

# **IME**

**institute of makers of explosives**

**Board of Governors Meeting  
2023 Annual Meeting  
Cheeca Lodge Resort & Spa  
Islamorada, FL  
Wednesday, October 18, 2023  
9:30AM – 12:00PM**

## **Minutes**

Chair: Tim O'Brien (Detotec North America)

Vice Chair: Jason Rawlings (Austin Powder Company)

**Voting Board Governors in attendance:** Scott Bell (Dyno Nobel), Michael Bradshaw (GEODynamics), Kent Hoots (Orica USA), Ralph Hymer (Nelson Brothers), Jason McCann (Baker Hughes), Jason Metzger (JRC/Halliburton), Tim O'Brien (Detotec), Debra Payne (Owen Oil Tools), Jason Rawlings (Austin Powder), Len Smith (Enaex), Wendell Stinson (Accurate Energetic Systems), Patrick Valentino (Hunting Titan), Tom Young (Hilltop Energy).

**Others in attendance:** Josh Calnan (University of Kentucky), Noel Hsu (Orica USA), Ian McNally (Hilltop Energy), Bobby van Rensburg (Accurate Energetic Systems), Gordon Rogers (DynaEnergetics), Jon Southerland (Accurate Energetic Systems).

**IME Staff:** Clark Mica (President), Alex Caron, Larry Farnsworth, Susan Flanagan, Josh Hoffman, Colby Sholler, and Sue Swanhorst.

**General Counsel:** Judith Hammerschmidt

### **CALL TO ORDER**

IME Chair Tim O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. The minutes were recorded by Secretary Sue Swanhorst. Evacuation procedures were shared, and CPR-trained attendees were identified.

Attendees identified themselves and a quorum was confirmed.

### **ANTITRUST GUIDELINES**

IME General Counsel Judy Hammerschmidt reviewed the IME Antitrust Guidelines and advised that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the guidelines. She also reviewed IME's CVI and SSI guidelines.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Board approved the minutes of the 2023 Spring Meeting which were previously furnished to the attendees on the IME website.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Tim O'Brien thanked attendees for their contributions. IME staff was recognized, especially Alex Caron for organizing a seamless meeting. Mr. O'Brien acknowledged the departure of Colby Sholler, IME's Senior Director of Government Affairs. Mr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Sholler for his contributions to IME and wished him and his family well.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Mica organized an interactive Policy Priority Workshop where IME Board members helped determine the industry priorities and specific issues by getting into groups to discuss the following seven issues: Safety, Security, Workforce, Innovation, Supply Chain, Transportation & Infrastructure, and Energy & Environment.

Mr. Mica provided attendees with an update on the current initiatives including, 6 congressional site visits to IME member facilities, eliminating CFATS/ATF duplicative regulation, continued development of eLearn Modules and recognition by 6 states for blasters continuing education credit, successfully amending NFPA400 to recognize ammonium nitrate emulsions, continued progress on the ATF regulatory modernization project and amending PHMSA Hazardous Materials Regulations to include updates to SLP 22 and SLP 23.

Mr. Mica reported that Tread Corporation had withdrawn their membership.

Mr. Mica reported that the 2024 Spring Meeting is scheduled to be held May 20-23 at the Hotel Washington in Washington, DC. He also noted that the 2024 Annual Meeting would be held October 7-9 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Mr. Mica acknowledged the rotation of Mike Curtis and Mike Anderson, both Nelson Brothers employees, and thanked them for their participation and leadership roles with IME.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Swanhorst reported that there were no outstanding dues.

Ms. Swanhorst reviewed the 2023 financials as of August 31, 2022. An estimated budget surplus of \$153,256 was attributed to the following unrealized expenses: salaries and benefits (staffing changes), travel, eLearn, and research & development.

Ms. Swanhorst presented a proposed 2024 operating budget in the amount of \$2,397,063. The 2024 budget focuses on building on the 2023 initiatives with funding going toward enhancing communications and marketing. A motion was made and the 2024 budget was approved.

## **ELECTIONS**

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee was composed of Mr. Scott Bell (Dyno Nobel) and Mr. Tom Young (Hilltop Energy). On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Bell nominated Tim O'Brien (Detotec) to serve as Chair and Jason Rawlings (Austin Powder), to serve as Vice Chair for the 2024 calendar year. The nominations were approved by the Board.

### **Election Committee**

The Election Committee was composed of Mr. Tom Gelormino (Vet's Explosives) and Mr. Fred Cardillo (Senex Explosives). On behalf of the Election Committee, Mr. O'Brien presented the following nominations for Associate members with Board voting authority in 2024: Mitch Green (Maine Drilling & Blasting), Tim Delaney (Nobel Insurance), and Fred Cardillo (Senex Explosives). Mr. Green was also nominated to serve as the 2024 Associate Member Steering Committee Representative. The nominations of the Election Committee were approved.

### **Approval of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs**

The following nominations of standing committee chairs and vice chairs for the 2024 calendar year were considered and approved by the Board.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
<b>Government Affairs</b>	Tom Young (Hilltop Energy)	Mitch Green (Maine Drilling & Blasting)
<b>Legal</b>	Ross Davidson (Dyno Nobel)	Suzanne Thigpen (Nelson Brothers)
<b>Safety, Health and Environmental Affairs (SHEA)</b>	Darrell Martin (Austin Powder)	Jessie Kelsey (Accurate Energetic Systems)
<b>Technical</b>	Jason McCann (Baker Hughes)	Randall Franklin (Nelson Brothers)
<b>Transportation, Distribution, and Security (TDS)</b>	Bill Joa (Dyno Nobel)	Lisa Nitschke (Orica)

### **Approval of 2024 Steering Committee Members and Voting Associate Members**

The following nominations were made and approved for 2024 Steering Committee representation:

#### **Regular Members:**

Jason Rawlings (Chair) Austin Powder  
Tim O'Brien (Vice Chair) Detotec  
Patrick Armstrong, DynaEnergetics  
Scott Bell, Dyno Nobel  
Kent Hoots, Orica  
Ralph Hymer, Nelson Brothers

**GAC Committee Chair:** Tom Young, Hilltop Energy

Associate Voting Member:

Mitch Green, Maine Drilling & Blasting – Steering Committee Representative

LEAD Representative (Observer, non-voting): Jon Southerland, Accurate Energetic Systems

**COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATED REPORTS**

**Steering Committee**

Steering Committee Chair Jason Rawlings reported that the Steering Committee had met the previous day and discussed 2024 priorities, the refresh initiative, and the Communications Committee. IME and Mekanik, the professional marketing/branding agency, have decided to part ways and IME will request a written agreement acknowledging this decision.

A motion was made and approved to formally recognize the Communications Committee as a standing committee from its ad hoc status. The Communications Committee will report to the Steering Committee.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Safety, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee (SHEA)**

Mr. Byrd, the SHEA Committee Chair, reported that the committee met on October 17, 2023, and discussed the following: New EPA rules impacting the fossil fuel industry; a proposal on OB/OD is expected by the end of the year; efforts in Congress and at the agencies to streamline federal permitting; new Supreme Court decisions, federal legislation, and EPA regulations all of which impact environmental permitting; a potential conflict between OSHA's Permissible Exposure limits and EPA's Existing Chemical Exposure Limits for workplaces; OSHA's Walkaround Rule which would allow union representatives to accompany OSHA inspectors at non-union workplaces; SLP-29 is before the Board for approval.

**Legal Affairs Committee**

Mr. Bell, the Legal Affairs Committee Chair, reported that the committee has added additional members to the subcommittee. As noted in SHEAC, SLP 29 has been reviewed and approved. The Committee is currently reviewing SLP 33, a brand-new publication addressing safety and health suggested regulations.

**Technical Committee**

Mr. McNally, the Technical Committee Chair, reported that the committee had met on October 17, 2023 and discussed: the establishment of a working group, chaired by Randall Franklin, to continue the work of the newly dissolved 8-millisecond Rule Exploratory Group; SLP 1 *Construction Guide for Storage Magazines* and SLP 2 *The American Table of distances* are both in need of review but will be delayed until the ATF Modernization project has been completed. SLP-12 *Glossary of Commercial Explosives Industry Terms* is due for review with a focus on Oil Field Services terms, and SLP-20 *Safety Guide for Prevention of Radio Frequency Radiation Hazards in the Use of Commercial Electric Detonators* will be updated to include the metric conversions with the disclaimer that only North American detonators were tested. IME will share the previously completed regulatory update document with other partner associations before sending it to MSHA.

## **IMESA FR**

Mr. Fritz reported that the IMESA FR Science Panel (ISP) had met on October 16, 2023. The ISP is reviewing its charter to reflect new administrative and funding arrangements and discussed potential tests for next year with the priority being an overhead bin ANFO test followed by a series of perforating gun tests. C. Fritz notified the committee he plans to reengage the IMESA FR subcommittee to get help with the testing planning, solicit participation, and coordinate product contributions. ATF is looking for the donation of a 60-ton bin and 60 tons of ANFO from IME members and is currently selecting a site for the test. It was noted that while this storage practice is declining in practice, the justification is that the test would be a worst-case scenario from which less severe situations could be adjusted for in IMESA FR.

## **Transportation, Distribution and Security Committee**

Mr. Valentino, the Transportation, Distribution and Security Committee Chair, reported that the committee had met on October 17 and discussed the following DOT Developments in FMCSA and PHMSA: HAZMAT fees, SLP 22 & 23, Comments on HM-265A and HM-215Q, automated driving system-equipped with CMVs and emergency braking systems, safety fitness determination, high vehicle speed limiters, HM-215 harmonization of new entries of electronic detonators, and improvement of Test Series 8. The Committee also discussed the possibility of developing a best practice guide through SAFEX and a proposed rule from FMCSA regarding Data Q process.

## **United Nations Committee Report**

Dr. Hoffman informed the Board that at the summer UN session, IME successfully convinced the Explosives Working Group to establish an Informal Correspondence Group (IGC) to continue the work on the 8(d) initiative outside of formal UN meetings. The IGC will discuss additional computational modeling, experimental validation, and the value of a best practice guide for transporting Ammonium Nitrate Emulsions (ANEs). The event in Western Australia involving ANE has changed the level of regulatory interest in this work. They are asking more questions about the physics and chemistry of ANEs, and IME will be working to involve additional emulsion experts from its membership to answer them.

## **Government Affairs Committee**

Mr. Young, the Government Affairs Committee Chair, reported that the committee had discussed ongoing policy issues and the ATF Modernization project.

Mr. Young reported on the activities and financial status of the IMEPAC. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the IMEPAC receipts were \$5,934 and disbursements were \$4,000. An IMEPAC Happy Hour held the previous night netted an additional \$13,000 in receipts. Contributors were thanked for their support of the IMEPAC.

## **Communications Committee**

Mr. Farnsworth, IME staff liaison, reported that the committee has met three times and discussed the development of a crisis communications plan. The committee would benefit from member-wide committee membership and an appeal was made to those in attendance.

## **REPORTS FROM LIAISON MEMBERS**

### **International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE)**

Steve Shivak, ISEE's Executive Director, reported that the SEE Educational Foundation had surpassed awarding over one million dollars in scholarships since its inception. Mr. Shivak announced the launch of The Blasters Stipend Program which reimburses blasters for expenses associated with obtaining certification and recertification training. ISEE has invested in a new AMS, LMS and website. The new website should be up and running within a couple of weeks. ISEE's Annual Conference is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will be held January 24-27, 2024 in Savannah, Georgia. The conference has a new format that will include two days of training.

### **Canadian Explosives Industry Association (CEAEC)**

Nicholas Ebsworth, CEAEC's Executive Director, reported that CEAEC was able to get unsensitized AN emulsion reclassified. He also discussed the use of MPS mobile processing units in remote areas, training standards, and competency assessment exams. CEAEC's Fall Meeting will be held November 8-9, 2023, in Ottawa, Ontario.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.