



Operations & Logistics Committee

Summary of Conference Call Meeting
March 15, 2017, 2:00 pm – 2:35 pm US ET

Roll Call

<u>Committee Members Present</u>	<u>Committee Members Not Present</u>
Chair, Mike Wasson, Tosca Ltd	Robert Iaria, CH Robinson
Andre Luecht, IFCO Systems	Alex Korell, Craemer
JR Vernon, reLogistics	Rod Haugh, Homeland Logistics
Shawn Stockman, ReturnCenter	Jill McLaughlin, Kennedy Group
Amy Lathrop, Perfect Pallets	Bob Petersen, ORBIS Corporation
Linda Balwinski, Schaefer Systems	Emma Townsend, Oryx Automation
Sarah Kate Conway, Tosca	Michael Laible, Paxxal
Mike Lewis, Xtreme RFID	Salim Baltagi, Polymer Logistics
RPA Staff: Tim Debus	Jerry Koefeld, Polymer Solutions
	Paul Koleske, Tosca

Agenda Item 1: Project Updates

- A. *Physical Barrier Study.* At many end-of-use sites the storage of reusable packaging awaiting pickup and collection can occur in an outside, unprotected environment. This is often the case at retail stores and restaurants where limited inside space forces behind-the-store placement of reusable packaging assets. When left to open and unguarded access, reusable packaging products are more vulnerable to theft. Logically, protecting the assets in storage within a physical structure would reduce access and therefore reduce the risk of theft. But the type and extent of structure needed, and the quantification of impact to justify investment, are unknowns. This project serves to collect data to determine how an effective barrier to access can deliver a ROI by safeguarding reusable packaging and preventing asset loss. Preliminary discussion on conducting such a study are ongoing with Walmart.
- B. *Food Bank Recovery.* RPA members Elliott Kirshner of Tosca, Paul Mayo of IFCO, and Tim Debus of RPA hosted a dinner on March 10 with Feeding America representatives Mike Domingos, Manager of Produce Sourcing, and Elaine McGrath, Produce Engagement Manager. The objective of the dinner was to introduce RPA, learn perspectives from Feeding America on transport packaging for food donations, and discuss areas of opportunity to improve processes leading to effective recovery of reusable packaging. Topics discussed included a new regional co-op system for Feeding America food distribution, incentives for food banks to handle and return reusable packaging, opportunity to collaborate on transportation, and a proposed pilot program to develop best practices for reusable packaging. Due to the newly established regional co-op in Texas, it was recommended to engage Feeding Texas on a pilot program. Committee member Amy Lathrop of Perfect Pallets commented on developments at the Midwest Food Bank in Indianapolis and their collaboration with the Indiana Motor Truck Association, and Amy offered to make an introduction for RPA to support networking and options on this project.



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- C. *Retailer Engagement on Loss Prevention.* Last year the committee held a meeting on July 20 in connection with the Texas Retailers Association's Forum event, where RPA sponsored their education track on Organized Retail Crime and Loss Prevention (ORC/LP). An opportunity exists for RPA to repeat its sponsorship of the TRA Forum in 2017 and for the committee to hold a meeting as part of the event. This year's TRA Forum is on July 23 and 24 in Fort Worth, Texas. The committee discussed this option for a meeting venue and agreed to renew RPA participation this year. The committee asked Tim Debus to email notice of this meeting to include on everyone's calendars. Tim will also investigate meeting options and schedules with TRA and report back to the committee.

Agenda Item 2: New Business

- RPA will be hosting a reusable packaging pavilion and the Sustainable Solutions Theater at the ProMat show on April 3-6. The education platform includes relevant session topics to the committee such as automation trends, asset management and reverse logistics.
- Technology developments for asset tracking and inventory management are rapidly changing the reusable packaging opportunity for many supply chains. The committee can consider industry projects that raise awareness and study the impact of technology on reusable packaging.

The Operations & Logistics Committee meeting on March 15 was adjourned until the next recurring monthly conference call scheduled for April 19.