

# Arkansas Trucking Association Maintenance & Technology Council Meeting 10/09/07

## **Ed Szarmach, Presiding**

### **Welcome**

I'd like to call this meeting of the Arkansas Trucking Association's Maintenance and Technology Council to order at this time. This is your council and I encourage your involvement and hope everyone takes away some benefit for your time invested.

### **Housekeeping**

- Point out emergency exits
- Informal Meeting format, feel free to use the facilities as needed and point out location
- Out of courtesy to others, please turn off or put on silent cell phones and pagers, if you need to make a call step out of the room
- We encourage participation but please be recognized then stand and state your name
- Robert's Rules of Order, as revised will govern these proceedings

### **Safety message**

Deer season is upon us. This is a good time to remind each other that we need to practice gun safety. Items like keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction away from others. Keep your finger off of the trigger until you are ready to shoot and knowing what is beyond your target. The main thing is to be safe when in the woods and you will be able to walk out with a deer and not an injury.

### **Introductions**

First we would like to thank the companies that allowed their technicians to attend last months meeting. We would like to thank the technicians for their input on the skills competition.

Today we will be touring the Future Fuels plant to learn more about how bio diesel and other fuels are being produced.

Now I would like for us to do self-introductions.

### **Reading of the minutes of the last meeting dated**

The minutes were published on the web site after our last meeting in Springdale. May we have a motion to approve those minutes? A second? Motion passed.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

We will be dispensing with committee reports so more time can be spent touring the plant.

### **Chairman's discussion**

At our next meeting we will have representatives from different post secondary schools informing us of their programs. If there is anyone that is interested in becoming a presenter at future meetings please see Sarah Sheets or me.

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## **New Business/Old Business**

Is there any other new business from the audience at this time?

Sarah Sheets announced that the November meeting is being moved to the Embassy Suites in Rogers, it had previously been scheduled for Little Rock.

Sarah also noted that since the Tire Competition was being eliminated from the Technician Championship and Darrell Hicks was leaving for California and the Trucker Buddy spot was no longer needed we would not need additional space for the Championship and we would remain in Springdale.

Also of note guests for today's meeting included Benny Davis and Clint Bowman of Ronnie Dowdy and Jim Hayes of Conley Transport.

If not, I would like to ask for a motion to adjourn the business meeting at this time, is there a second? All in favor? Motion Passed.

## **Thank Presenter**

We want to thank Rich Byers for the tour of the plant today.

## **Dismissal**

After the business meeting was adjourned we were introduced to Lee Mikles CEO of FutureFuel Chemical Company. Mr. Mikles spoke to us regarding the selection of the site in Batesville and its attributes. Mr. Mikles spoke specifically to the plant's personnel, its ability to handle diversity of feedstock, and the importance of being a lowest cost producer. In addition he indicated that government mandates would likely play a critical factor in the success of bio-diesel.

Duke Fancher of Diamond International asked if the challenges of a lack of infrastructure presented a major problem due to Batesville's geographical location. Mr. Mikles responded that the Rail system was solid and that an additional 12 miles of navigation capability on the White River would in fact be a tremendous help. Mr. Mikles also indicated that they had been in conversations with U.S. Representative Marion Berry on that subject.

We then proceeded to the cafeteria for a catfish lunch.

After lunch the group boarded two school buses for a tour of the facility which included a driving tour, a tour of the Analytical Lab, and a tour of the 5N07 Expansion. At approximately 1:45 pm we departed.