



## Food & Beverage Committee

Summary of Conference Call Meeting  
April 10, 2017, 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm US ET

### Roll Call

#### Committee Members Present

Chairman, Paul Pederson, Polymer Logistics  
Tom Letizia, Hobart  
Lyle O'Banion, Kroger  
Susan Atwater, IFCO Systems  
Susan Heil, Tosca  
RPA Staff: Tim Debus  
RPA Staff: Sherrie Terry

#### Committee Members Not Present

Laura Schneider, Black Forest  
John McGill, CHEP  
John McCurdy, Coroplast  
Kevin McTavish, Drader  
Jeff Mitchell, IFCO Systems  
Bob Klimko, ORBIS  
Jerry Koefeld, Polymer Solutions  
Bob Albright, Schoeller Allibert  
Joe Laxamana, Sonoco ThermoSafe  
Justin Lehrer, StopWaste  
Michelle Fay, StopWaste

### Agenda Item 1: Project Updates

- A. *APC Correlation Study.* Chairman Paul Pederson discussed his investigation into third-party laboratories to conduct the research. He has ongoing communications with Iowa State and Michigan State to determine their capabilities and costs for the study. Chairman Pederson has also explored other independent facilities outside of universities. The committee discussed the inclusion of RPC sampling from other perishable food uses such as meat and dairy, in addition to fresh produce. It would be desired for broader product representation to sample different applications. Once an outside research partner is selected, the contracted party's test design and methodologies will be incorporated into the research proposal.
- B. *Industry Database of Microbial Test Results.* No new update to report on the development of an industry database. RPA time resources are prioritizing the APC study and marketing campaign projects.
- C. *Food Marketing Campaign.* RPA's Sherrie Terry reviewed the working group's progress in the organization of available information to serve as the foundation of data and claims for industry positioning and messaging. The stated charter for the working group is to "develop and execute an RPA-branded marketing plan to promote the use of reusable packaging in perishable food applications." The primary categories for messaging respond directly to the corrugated industry claims and include "Cost Effectiveness," "Retail Appeal and Quality," "Food Safety," and "Sustainability." When completed, the working group's positioning statement framework and RFP outline will be provided to the committee for further review and discussion.

### Agenda Item 2: New Business

- Tim Debus provided highlights from the RPA-hosted Sustainable Solutions Theater at the ProMat show from April 3-5, including Chairman Pederson's presentation on a labeling standard for reusable containers in food applications.



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- RPA will be launching a new blog feature for the industry website at [reusables.org](http://reusables.org). The blog will provide another channel for industry news and perspective, and its more informal commentary (versus press releases) will offer a new source of information and insight for RPA's social media. The new website blog is expected to make its debut in May.
- Lyle O'Banion raised an issue about the stacking incompatibilities of RPCs from various model generations and different manufacturers/suppliers. The lack of effective interconnectivity of crates from stacking tabs in both open and folded position causes problems in pallet stability. As volume increases with different RPC models, he is seeing problems occurring in the stacking of folded crates in store backrooms and in their movement and return to salvage or consolidation centers. The committee agreed to maintain this topic on its agenda for continued discussion on a course of action.

The Food & Beverage Committee meeting on April 10 was adjourned until the next recurring monthly conference call scheduled for May 8.