

**1. Present:**

Robert Caudwell, NFU  
(Chairman)  
Marilyn Birch, SLPW  
Ivan Good, CIWM (EB)  
Laura Jockers, Defra  
Peter Leighton, CPA  
Ray Thomas, UAT  
Rob Wise, AIC

**Apologies:**

Richard Bernhardt, EA  
Phil Conran, Biffa  
John Convery, Scot Exec  
Jeff Cooper, EA  
Bart Cope, UAT  
Paul Davidson, WRAP

Andrew Green, BPI  
Roy Hathaway, Defra  
Daniel Kapadia, Defra  
Sheila McKinley, Defra  
Karen Riddick, SEPA

**In attendance:**

Valpak – Adrian Hawkes; Heatha Anderson  
ADAS – Andrew Ainsworth

**2. Meeting Notes 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

No matters arising outside of the meeting agenda.

**3. PMB Membership**

Peter Leighton (BASF) was welcomed to the meeting as the new CPA representative replacing Steve Braund (Bayer). Charlotte Bush had taken up new responsibilities within the Environment Agency.

**4. Project Development**

IG summarised progress with the project. Three field trials and four research projects had been commissioned with reporting expected between April-July 2007. Dialogue had taken place with the Advisory Group on Farm Plastics (AGFP) and the Programme had endeavoured to accommodate that Group's information requirements.

Valpak had undertaken a series of workshops with key stakeholder groups on the subject of Producer Responsibility and outline results were to be included in their presentation.

**5. Progress with Trials**

AA reported on progress with the operational trials:

**5.1 Baling Options and Logistics – Somerset FWAG**

Phase 2 had been subject to further significant revision due to lack of availability of planned bulk transport and the demise of Integrated Polymers, the material

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reprocessor. Nine collection hubs and five mini-hubs were now planned with scheduling between April-June 2007.

The PMB noted that the loss of Integrated Polymers capacity required Valpak to revisit the results of its Reprocessor Survey.

5.2 Farm Hub Bring Scheme in Rural Areas – Shropshire Sastak

Four collection days had been organised with good response from farmers. Initial reports indicated that hubs in rural areas generated most support and the majority of farmers had managed to meet the required quality specification. Meaningful data was expected to become available in May.

5.3 Reducing Contamination on Crop Cover – Agri.cycle

Adverse weather conditions in March had delayed progress but two trials of the specialist equipment had taken place with a third scheduled for mid-April. Photos and a possible video should follow.

HA reported on progress with the research studies:

5.4 Investigating Pyrolysis – Valpak/Bowman

A lengthy report with a lot of technical detail had been submitted on schedule end-March; a draft summary had been circulated to the Board. A key finding was that waste plastic feedstock to a pyrolysis plant had to be cleaned and prepared to a higher standard than for mechanical recycling. The Board agreed that no further trials should be funded by the AWP Programme.

**Action:** Valpak to notify trial proposers

5.5 UK AWP Waste Arisings – Valpak/ADAS

This urgent research project is scheduled to report early May. Early indications were that there is reason to challenge previous estimates of UK AWP waste arisings. Discussion centred on how data might be cross-checked and the degree of confidence to be placed on data by usage type.

5.6 Life Cycle Analysis – Valpak/Sustain

The Programme had commissioned a study to carry out a series of life cycle assessments on the collection and recycling of AWP. A positive result was anticipated. Reporting was scheduled for end-June.

5.7 Data Management System – Valpak

The Programme had commissioned a study to develop the specification for a data management system for the UK sales and imports of agricultural plastic, and the collection and recovery of AWP. Reporting was also scheduled for end-June.

## 6. Progressing Producer Responsibility concepts

### 6.1 Stakeholder Workshops

AH reported that Valpak had conducted five workshops with key stakeholder groups, namely Producers/Importers, Reprocessors, Collectors, Farmer/Sectoral Associations and Government bodies and enforcement agencies. (An example presentation had been circulated before the meeting.) All had been well received. The Collectors workshop had been the most contentious but had provided an opportunity for representatives of the sector to air their views; one group had prepared its own producer responsibility variation which was reported to the PMB.

The workshops had considered two producer responsibility options for discussion – one involving “recovery notes”, the other a hybrid system where producers/importers had close control over where their money was spent. The Collectors’ proposal gave control of expenditure to Collectors.

The recommendation was for a universal standard for contamination and segregation of AWP. The farming community was looking for choice in recovery and disposal options, e.g. a free collection hub, payment for on-site collection, multiple wastes consideration. The aspiration was for a recovery target applied to geographical coverage and not just weight.

### 6.2 Advisory Group on Farm Plastics (AGFP)

Liaison with the AGFP continued. Valpak proposed to further develop the hybrid approach; Defra was waiting on DTI to comment on competition issues which required a greater understanding of how the system would work. The objective was not to burden a relatively small market with too much accreditation and/or regulatory process.

## 7. AOB

### 7.1 Communications

HA reported that work on drafting two good practice guides – one targeting Farmers, the other Collectors – was awaiting the completion of operational trials and needed to reflect the preferred producer responsibility system as yet to be decided. The suggestion for an interim guide to Farmers covering contamination and segregation issues would be readdressed at the June meeting.

### 7.2 AWP Collectors organisation

It was noted that the debate continued amongst Collectors for an organisation to represent their interests plus an assurance scheme covering collectors and reprocessors.

**7. Dates of Future Meetings**

2007	Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> June
	Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup> September

Meetings are scheduled to be held at Ashdown House commencing at **10.15 am**