

Minutes of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances  
Fall Meeting, October 5, 2006  
Omaha, NE.

The fall meeting of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances, was held at the Ameristar Holiday Inn, Council Bluffs, IA on October 5, 2006.

Tom Hinton passed the gavel to Joe Boehle. Joe Boehle, our new Chairman, called the meeting to order and thanked all of those present for attending. Joe also gave a short safety briefing.

An attendance sheet was then passed around for those present to sign. Each member and guest then introduced themselves by stating their name and their company affiliation. There was a total of sixteen people were in attendance. Four personnel were from railroads and 5 shippers.

Bob Korpanty read the minutes from the previous spring meeting in Jacksonville, FL. Tom Hinton gave a brief summary of passing a letter ballot and made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as read. Suma Gupta seconded the motion.

Tom Hinton gave a brief AREMA headquarters update on the Montreal chairman's meeting. The watermark will be gone from the manual pages making it possible to copy. The headquarters address was changed but phone number, email, and web addresses remain the same. Louisville conference was well attended and the 2007 meeting will be in the Palm House, Chicago, IL around mid September. Joe indicated the next meeting was on November 15 at the Hilton Riverside, in New Orleans. LA. It will be two days long and focus on instructing individuals on how to be a better chairman. This meeting's tour in Council Bluffs originally scheduled for Friday's will be done on Thursday afternoon and consist of UP's clearance measuring truck.

D-8-94 (New Measurement Methods) Jim Howell – Jim was not able to attend because of family sickness but provided a copy of his written report to all members in attendance. A discussion ensued as to when this sub-committee comes to an end. Tom Hinton indicated that if a subcommittee began with a D, it was a temporary sub-committee. He also indicated that if a committee is changed or dissolved, it must be voted on. Joe read through Jim's report. Jim had successful completion of his letter ballot 28-04-01 and indicated that all necessary approvals had been received. The material will be forwarded to AREMA headquarters for inclusion in the manual. Tom read through the manual of methods of measurement and indicated that the laser measure is the only method to use. Bob Felix discussed sending personnel to load measuring training in Kansas City, KS that was effective. Bob said he would work to get these folks to the AREMA meeting. Joe went through the manual and Tom compared the manual with the pamphlet noting differences. It was determined that striking the passage about 2 feet deletes people from determining end of car cushioning. A discussion ensued regarding 98 inch center of gravity.

AREMA field measure book was distributed for all in attendance to review and update. A full committee review in April 2007 will make updates/corrections for a ballot submittal. This material is copyrighted. Jim Howell provided several suggestions via an email. These comments were related to the book's Glossary, Legend, Car Diagrams, and Instructions for Measuring.

Joe Boehle advised all that Lars Lundberg with L-Kopia was not able to be at Council Bluffs and is the only contractor to offer it. This would be available around the first of the year for about \$100,000 per copy. The price would decrease for additional copies if ordered. Mr. Powell in the AAR needs examples of measurement errors and inspections of loads and the penalties associated with them. These do not need to be spectacular incidents and may just be delays at interchanges with late fees. Joe passed out a brochure on the LKopia outlining device and requested members look over it and give him comments. Joe is working to secure funding from the AAR to erect these devices at interchange points. He is also working with CSXT to have one or two erected at manufacturing facilities.

Subcommittee (A) and (B) Further Studies and Revisions to the Manual, Mike Scott – Mike Scott was not present and reports were not provided.

C-4-85 (Heavy Duty Car Diagrams & Ratings) Tom Hinton. Tom will get Kasgro 12 axle car diagrams for the new meeting in the spring. Tom indicated about 10 years ago there was an AAR rule that would not allow cars with 3 axle trucks through interchange. Shrouding on the middle truck does not allow a hot box bearing reading. Rule 90 will take effect 2 Jan 2007 which could prohibit certain 3 axle trucks traveling through interchange. This could prohibit Schnable cars through interchange. Rick Ford volunteered to identify existing cars with this problem to alert customers to 2007 planned shipments. Craig Steffey with ABB requested a 12 month extension from the AAR. The choices are to either re-truck cars or install a Lat Long hot box detector electronic system to the existing truck.

RICA Update – Bob Felix. Bob indicated that they had a lot to talk about at the dinner in the evening which would be held at 5:30 PM. Teresa Garza will be there. RICA members are welcome to attend. The annual meeting is scheduled for 11 June 2007 in Toronto, Ontario Canada. San Francisco is planned for 2008.

D-10-97 (Minimum Safe Clearances) David Slover - David was not present and no report was filed. Suma Gupta was present but indicated he had not worked on the project in four years. External to the meeting, Jim Howell provided Dave with information covering standards for minimum safe buffer clearance between the structure and the rail car which considers rock and roll and curvature of the track. Next meeting there should be a rough draft finalized and subsequent ballot submitted.

C-1-62 (State Clearance Requirements) - Bob Korpanty – Bob reported there were no major changes. Bob updated the committee on the proposed changes to minimum

clearance for station platforms by the DOT. This would decrease minimum clearance dimensions and present a problem over certain routes for DOD high/wide movements. Bob stated many parties protested the proposal and the deadline changed to 28 July. Kevin Casey indicated the ADA proposal is not dead and requested he be involved in the subcommittee C-1-62.

D-12-00 (Maintaining Existing Clearances) Jim Howell –Jim was not present and Joe read Jim's report. This is a temporary subcommittee. Jim completed the ballot and all approved. Tom will check with Jim to include changes to section 3.13 in the 2007 manual. A discussion ensued about getting changes in the manual.

D-10-04 – Identify Significant Clearance-Critical Structures and Facilities and the Maintenance Procedures & Events that can alter clearances at those facilities. Joe read Jim's written report. Jim submitted a proposed draft outlining routine maintenance procedures. The committee reviewed and had a few changes that will be given to Jim for ballot creation. Tom Toth, discussed utilities within tunnels and offered examples of lights being knocked off. Switch stands should be added to item 16. Tom Hinton made the motion to accept the recommendation and Kevin Casey seconded and the motion passed.

D-11-99 (Handling High CCG Loads) – Craig Steffey / Joe Boehle – The subcommittee's goal is to develop and recommend a policy for handling high center of gravity loads. Joe discussed the track train dynamics bulletin, Circular R-185 and provided copies of chapter 4, Track and Structures. Joe contacted Charlie Powell of the AAR and he indicated Joe's questions would be answered in the manual. Tom Toth indicated that Dwight Clark is an expert in Circular R-185 and recommended we contact him for help. Joe noted that our standard 98 inch ATR interchange acceptance number was developed from formulas not shown in this bulletin. Joe is going to research this further with the AAR and CSXT Mechanical department. A discussion ensued regarding what is a high CCG load and why railroads differ on the standards. Joe asked members to submit any research information that may be available on this subject. Joe also commented concerning the lack of professional diagrams and documentation for power generation equipment in proposal stages.

Unfinished/Old Business/New Business: Under unfinished business, Joe indicated that there was no additional charge for the meeting room. Under new business, the meeting location was briefly discussed and it was decided to have the spring meeting in Milwaukee. Dave Henry offered to assist with the setting up the meeting. The tentative dates are 19-20 April with a tour of a manufacturing facility or the Port of Milwaukee.

Gift Exchange – Bob Korpanty conducted the gift exchange

Adjournment – Tom Hinton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Julie Holman seconded.

UPRR then provided a review of their clearance measuring truck outside the front lobby. Chuck Grimes, Tom Toth, and Dan Koch gave a great working presentation of their truck. Many thanks to UPRR!

Respectfully submitted by:  
Bob Korpanty - Secretary