



**Plastics Project Municipal Conference– March 9, 2010
Draft Attendees and Minutes**

Attendees:

Bonnie Ballam, City of Toronto
Catherine Habermehl, Niagara Region
Catrina Switzer, Peterborough County
Clayton Sampson
Erwin Pascual, Region of Peel
Francis Veilleux, Bluewater Recycling Association
Guy Perry, StewardEdge/Stewardship Ontario
Herb Lambacher, HGC
Jake Westerhof, Canada Fibres
John Baldry, City of Toronto
Karim Saleh, Region of Peel
Karl Allen, Northumberland County
Katherine Siren, Peterborough County

Laurie Westaway, Peterborough County
Ludwig Biliko, WSII
Margot Beverley, To the Point Communications
Martin Vogt, EFS Plastics
Mike Birett, CIF
Mike Schedler, NAPCOR
Phil McCormack, Peterborough
Phil Zigby, City of Guelph
Randall Roy, City of Sault Ste. Marie
Shaun Spalding, York Region
Steve Whitter, City of Toronto
Sue McCrae, OVWRC

1. Introduction

Mike Birett (CIF Manager) welcomed participants and completed a roll call (participants listed above). He reminded callers that minutes from the previous meeting in December had been posted and requested comments/clarification. Hearing none, the minutes will be posted as final.

2. Update from Last Call

Mike Birett reminded callers that the CIF's Request for Expressions of Interest was open and to send in applications as needed.

Guy Perry (StewardEdge/Stewardship Ontario) provided an update on the Entropex mixed plastics project indicating that the pilot project funding agreement with Stewardship Ontario was nearly ready to be signed. The pilot begins this upcoming summer to be completed by the end of the summer to process 1,000 tonnes mixed rigid plastics. Following that and depending on the results, there may be an opportunity to scale up. Entropex has secured additional funding from the federal government (Sustainable Technology Development Canada) to support scale up if pilot is successful.

3. Mike Schedler: provided an update on the NAPCOR thermoform recycling project (slides from the NAPCOR presentation are available for view on the CIF website)

4. Roundtable Discussion

A roundtable discussion followed the NAPCOR presentation on this and related issues. Key questions/responses are summarized below:

Q: Will material be separated by reclaimers?

A: Yes, if technical issues can be overcome, this is preferred but will require changes to some systems (e.g. some programs that service mainly one application will have to go 2 streams).

Q: Will programs that separate thermoforms attract premium prices?

A: There are no premium prices right now. If materials were separated into categories (i.e., bottles only or thermoform only) they might attract a premium over mixed bales once the thermoform market is well established.

Q: Autosort processes can only recognize PET as PET. Is there potential to separate on viscosity?

A: No – some technologies can distinguish shape but with marginal success so far. The issue was raised at technical meeting in Austin; with PET the issue really is viscosity.

Q: Sorting technology is available to take out PVC but less so others materials (referring to slide 16). If that's correct – is it the sorting technology at MRFs, downstream or at other facilities that is the key issue for operators?

A: Most sorting technology is much the same. Bottle reclaimers use special technology for PVC (an xray) which works well and is complemented by units that can pull out other materials (some of which work better than others). MRF technology is different in that it is primarily focused on identifying the resins that are wanted – with 93-95% accuracy which is well within bale specification models.

Q: Can you explain the technology behind the recent COKE announcement concerning plans to use a PLA/PET bottle?

A: The technology involves replacing a natural gas based monomer with a sugar based one; the majority in industry do not view this from technical perspective as a different molecule and from a recycling perspective, it should have no impact.

Q: Looking at the rapid growth of the thermoform market, will the bottle market grow just as quickly?

A: Some estimate that the thermoform PET stream will have grown to be half the size of the bottle stream in a few years. We understand adhesives, closures, labels, barrier enhancements etc. as applied to bottles but are just learning about them in thermoforms.

5. Other Issues and Next Conference Call

Mike Birett (CIF) provided a brief update on CIF's initiatives concerning polystyrene market solutions (working with EPIC) and reminded callers to contact CIF with any questions. The CIF seeks feedback about how much time/effort municipalities feel the CIF should direct to these types of issues.

Concerning marketing plastics: programs seem to be comfortable marketing their own materials directly to EFS and Entropex as they come online. If this changes, please contact the CIF for assistance.

The **next municipal plastics project call** is planned for mid to late May and is likely to focus on EFS Plastics activities. CIF welcomes your thoughts as to additional topics that might be included.