

Minutes

Technical Bag Committee
Institute of Packaging Professionals

Fall Meeting Meeting
Minneapolis, Minnesota
September 12th and 13th 2010

The 2010 winter meeting of the Technical Bag Committee was called to order by Chairman Michael Feeny at 8:00 AM on September 12th, 2010 and the anti trust rules for the TBC and IoPP were read followed by introductions of the attendees.

PSSMA Report:

Bob Langston of Langston Bag presented the PSSMA report. The attached report details the growth and market segmentation of the industry. In addition, Bob highlighted the new “active carbon footprint calculation tool” found on the PSSMA website. Bob reported that the threats of regulatory initiatives with the potential to increase the direct and indirect costs of packaging products was a main topic at the 2010 Eurosac meeting in Stockholm. He announced the dates of the next PSSMA meeting at November 4th, 5th and 6th in Orlando, Florida. (It was suggested that the committee try to complete the agenda for the TBC winter meeting in time for distribution at this meeting).

Dan Hoch of Elway Industries was not in attendance to present the FIBCA report.

Future Meetings:

The next upcoming meeting will be January 17th – 19th, 2011 at the Bilmar Beach Resort, St. Petersburg, Florida. The meeting will begin on Tuesday morning with presentations on possible topics selected from the following list: Ron Regan from Premium One papers, Pet food manufacturer, presentation from packaging schools (Clemson, Michigan State), UNDOT issues from TEN-E, a demonstration of the PSSMA Carbon Footprinting tool. A golf outing will be organized for the Tuesday afternoon following the morning meetings (replacing the boating outing of previous years). A group dinner will be held Tuesday night. Wednesday morning will be dedicated to “general business topics” with the addition of a discussion on standardizing test methods (board will look into what has already been done about this at PSSMA) and the possibility of organizing a “bag school”.

The committee agreed that the possibility of holding the 2011 fall meeting in West Monroe, LA on September 13th be explored. Potential area participants include LPI, Mid-south Extrusion, Bancroft Bag and an organization that employs a disabled workforce to assist in correcting production errors.

General Business Topics

- Closures, opening and reclosures: Gary Sargin and Heather Dugre from CEI announced that CEI would be debuting their pinch bottom, sewn top closure bags at PackExpo. Steve Shellenbaum from Thiele reported that machines for zipper top bags were moving well. He suggested to the committee that taller zippers would help in consistency of sealing of bags. It was reported by Scott Romenesko and Hudson Sharp that they are seeing new developments in zipper closures: “pour and lock”, hook and loop and others. These new developments will also be shown at Pack Expo. Lars Wihlborg from Zip-Pak discussed Zip-Packs new “360” zipper, which allows for a gusseted bag to open fully after and close flat after the first “rip open” of the bag. This development will also be on display at Pack Expo.
- Specialty Plies: There was a discussion about the trend of HDPE liners not being replaced due to its low cost as compared to re-pulpable coatings for moisture barrier.
- Densification: Packing cement in plastic remains a technological hurdle. Lowes and Home Depot are still exploring the development and the drive to plastic remains strong but de-aeration continues to be a problem.
- Bag Testing: A discussion of the standardization of drop tests was held. The committee discussed if technical organizations should lead the way in determining which tests (drop, ply strength, bubble leak) and which standards (ISO, DOT, UN, ASTM) translate into “which bag is stronger”. It was agreed that the committee will look into what has already been discussed about this in PSSMA and other organizations, to conduct a preliminary e-mail polls and to bring the subject up for further discussion in future meetings.

Treasury Update:

Bill Megargle reported that there were 23 attendees at the January meeting and that meeting grossed approximately \$500. The current balance is approximately \$4400 which is enough to cover the advanced costs of “a meeting or two”.

Installation of New Officers:

The Chairman, Michael Feeny handed over the gavel to Mark Ardito, who will serve two years as chairman. Vice Chairman will be Paul Rahn and Jessica Bodine will replace him as secretary. Bob Nelson will remain Member without Portfolio and Bill Megargle will remain treasurer. Also serving will be Michael Feeny as immediate past Chairman.

Meeting adjourned by the Chairman at 11:30.

Afternoon Tour: TEN-E Packaging Services Incorporated, Newport, Minnesota

Paul Matheson of Ten E gave the committee a brief presentation on the testing capabilities of Ten-e, which included video of the more destructive tests. This was followed by a question and answer session and a tour of the facilities and demonstrations of test equipment.

Group Dinner Tuesday Night: The committee attended a group dinner and networking session in down-town Minneapolis.

Wednesday Morning Tour: Thiele Technologies, Minneapolis, MN

Steve Shellenbaum hosted a group visit to Thiele. He began with a presentation of the various companies that comprise Barry-Wehmiller, parent company of Thiele. Hudson-Sharp, a leader in design and manufacture of plastic bag machinery, pouch making equipment and reclosable packages is a new member of the Thiele team and was represented at the meeting by Scott Romenesko and John Krebsbach. Steve continued the presentation with a discussion on the various types of packing, filling, palletizing, and other bag related equipment that serves the bag industry. A discussion of optimal bag specifications for use on various pieces of equipment was presented. All of these presentations are attached.

The presentations were followed by a tour and demonstrations of the equipment.

The Fall Technical Bag Committee Meetings was adjourned over lunch, provided by Thiele, at 12:00 on Wednesday, September 15th.