

RPA Food & Beverage Committee
Summary of Conference Call Meeting
February 11, 2016, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon US ET

Roll Call

Committee Members Present

John McGill, CHEP
Kevin McTavish, Drader
Paul Pederson, IFCO
Phil Davis, Kroger
Bob Klimko, ORBIS
Joe Laxamana, Sonoco ThermoSafe
Michelle Fay, StopWaste
Steve Teclaw, Tosca
RPA Staff: Tim Debus

Committee Members Not Present

Laura Schneider, Black Forest
John McCurdy, Coroplast
Tony Mosco, Polymer Logistics
Susie Cuevas, Polymer Logistics
Bob Albright, Schoeller Allibert
Greg Gorski, Tosca

Agenda Item 1: Committee Objective

Mr. Debus provided background on the committee's formation and purpose. The new market-focused RPA committees were developed to expand the association's impact on the reusable packaging industry, strengthen member engagement, and enhance the value for membership by addressing the most pressing and influential industry issues and opportunities. The intent of the committee's work is to be aligned with the primary business interests of the collective membership.

The objective of RPA's Food & Beverage Committee is "to position and validate reusable transport packaging as the preferred system for delivering safe and high-quality foods through the most sustainable, protective and efficient means." The three priority focus areas for the Food & Beverage Committee include: (1) sustainable agriculture, (2) food safety, and (3) food waste. Sample projects in each area were presented to demonstrate the type of activities in which the committee could pursue. Mr. Debus relayed the RPA Board of Directors' request for the committee to identify one or two short-term and long-term projects that can be achieved and generate a material benefit for the industry.

Agenda Item 2: Action in Food Safety

The predecessor to this committee – RPA's Food Safety Working Group - completed in March 2015 a set of uniform guidelines and best practices for the safe use of reusable packaging for food applications. Despite this advancement for the reusable packaging industry, interest groups from the corrugated industry continue to produce and disseminate misleading information on the safety of reusable containers for food by challenging the effectiveness of the cleaning and sanitation practices. There are no signs of this competitive activity slowing down.

Two projects were proposed for the Committee's consideration. First, a single-page advertisement promoting the RPA Guidelines can be purchased in [Produce Business](#) magazine for the April 2016 issue featuring editorial content on "Pallets / Returnable Containers" and timed with the Canadian Produce Marketing Association trade show. Second, a series of short videos featuring testimony from industry experts can promote key components of the RPA Guidelines, demonstrate safe-use practices, and address charges being made by the corrugated industry.

The Committee agreed that RPA should take a pro-active position in defending and promoting the safe use of reusable packaging in food. The Committee endorsed the two proposed projects with the understanding that the funding and participation in the projects will be on a volunteer basis among RPA's membership.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion on Priority Projects

Several sample projects were used to gain feedback from the committee members on areas of interest. The committee recommended the following projects for development by RPA and further consideration by the committee:

Type	Project Name	Description	Action
Short-Term	Sanitation Testing Program	Develop a robust testing program for the measurement of the effectiveness of cleaning and sanitation of reusable containers for food.	RPA to develop a project plan for the committee's review and acceptance.
Long-Term	Cleaning Agents	Research and identify optimal-performing chemical products and mixes for the cleaning and sanitation of reusable containers for food.	RPA to develop a project plan for the committee's review and acceptance.
Endorsement	Food Safety Defense	Pursue proactive messaging to communicate the reusable packaging industry's work and performance on food safety. Consider effective use of social media tools to advance RPA communications.	RPA to pursue targeted messaging in the form of article placements, advertisements and video testimonies.
Investigate	Food Waste Reduction	Engage the national discussion on food waste reduction initiatives and join industry coalitions based on the U.S. government's goal of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030.	RPA to investigate collaborative opportunities to promote reusables for food waste reduction initiatives.
Investigate	Global Food Safety Initiatives	Engage the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and determine involvement and opportunity for reusable packaging.	RPA to inquire with GFSI to determine recommended course of action for the committee's review.

Agenda Item 4: Next Steps and Scheduling

The scheduling of future committee meetings was discussed, with a recurring monthly call set in advance. The committee expressed preference for Tuesdays or Thursday with a start time later than 11:00 am ET. Mr. Debus will schedule the next committee conference call.

With no further discussion, the conference call concluded and the meeting adjourned.