

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1873)

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING

PLASTICS COMMITTEE
New York Hilton Hotel
New York City
November 21, 1966

PRESENT: Messrs.

G. L. Pitzer (Chairman), Union Carbide Corporation
G. A. Fowles (for Vice Chairman Nantz), B. F. Goodrich Chemical
R. G. Askew, Phillips Petroleum Company
E. S. Ebers, United States Rubber Company
J. W. Ferguson, Hooker Chemical Corporation
W. C. Goggin, The Dow Chemical Company
G. M. Hale, Shawinigan Chemicals Limited
F. M. Norton, Allied Chemical Corporation
J. R. Ryan, Hercules Incorporated
Harry Sutherland, Shell Chemical Company
D. C. Williams, Eastman Chemical Products, Inc.
John Brooks (Board Liaison), Celanese Corporation
F. H. Carman (Secretary), MCA
E. J. American, Recorder
and
F. J. Pizzitola (Guest), Celanese Corporation

On opening the meeting, Chairman Pitzer welcomed Mr. John Brooks (Celanese), Board of Directors Liaison, Mr. F. J. Pizzitola (Group Vice President-Chemicals, Celanese), and Mr. G. A. Fowles (B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., representing Mr. T. B. Nantz) and invited them to participate in the discussion.

For information of those present, Mr. Harry Sutherland announced that through a decision of the previous day he will take on a new assignment in London for the Shell Company and that he must, accordingly, resign from the Committee. All present were sorry to lose Mr. Sutherland from the Committee activities and wished him every success in his new post. Following discussion of a replacement to serve out his two-year term, motion was made:

That Mr. John Kroeger, General Manager, Plastics and Resins Division, Shell Chemical Company, be invited to finish out the unexpired term.

On being duly seconded, this was voted unanimously. *regularly for advice to the expense*

Weatherability Project

The Secretary reported that Dr. W. F. Bartoe, Chairman of the Liaison and Steering Committees handling this program, could not attend this meeting. His report covering general status of the project was read. (See Appendix A)

Additional comments from Steering Committee members, particularly those of Messrs. Brown (Dow), Gunst (Union Carbide), and Scranch (Eastman Chemical), reiterated several of the points covered briefly by Dr. Bartoe. These were:

(1) There is a new interest on the part of NBS in the program, and the project seems to have "turned the corner";

(2) The Senior Research Associate is believed to be doing work desired by the industry and has a good grasp of the objectives, but it was admitted that he is not providing the type of leadership required; there is still question as to whether or not such leadership will be possible from the NBS, and it was stressed that a search should be made for another research associate as rapidly as possible;

(3) Another commented he was not enthusiastic the project had "turned the corner" but does have a guarded hope that progress should now be possible in NBS;

(4) Several were of the opinion that the industry representatives may have been too impatient in getting the program under way and that there may have been some overdirection of the work, therefore they may have been overly critical of the project progress.

A complete review of the work is planned for a December 8 meeting of all the Technical and Steering Committee representatives in the new NBS headquarters at Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Report to Board of Directors

The Chairman had been invited to report on Plastics Committee activities to the Board of Directors in its meeting at 4 p.m. November 21, 1966. A copy of his remarks was distributed to all present in the Committee meeting and is included as Appendix B.

Medical Problem - PVC Manufacture

During a review of this problem, particularly for advice to the Secretary on methods of apportioning any research expense to

interested members, the Committee was advised that a task group of the Occupational Health Committee was visiting the University of Michigan on November 29 where such research may be conducted.

Members having direct knowledge of this problem emphasized that to date the hazards seem to be concentrated in the manufacture of "suspension-type" resin. Accordingly, it was suggested that apportioning of any research costs might well be based on capacity classifications for this type of material and that participating members be expected to select the classification applicable to them. It was also brought out that several companies have failed to find any indication of terminal bone lesions in the fingers of any employees, and were thus not yet sure there is really an industry-wide problem requiring research. Further investigations are under way, and it was again emphasized that X-rays supplied by member companies could be referred to an expert familiar with this medical problem.

Discussion then centered on the over-all responsibility of the chemical companies and the MCA to undertake a diligent search for the cause of these effects on employees and necessary steps to eliminate or reduce such hazards. Several representatives of companies not manufacturing PVC emphasized MCA was duty bound to do something about this problem and they would be willing to participate in the funding. The extent of research and the probable funding over any period is not yet known, and individual companies are still reviewing this matter within their own organization. It was the general opinion within the Committee that if cooperative research is deemed necessary the MCA should take on this project and, if additional funds are required, the Plastics Committee and/or PVC producers will then assist in the financing.

Plastics Financial Package

The report of the 5-months' operations had been circulated with the agenda. It is expected that costs for the balance of the year will be substantially greater than the 5-months' experience but will still be within the budget for the fiscal year.

Oyster Harbors Conference

Total costs for this meeting September 7-10, 1966, were \$19,221, with 136 member representatives participating; the allocated cost per representative for group charges was \$34.31. Registration at this meeting was one less than for 1965.

The address by Pierre Rinfret on the general economic picture had not been duplicated, although an October 4 story in the

New York Times essentially outlined the points given in this September speech. Dr. Rinfret was reported to have made a speech since the November 8 elections, and it was agreed the Washington office should obtain a copy if possible.

Product Category Activities

The study committee appointed by the Board on this subject, composed of Messrs. Warner (Chairman), Dawson, and Thouron, has advised the Board of a tentative agreement that "the present plastics activity relates to a multi-product segment of the chemical industry and should be continued within the Association essentially as it now is". This Board committee is making studies on several other product activities of the Association at this time.

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For general information the Secretary reported that he would be subject to retirement about December 1, 1967, in keeping with the Association's pension and insurance plan; further, that he had indicated to General Decker a willingness to stay on for two or three years, and that this was being taken up with the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors. Chairman Pitzer then asked Messrs. Goggin, Norton, and Askew, as an ad hoc group, to advise him on what action, if any, he should take regarding this pending retirement.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. Carman

F. H. Carman, Secretary
Plastics Committee

FHC/bk

Attachments (2)

cc: All Present
Plastics Committee

November 29, 1966

CMA 078757

REPORT TO PLASTICS COMMITTEE ON
STATUS OF WEATHERABILITY PROJECT

Following the recommendation made by the Steering Committee (copy was sent to Plastics Committee) at their July 28 meeting, the Liaison Committee met with NBS officials to express our dissatisfaction with the Bureau's administration of our project. The previous inadequacy of administration was recognized by both Mr. Stern, of their office of Industrial Service, and Dr. Bates, the head of the Division for Building Research in which our project is located. Dr. Bates agreed to correct the matter. He also insisted that such administration had to be in full-time residence at the Bureau.

On September 30, Dr. Bates designated Mr. V. Eugene Gray as the new administrator on a 50 per cent time basis reporting directly to him.

Three of our Steering Committee members (Gunst, Brown, and Ingle) have visited the project since Mr. Gray's appointment. All have reported favorably on its current status, progress, and spirit. The consensus is that the project has been revitalized and that we can expect considerable progress from now on. It also appears that we may be ready for a third, qualified Research Associate.

Your Liaison Committee urges planned visitations by your technical representatives with view of further evaluating the program and encouraging our Research Associates.

Any suggestions regarding available, experienced manpower are urgently needed.

William F. Bartoe, Chairman
Steering and Liaison Committees for
Weatherability Research Project

November 18, 1966

CMA 078758

PLASTICS COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 21, 1966
Glenn L. Pitzer, Chairman

The Plastics Committee represents 53 member companies having a broad interest in plastic materials. Members serve two-year terms (except the chairman); and, in keeping with the terms of Reference, the membership, now 13 in number, is rotated with new appointments each year selected so that at any time the Committee does not represent a dominant position in any given important plastic material. Activities that rightfully fall within the scope of regular functional committees are referred to those respective groups, although the Plastics Committee maintains liaison with them to varying degrees. Recent examples are the plastics packaging for nitric acid - Chemical Packaging Committee, a new nuclear polymerization process - Nuclear Committee, foreign trade matters liaison - International Trade Committee and the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association (SOCMA), and the recent medical problem concerned with PVC manufacture - Occupational Health Committee. Likewise, matters of specific interest to the plastics industry are often referred to the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) which includes many of the interested MCA member companies and could be more effective in handling industry-wide matters concerned with plastic end products; examples are packaging film regulations and building code problems concerned with plastic components.

In a report for the Committee to this Board in November 1964, Dr. William C. Goggin of Dow, who is still a member of the plastics Committee, touched briefly on such matters as fundamental research at MIT and Case, projects at Underwriters' Laboratories on appliances and tests for smoke obscuration, the referral of certain building problems to SPI which resulted in formation of their Plastics in Construction Council, and the initiation of a weatherability test development program at the National Bureau of standards. The latter has been now under way for about twenty months; the budget for its current operations amounts to \$77,000, thus accounting for a major portion of the total plastics budget of \$105,000 for the current year.

So much for a review. Since our last report to you, general building activities actually handled by the Plastics Committee, other than the NBS project, have been nil. However, the Committee members and other executives of the interested member companies have been participating in and/or keeping abreast of the developments in the SPI Council. I think it is important to report briefly on this because of the members' interest and intensive study of the building industry's requirements for plastics in 1960-64 which led to the aforementioned Council. Since then the Council has established four working groups, namely:

- (1) Research. A program is already under way at Illinois Institute of Technology in an effort to better quantify the burning characteristics of plastics in interior uses. This

program is believed to be worthwhile and necessary. First actual tests are now scheduled for December 15.

(2) Code Advisory. This is a continuation of a committee that has been active in the SPI for many years concerned with code problems mainly in light transmitting applications.

(3) Education. An Opinion Research Corporation survey of architects' attitudes toward plastics has been completed - generally, the findings and steps that were proposed for the industry were similar to those outlined in an MCA study conducted in 1962 - a brochure somewhat similar to a Sweets Catalog is now being compiled.

(4) Standards and Certification. Development of performance standards with certification of plastic components was pinpointed by the MCA study as a must for a real breakthrough for plastics in building. Little progress has been made.

The Weatherability Project at NBS, we hope, will develop test procedures which through short-term tests can predict outdoor weather-life with some assurance and so that the industry won't have to wait twenty years before putting out a standard and certification of a building product. This project will have been operating for two years in March 1967.

Progress here also has not been all that could be desired. NBS to varying degrees has not given the technical and administrative direction of the work as should have been available and provided in their Research Associates Program. Our technical representatives

have continued close liaison with the Bureau, and we believe this situation has now been remedied. Part of the problem has been personnel, the move of the NBS headquarters to Gaithersburg, Maryland (about 15 miles to the north of Washington), and perhaps just plain slowness in getting programs under way. The MCA technical representatives have been requested to visit the NBS operations for an independent evaluation of the program and its future prospects. Then, if warranted, other locations for this work may be sought.

I do not feel it appropriate to take the time for discussion of other less important matters considered by the Plastics Committee. To varying degrees some of us may be disenchanted with the building program because of the slowness and in some cases little progress both in the SPI Council and the NBS project. Perhaps we were not realistic in expecting the fabricating segment of the industry - the SPI members - to be interested and qualified to develop good reliable performance standards. Perhaps we expected too much from the staff now at the NBS in the first twenty months; on this we are searching for additional personnel. The technical people and our member companies still don't have the answer on weatherability testing - they feel a joint program is the only way to get the answer - we still insist that the objective of the work is valid and necessary in the best interests of the industry to provide a real breakthrough for plastics in building.

I assure you we have already done something about the weatherability program and hope a more promising report can be made on this during the coming year.

If you have any questions, I will be happy to try for some answers.