

Minutes of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances
Fall Meeting October 27, 2004
Held in New Orleans LA.

The fall meeting of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances, was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in New Orleans LA. On October 27, 2004.

Tom Hinton, Chairman, called the meeting to order and thanked all those present for attending.

An attendance sheet was then passed around for those present to sign. Each member and guest then introduced themselves stating their name and company affiliation. There were a total of 12 members and 6 guests in attendance.

Joe Boehle read the minutes from the previous spring meeting in Charlotte NC. Jim Howell noted some corrections updating Dick Stranberg's name and member status as well as some other spelling errors. Tom Hinton made a motion to accept the minutes as written and amended and Mike Scott seconded and all were in favor.

Tom Hinton discussed the AREMA Chairman's meeting in Nashville TN. Jim Howell talked about the new AREMA interactive web site. He described the new process of balloting and voting which can be completed through the web site.

The committee reports begin with Mike Scott on :

Subcommittee (A) and (B) Further Studies & Revisions to the Manual.

Subcommittee (A) – Mike Scott announced that no new recommendations for research have been received.

Subcommittee (B) – Mike Scott has not received any Glossary/Bibliography updates. There are no revisions to the Manual. Tom Hinton noted that he will get with Mr. Strandberg to gather data. Mike also pointed out that he submitted the Spring Meeting report to AREMA headquarters and he will make the actual changes on the working copy of the Manual. Jim Howell interjected that Patrick Lynn with NS has volunteered to re-draft many of the diagrams in the AREMA 28 Manual because the drafting quality has deteriorated over the years. Tom Hinton suggested that Mike go through the Manual and review the accuracy / correctness of the entire document especially the State Legal Clearance requirement section. Mike advised that this portion of the Manual was reviewed prior to spring meeting and confirmed okay.

Sub-committee C-4-85 (Heavy Duty Car Diagrams & Ratings) Tom Hinton – Tom commented that per TTX and Kasgro Rail there are no new HD car diagrams to add. Tom suggested no new information will be required on this sub-committee for the next couple of years.

Sub- Committee C-6-94 (Clearances on short lines) Tom Hinton -Tom advised that no changes were received. Harry Ketterman advised he had a presentation about RICA at the fall short line railroad meeting. He commented that there was very little interest from the short line railroad conference attendees. Harry also mentioned that the short line railroad association does have their own web site which contains the Kasgro HD car tariff.

RICA REPORT – Harry Ketterman – Harry advised that the Rica Board Members meeting was conducted previous night in New Orleans and there were 21 persons in attendance. The 2005 RICA meeting would be held in Savannah GA. June 14th through 17th and Harry welcomed all to attend.

Tom Hinton interjected with a short discussion concerning AREMA attendance and major railroad clearance officer participation. He also asked for assistance in reaching out to short line railroad clearance personnel to attract new members. Dick Knoll mentioned that AREMA headquarters had failed to recognize him as a member of committee 28. An unrecognized member gave an example involving the short line operator WNYP (Western New York and Pennsylvania RR) and NS / CSXT whereby there was supposedly an agreement signed holding CSXT or NS responsible for clearances on the WNYP line. Joe Boehle noted that this was doubtful but he would research with his short line railroad folks.

Gene Kessler commented about how important it is for our Chairman to attend the AREMA Chairman's meeting and expressed his concern about Mr. Hinton's situation.

Sub-Committee D-10-97 (Minimum Safe Clearances) Soma Gupta – Soma was not in attendance. Tom advised he had not heard from Soma and that it appears that Soma hasn't renewed his membership. Tom suggested that we continue the sub-committee and that we need someone to volunteer for chairman of this committee. It will be discussed further if no volunteers at the Spring 2005 AREMA meeting

C-6-89 (EDI/WEB) - Joe Boehle – Joe advised that the AREMA web page has been updated with addition of meeting notices, meeting notes etc.... Joe explained the next initiative is to investigate whether or not ballot voting can be added. Joe will contact Shane Boyle of AREMA on this initiative. Success stories can be added but we don't have any to date. Jim Howell advised that there are no outstanding ballots to add at this time. Bill Mackenzie commented further on the AREMA website and how impressive it is. Currently it is a work in progress. Dick Knoll commented from the shipper's side how important documentation produced by AREMA 28 is to his company to be used as a tool for engineering future clearance shipments. Joe asked Dick to send a photograph and two paragraph success story about a recent hi wide shipment that Dick shipped over CSXT. A question concerning the upcoming spring AREMA meeting was made and Tom Hinton announced that the next meeting will be arranged for Virginia Beach at the end of March 2005.

AREMA Chairman's meeting update – Bill McKenzie - Bill discussed the AREMA web page progress advising it will be awhile before it is complete. The major point is that balloting can be done on the internet. This meeting was in Calgary AB. Bill described the rail tour and advised all were very impressed. Tom thanked Bill for representing AREMA 28

AREMA Technical Conference update – Jim Howell & Tom Hinton- This meeting was held in Nashville TN. The meeting is in conjunction with a trade show with vendor exhibitions. In this meeting outgoing Chairman introduce incoming Chairman . Tom suggested that we may wish for committee 28 to arrange for one of our meetings to occur same time and place as the Technical Conference

C-1-62 (State Clearance Requirements) – David Dorfman – David announced that there have been no changes or additions to the existing tables. He advised that Bob Korpantry has returned back from active duty. Jim Howell advised that New York and Illinois are in the process of reviewing their standards for possible revision.

D-8-94 (New Measurement Methods) – Jim Howell . Jim handed a written subcommittee report and went through it for the benefit of all. He also distributed the results of Letter Ballot 28-04-01 dated March 19, 2004 which passed. The ballot covered requested revisions to Manual Chapter 28, Section 3.7 “Methods of Measuring Railway Line Clearances.” Item H. Jim read the revisions verbatim from his report. Jim thanked all for participating in the voting process. Tom Hinton mentioned the upcoming Fall Chairman's meeting in November in Fort Lauderdale advising that he will be unable to attend. Joe Boehle advised he may be able to attend and would present the approved ballot to Mr. Sweeney.

D-12-00 (Maintaining Existing Clearances) Jim Howell – Jim passed out a written report to all members. Jim read the 4 part report which included a commentary at the end. Parts 1,2 & 3 of the report dealt with defining various clearance critical facilities and the activities or events that can alter clearances at those facilities. Jim advised that Part 4 and commentary section of the report, with the concurrence of the committee, will be submitted the membership for Letter Ballot. Part 4 concerned preserving existing clearances during maintenance work. If approved the material would go into the Manual as a new Section 3.13 . Jim also recommended that the material that has been developed thus far be placed in a new sub committee “Identify Significant Clearance-Critical Structures and Facilities and the Maintenance Procedures and Events that can Alter Clearances at those Facilities.

All agreed that after balloting a new sub-committee with new assignment/initiatives D 10 04 will be formed in 2006.

D-11-99 (Handling High CCG Loads) – Craig Steffey / Joe Boehle – Craig Steffey advised that no information had been received in order to get with the AAR Test Center. Joe advised he would dig out the information provided by Paul Williams and try to decipher it as well as get a name of someone to assist either at the test center or from

CSXT Mechanical Dept AAR committee person. Several members pointed out that there is no general policy and each railroad handles high CCG loads in a different manner and doubted this will ever change.

There was no unfinished business.

New Business: Tom advised all that we need to decide on a meeting site for the Fall 2005 meeting. Several suggestions were entertained including Norfolk VA, St Louis MO., and Baltimore MD. Tom was given some contact information to check on rates etc... and these prospective sites. A vote was taken to help choose a location.

The gift exchange was then carried out between those that managed to bring them.

Tom entertained a motion to adjourn for the day. Carried by Ed Henry, seconded by Dick Knoll. Tom thanked those in attendance for their ongoing efforts to support Committee 28.

Respectfully submitted by:
J.B.Boehle - Secretary