timeline” effort. Compiled material will be sent to Directors before year-end for comment.

Walter Postula provided update on effort to obtain papers from 1989-1991 Ethylene Producers’ Conferences for inclusion in the on-line archive. As of the 12/5 meeting, 13 papers (out of 41) are missing. These include the Froment session from 1989 and 1991.

#### **14. New Business:**

The 2020 budget, 2020 member dues, and KM website dues were covered in previous sections.

Meeting dates for the 2020/2021 cycle were discussed. Richard Rolke agreed to make proposal. Post meeting the following were suggested:

June 18, 2020  
August 13, 2020  
October 15, 2020  
December 10, 2020  
February 11, 2021

Conference is April 18-22, 2021.  
Bala will check these dates with hotel for availability.

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

Action item list was reviewed and updated with new actions.  
See action item summary listed on the table at the end of this document.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm, January 30, 2020 at the Double Tree Hotel in Houston, TX with social beginning at 5:30 pm.

#### **2020 EPC Conference:**

Hilton Americas – Houston, TX  
Conference March 29 – April 2, 2020

Future conferences:

2021 Dallas  
2022 San Antonio  
2023 Houston  
2024 New Orleans

#### **16. Adjournment:**

Richard Rolke adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

## ACTIONS SUMMARY

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>BY</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Can Confex notify if a paper is moved to a session?	Mark Schmidt	Dec 2019
Investigate why the CD was closed and deposit the cheque into the checking account.	Bala Devakottai	Dec 2019
Investigate the amount and origin of the bank fees being assessed	Bala Devakottai	Dec 2019
Provide questions on Sli.do to help shape the Future of Ethylene session.	All	March 2020
Develop a charter for a second meeting on NOx around analytics for review by the committee	Micheal Smith	March 2020
Send updated session schedule to Session Chairs/Co-Chairs and Directors, including break times	Mark Schmidt	December 20, 2019
Bring AIChE proposal(s) for EPC Reception sponsorship to Committee	Jake Berret	January 30, 2020
Close-out Safety/Operations joint session in Confex and send papers to Operations session	Mark Schmidt	Done
Send notice to website subscribers that maintenance fees will not be required for 2020 but remain a possibility for 2021.	Mike Tallman	May 2020 (when notification of 2020 upload is sent)
Provide comment to Aivars regarding EPC Timeline issued in December, fill in blanks (if known)	All	January 30, 2020
Propose meeting dates for 2020/2021 cycle.	Richard Rolke (for Rick Beleutz)	Done
Check availability of proposed 2020/2021 Committee meeting dates with Doubletree Hotel. Confirm dates if available, propose new date to Committee if not.	Bala Devakottai	January 30, 2020