**Task Group on Chemical Processes**
**Teleconference Meeting Summary**
**May 22, 2014**



**Participating Members:**

Angela Ewing (NSF International)
David Herbst (Berje Inc.)
Gay Timmons (Oh, Oh Organic)

**Absent Members:**

David Bronner (Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps)
Heshi Mahinrod (Hain Celestial Group)
Joseph Dickson (Whole Foods Market)
Tim Kapsner (Aveda Corp.)
Jack Corley (Symrise PureScents)
James Hahn (TerrEssentials)

**Participating Observers**

Al Rose (NSF International)

**Supplemental Materials Referenced During the Meeting**

1) Agenda
2) Response Letter – Racemic Lactic Acid
3) Response Letter – EcoCert Interpretations
4) Response letter – Sodium PCA
5) Straw Ballot Results - Phosphates
6) Approval Ballot Results – Potassium Sorbate

**Discussion**

D.Herbst welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. A.Rose read the antitrust statement and took attendance. Four of the 9 voting members were present (44%), which A.Rose stated did not represent a quorum.

A.Rose read the call for membership in the Organic Personal Care Committee. The Joint Committee on Organic Personal Care is currently looking for members in the Public Health/Regulatory and Trade Association categories. Please refer interested parties to the Joint Committee Chair or Secretariat.

Before turning the meeting over to D.Herbst, A.Rose addressed the lack of participation by many of the members of the task groups both in Natural and Organic Personal Care and how it affected the two ballots to be discussed on the agenda.

This led to about 30 minutes of discussion from primarily D.Herbst and G.Timmons regarding membership and their commitments to all the groups. Some thoughts about how/why we are where we are at this point and some ideas to revitalize the groups at large. Most of the energy of this discussion actually centered around the Natural Chemical Processes Task Group, not the Organic for which we were meeting today. The Natural group seems to be stuck in neutral and we need ways to get things moving again. D.Herbst commented it took a very long time to get the organic standard completed as well. He added that within 6 months of the original kickoff for development, 1/3 to ½ of the voting members gave up. Even with talk to

replace them, nothing happened. This put an even more disproportionate burden on those remaining. On the natural side we got off to a good start, yet with all the multiple meetings we still have very poor participation.

D.Herbst then led the group back to the agenda items.

As mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, the 2 ballots conducted since the previous task group teleconference both did not pass, not because of negative votes, but because of limited participation. A.Rose explained that not only does a ballot have to have greater than 50% affirmative votes, greater than 66.6% of the ballots sent must be returned. In this case, since there are 15 voting members, 11 must have been returned; only 9 were returned. The group agreed to table these for now, move on to the other agenda items and A.Rose to discuss membership issues with the Joint Committee Chair.

D.Herbst then addressed the other agenda items, specifically the 3 response letters A.Rose was tasked to write at the previous teleconference on April 21.2014. A.Rose presented the letters to the group and they were discussed as follows.

**Response Letter #1 – Sodium PCA – (OPC-2012-9)**

See supporting documents for letter
Group read and agreed it was ready to send

**Response Letter #2 – Request for interpretation from Ecocert**

See supporting documents for letter
Group read and decided the following changes were needed:

1) Paragraph 2 – only the reduction part is a synonym; take out the oxidation.
2) Paragraph 3 – we need to be specific about GMO source. Add must meet non-GMO source "still have to meet non-GMO (Source and Processing); take off the word "however"

**Response Letter #3 – Racemic lactic acid request – (OPC-2014-2)**

See supporting documents for letter
Group read and decided the following changes were needed:

1) Paragraph 2 – change the word "your" to "the" before the phrase "processing for the ingredient you wish to be considered

## Action Items

1) A.Rose to discuss membership issues with Joint Committee Chair R.Green.
2) A.Rose to make the suggested changes to the response letters and send to proponents.