

**Ethylene Producers' Committee Meeting  
Minutes – June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Following are the minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting of the Ethylene Producers' Committee (EPC) held at the DoubleTree Greenway Plaza.

Minutes prepared by Mark Whitney.

**1. Attendance**

Present – Richard Beleutz, Jake Berret, Daryl Bitting, Bala Devakottai, Jeff Edwards, Sanjeev Kapur, Aivars Krumins, Jennifer Port, Walter Postula, Richard Rolke, Mark Schmidt, Micheal Smith, Michael Tallman, Jeremy Terro, Yong Wang, Mark Whitney, Tim Zygula

Not present – Toby Darbonne, Jose de Barros, Jeff Elam, David Gent

The updated EPC member contact list appears in **Attachment A1**.

*[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 5]*

Members, please check your information on the Contact Info sheet in Attachment A1 and send any/all updates to Mark Whitney.

**2. Call To Order:**

Jake Berret called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mark Whitney 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 A2**.

**3. Five Minutes on Safety:**

By Richard Rolke

The safety presentation “Plugging of Relief Device Inlet Line” appears in **Attachment A3**.

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

Jake Berret sent out the “final” minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting on April 5, 2022. A motion to approve was made and seconded. All approved.

**5. Treasurer’s Report:**

Bala Devakottai presented the current EPC finances.

The authorizing signatures for the account need to be changed. Current Rick Beleutz and Bala Devakottai are shown on the account. This needs to be changed to Jake Berret and Bala Devakottai.

The annual audit of the financial records needs to be performed.

The financial report is given in **Attachment A4**.

**6. Committee Chair Report**

Jake Berret offered the nominating committee for approval. A motion to approve was made and seconded. All approved.

Jake Berret offered the knowledge management Subcommittee for approval. A motion to approve was made and seconded. All approved.

Jake Berret offered an update to the charter of the knowledge management subcommittee, changing the date on the charter from 2021 to 2022. A motion to approve the change was made and seconded. All approved.

The knowledge management subcommittee charter showing the change is given in **Attachment A5**.

**7. Nominating Committee**

The following individuals were reelected for 5-years terms:

- Jeff Edwards (CP Chem)
- Richard Rolke (Dow)
- Mike Tallman (KBR)

John Pena of Shintech was elected to a 5-year term. Jake Berret to send welcome note and inform John of upcoming meetings.

The following individuals were reapproved for 1-year terms

- Sanjeev Kapur (Apex Petroconsultants)
- Aivars Krumins (McDermott)

Mark Schmidt offered a change in the Nominating Committee by-laws as follows:

- Current:
  - Article II. Section 4. Current membership shall not be terminated due to mergers, divestitures, or acquisitions, unless such member(s) so wish. Multiple memberships for producing companies so resulting (with a maximum of two representatives from the resulting companies) will be permitted. Memberships terminated as a result of mergers, divestitures, or acquisitions, dating back to July 1995 will be eligible for reinstatement. Each member shall be required to make the customary financial contribution.
  
- Proposed:
  - Article II. Section 4. Committee memberships are intended to be one member per company. However, current membership shall not be terminated due to mergers or acquisitions, unless such member(s) so wish. Multiple memberships (with a maximum of two) from the resulting company will be permitted until one of the multiple members leave the Committee due to retirement, professional, or personal reasons. At such time, membership from that company shall revert to one member. Each member will be responsible for payment of annual dues and all other responsibilities expected of members of the Committee.

Walter Postula will update the Bylaws and post new version to website.

Alex Michinel resigned from Indorama. Jake will follow up with Indorama to get the name of proposed representative.

Efrain Pena resigned from OxyChem. He was John Zylks's replacement on the committee. Jake will follow up.

The difficulty in contacting an EPC member company after the representative resigns is an issue. It would be preferred if every EPC representative had an identified backup. This would also be important for access to EPC website.

## **8. Review / Critique 2022 Conference**

The 2022 Ethylene Producers Conference in San Antonio was generally seen as a success. Attendance was good, although below recent in-person conferences. COVID issues were minimal. The ability to view recording of presentations after the conference was seen as positive. The issues raised were:

- The sessions were poorly synchronized with papers on recycling plastics appearing at the same time in the Feedstocks session and the decarbonization session.

- Lack of one day passes – This was seen as reducing attendance and a major issue for some presenters. This was mandated by the AIChE due to issues of allowing one-day attendees to view the entire conference via the video recording.
- The Slido app was separate from the AIChE app. Slido was not activated for gathering feedback about session or papers. It also had significant issues in gathering questions after a presentation for Q & A. Micheal Smith will approach AIChE for updating their meeting App to include gathering detailed feedback for EPC sessions (and use of it for questions during sessions).

## **9. 2023 Conference Planning Status**

Key dates for the 2023 Ethylene Producers' Conference in Houston

- **June 20, 2022 – Call for abstracts opens**
- October 25, 2022 – Call for abstracts closes
- **December 9, 2022** – Papers accepted or rejected
- **January 6, 2023** – Draft schedule ready
- **January 13, 2023 – Program goes live**
- March ??, 2023 – Paper submission closes
- **March 12-18, 2023 Spring Meeting – Houston, TX**

**Highlighted dates became available after the meeting.**

## **10. 2023 Program Chair Report**

See the 2021 – 2022 Program Co-Chair – Final Summary **Attachment A6** by Micheal Smith.

Micheal Smith provided a summary of the April 2022 EPC Conference. The reception on Sunday was well attended. The AIChE did not get a sponsor for the event. The speakers' dinner went very well. Networking lunch was a success with no problems.

## **11. Break**

## **12. Subcommittee Reports**

Please have all subcommittees send member lists to Walter Postula.

**Safety** – (Jake Berret)

There are 8-9 ideas for papers from last year.

**Environmental** – (Richard Beleutz)

Subcommittee met via Teams on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Normal procession is Session Co-Chair becomes Session Chair. Session Co-Chair from 2022 not in attendance to confirm

willingness to continue as Session Chair. Reviews session attendance and feedback. Discussed potential topics for 2023 conference but nothing firm at this point.

**Operations** – (Richard Rolke)  
No subcommittee meeting yet

**Maintenance & Reliability** – (Sanjeev Kapur)  
Subcommittee has met and selected session chair and co-chair. Planning on one session.

**Technology & Fundamentals** – (Michael Tallman)  
Planning on 1) Fundamentals, 2) Energy Transition 3) Tutorial, perhaps on caustic 4) Crystal Ball.

**Industry 4.0** – (Richard Rolke)  
No subcommittee meeting yet.

**Rotating Equipment** – (Mike Tallman)  
No subcommittee meeting yet. Mike requested Directors to reach out within their organization for potential new members to Rotating Equipment subcommittee.

**Feedstock** – (Mark Whitney)  
No subcommittee meeting yet.

### 13. Knowledge Management

Walter Postula reported that the EPC website has been updated to include the 2022 papers and other updates. The updated minutes of subcommittee meetings have been posted. The EPC website “Leadership” page has been updated. During the EPC, the Officers met with Pascal Coenen (EEPC Executive Committee Chair) regarding cooperation with the EEPC on tutorials /webinars. There is a strong interest by both parties. Sanjeev requested assistance from any committee member for legal review of the popcorn polymer agreement.

### 14. Old Business

The agreement between the EPC and the AIChE regarding the division of responsibilities for the conference needs to be reviewed/updated and signed by the EPC Chair. The agreement went into effect for the 2019 conference (and would be valid for 3 years), with annual review to ensure mutual satisfaction. The agreement technically was up for renewal prior to the 2022 conference, but it was only the second implementation because the 2020 and 2021 conferences were held virtually.

### 15. New Business:

See the Committee Role List **Attachment A7** by Jake Berret.

Mark Whitney made a motion to change the name of the Ethylene Plant Feedstock Contaminants Subcommittee to the Contaminants and Impurities in Ethylene Plants Subcommittee to reflect that the subcommittee is dealing with impurities that don't always occur in the feedstock. The motion was seconded and approved.

Walter Postula brought question to Committee posed by AIChE meeting contracts/procurement (Jeff Wood) on appeal of California as location for AIChE Spring Meeting. Committee preferred to NOT have Spring Meeting in California. Walter Postula will provide feedback to Jeff Wood.

**16. Review Action Items List**

**Next Meeting:**

The Committee meetings are August 11, October 13, December 8, and January 26.

**2023 EPC Conference:**

Conference: March 12-16, 2023, Houston, TX.

**Future conferences:**

- 2024 New Orleans (March 24-28)
- 2025 Dallas, TX (April 6-10)
- 2026 TBD
- 2027 TBD
- 2028 Dallas, TX (April 2-6)

**17. Adjournment:**

Jake Berret adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

**ACTIONS SUMMARY**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>BY</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Align EPC names and addresses on file at the bank and state.	Bala Devakottai Jake Berret Rick Beleutz	August 2022
Follow-up with Sasol regarding EPC membership.	Rick Beleutz	On Hold
Richard Rolke will follow-up with AIChE to get legal advice on how to deal with future requests from CSB or other parties outside of the EPC.	Richard Rolke	December 2021

Bala will purchase a projector for the next in person meeting.	Bala Devakottai	Completed
Determine if EEPC video on popcorn polymer safety could be made available to EPC	Walter Postula	See old business
Develop recommendation to reduce bank fees.	Bala Devakottai	Completed
Bala Devakottai to transfer \$50k to KM savings	Bala Devakottai	February 2022
Inquire with AIChE if they can assist with routing of membership payments	Bala Devakottai	June 2022
Order recognition plaques for Ravi Lal, Dan Euhus and John Zylks	Rick Beleutz	Completed
Contact hotel regarding dates and cancellation policies regarding possible resumption of in- person meetings	Bala Devakottai	Completed
Conduct follow-up poll on in-person meeting practicality for June 2022 meeting	Jake Berret	Completed
Update the EPC webpage with officers for 2022-2023	Walter Postula	Completed
Seek internal legal assistance can be provided for EEPC agreement review and contact Sanjeev Kapur if help can be arranged	ALL	August 2022
Conduct annual audit of books	Jake Berret Bala Devakotti	August, 2022
Forward communication on 2021-2022 Committee credit card expenses that require both Chair and Treasurer "signature" (those >\$1000)	Mark Schmidt Bala Devakottai	August 2022
Send welcome note to Jeff Pena and inform him of upcoming meetings	Jake Berret	August, 2022
Follow-up with Oxy and Indorama regarding EPC membership.	Jake Berret	August, 2022
Provide subcommittee member lists to Walter Postula	ALL	August, 2022
Post updated Bylaws on website	Walter Postula	August 2022
Approach AIChE on reinstatement of one-day passes for 2023 conference	Micheal Smith	October 2022
Directors to reach out within their organization for potential new members to Rotating Equipment subcommittee.	ALL	August 2022
Provide feedback to AIChE on appeal of California as Spring Meeting location	Walter Postula	Completed