

Minutes of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances
Fall Meeting, October 24-25, 2005
Held in Greenville, SC

The fall meeting of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances, was held at the Embassy Suites hotel Greenville , South Carolina on October 24, 2005.

Tom Hinton, Chairman, called the meeting to order and thanked all of 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 was a total of 13 thirteen members in attendance.

David Slover read the minutes from the previous spring meeting in Norfolk VA. Tom asked the group for any changes as read. Jim Howell interjected that a note concerning Mike Scott's sub-committee and upcoming proposed ballot should be added to the meeting minutes. David Slover commented that it would be done. Tom made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as read and as amended. Harry Ketterman seconded the motion.

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Tom Hinton noted that Bobby Brown with General Electric Co. hadn't shown up as of yet to brief the group on Friday's tour of the GE facility. Tom commented that GE now manufacturers windmill components in addition to the huge gas turbines that traditionally have been manufactured at this plant. He urged all to attend the tour advising that the plans were to meet in the hotel lobby approximately 8:30 AM and all would drive together to the GE plant located 4 miles or so away.

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

Subcommittee (A) – Mike Scott announced that no recommendations for research have been received as of Oct 23, 2005.

Subcommittee (B) – Mike Scott briefly described a new ballot that was posted on the web Page involving some proposed changes to AREMA chapter 28 manual section 3.3.1. Ballot was posted in Oct 2005. Tom urged all members in attendance to place their vote on the ballot which can be accomplished on the web or manually with a paper ballot submitted to Stacy of AREMA.

Tom talked about the AREMA web page and some of the problems associated with the page and some of the things listed on the website. Jim Howell mentioned there were 3 ballots in the last year or so. One of which has been completed and two yet to approve/disapprove. Jim Howell suggested that AREMA lift some of the current web restrictions relative to who can view the ballot voting information on the web page.

Currently only committee officers can track the progress of the voting on each open ballot. Tom agreed to check into this. Tom advised that the next Chairman's meeting is scheduled for November in Atlanta and we will have one ballot to present.

C-4-85 (Heavy Duty Car Diagrams & Ratings) Tom Hinton advised all that this committee was set up as a permanent committee. He questioned the committee whether or not this sub-committee should be eliminated. He commented that there hasn't been any new information in quite a while. Group consensus was to continue the sub-committee as permanent. A short discussion concerning some of the older hd cars being scrapped out and whether or not the AAR needs to review the 40-50 year overage rule. Harry advised that the percentage of car usage has recently increased. He also suggested that he and TTX could probably furnish a list of cars to be retired or that have been retired / scrapped.

C-6-94 (Clearances on Shortlines) Tom Hinton - Tom recommended that this sub-committee be abolished. He commented that there are many avenues to access shortline railroad information including various web sites and "Official Railway Guide". Tom made a motion to abolish the sub-committee and Harry Ketterman seconded the motion. The motion passed by show of hands and the sub-committee will be abolished.

Tom interjected as a side bar note that AREMA 28 has a total of 29 members. 9 of which were in attendance today. He mentioned some of the members we haven't seen a while and the fact that they are still current, active members. The subject of New Orleans and the Break Bulk Conference surfaced again. The decision of whether or not to hold the Fall 28 meeting in New Orleans will be made in the Spring meeting in Jacksonville April 2006. Tom acknowledge the presence of Bob Korpantry active duty U.S. Army Lieutenant at the meeting today who gave a short briefing of his tour of active duty and military assistance for clean-up in New Orleans.

TOUR DISCUSSION – Bobby Brown gave a brief description of Friday's tour of the GE manufacturing plant facility. He gave directions, time, and clothing requirements instructions. Show of hands indicated 10 persons would attend. A short break occurred.

MEETING BUDGET – Tom Hinton advised all that the meeting room came to a total of \$252 and divided equally would be \$20 per person

RICA REPORT – Harry Ketterman – RICA meeting is scheduled for week of June 12 in Louisville KY.at the Mariott Hotel. He advised all that there are many family activitives available to all including a great golf outing. The hotel is in downtown Louisville and he welcomed all to attend.

D-10-97 (Minimum Safe Clearances) David Slover - David has reviewed previous work done on this sub-committee provided by Jim Howell. He has no report for this meeting.

C-6-89 (EDI/WEB) - Joe Boehle-David Slover read Joe's report. To date no success stories or photos have been sent to Joe for entry into our web page. Joe's report covered the balloting process on the web page and the continuous updates of meeting minutes and meeting announcements also shown on Committee 28's page. Tom thanked Harry Ketterman at this time for all the work he did setting up the Greenville meeting and tour.

CHAIRMANS MEETING UPDATE - Tom advised that he attended the Chairman's meeting in Baltimore MD. this year. Some of the things he learned at the meeting included a raise in the AREMA dues of \$5 per person. The ballot that AREMA 28 approved was presented to Mr. Sweeney. Tom commented that the meeting was very interesting and well attended. The main topic of discussion revolved around Committee 10 and whether or not they should have their own section in the manual similar to Committee 28. Tom noted that the AREMA board could make decisions without a vote from the general membership. The next Chairman's meeting is going to be at the new NS building in Atlanta GA. No date has been set. The following Chairman's Meeting will be held in Montreal, PQ.

AREMA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE REPORT- Jim Howell – Jim advised the Committee that there was record attendance at the Annual Conference in Chicago in September, including a record number of vendors displaying at the exhibits. He also reported that in the absence of any of our Committee officers at the Conference, he volunteered to provide Committee 28's status update at the Structures Group breakout session on Tuesday. Tom & Mike Scott talked briefly about previous reports submitted by Committee 28 for review at the technical conference. Tom didn't have a report at this meeting and Dr. Sweeney emphasized that Committee 28 was such a specialized group that he understood this fact and advised Tom to let them know if any future subjects evolve.

C-1-62 (State Clearance Requirements) - Bob Korpanty – Bob advised all that as far as he knows there were no changes or discrepancies to the existing table. Tom advised that he was contacted by an outside party who advised Tom that a particular State's clearance information did not agree with the table we listed in the chapter. Bob questioned Tom about what State was involved and what company the subject person was employed by. Bob suggested that it is possible that we overlooked some changes and he would check the State of Illinois for any errors in the safe minimum clearance data.

D-8-94 (New Measurement Methods) Jim Howell – Jim read his report. Letter Ballot 28-04-01 was approved by our Committee in March 2005 and presented to the VP Structures group at the Chairman's meeting in Baltimore June 2005 to be included in the 2006 AREMA manual. Jim explained that the report was included in the hand-outs he has distributed. He briefly described the approved changes to this section of the manual. Jim suggested that we keep this sub-committee active and expand the scope to include methods of measuring dimensional shipments. Tom asked the group if any objections to making these changes and none were taken. Charlie Smoot interjected noting the inability of Railroad Car Inspectors to produce the detailed dimensions required for review by Clearance Engineers. He also talked about a portable measuring device that KCS had

employed a few years ago. David Slover interjected that AREMA still has the document entitled “Recommended Procedures for measuring Dimensional Loads” that they produce and sell for \$5.00 each. It is a copyrighted document. It was suggested that we review the document and update if necessary. Tom asked the membership if anyone felt we should create a new sub-committee to review the pamphlet. At this time it was agreed that all members would review the document and jot down any changes if necessary and we would discuss it further at the Spring AREMA 28 meeting. The section is 3.93 to 3.95 in the chapter for comparison. This sub-committee’s number will now change to a “C” to represent it is continuous.

D-12-00 (Maintaining Existing Clearances) Jim Howell –Jim reported that this subcommittee’s initial assignment had been separated into several smaller parts. As the Committee had previously approved to do, the information in original Part IV was submitted to the Committee for approval by Letter Ballot 28-05-01. Jim advised that the Letter Ballot had met all the requirements for passage. Jim requested that Tom Hinton submit the approved material to the Structures Group Vice-President at the next Chairmen’s Meeting for further handling and inclusion in the Manual. Jim then advised that Letter Ballot 28-05-02 containing material for the Commentary was now available on the Committee 28 web page for voting and had been mailed to the membership as well.

D-11-99 (Handling High CCG Loads) – Craig Steffey / Joe Boehle –David Slover read Mr. Boehle’s report. Mr. Charlie Powell retired NS Mechanical Dept has been assisting Joe with the CCG research. Charlie had some documentation from a change that was made in the sixties from 88 in. to 98 in. ATR. The report listed our concerns for wheel lift at low speeds as well as high centrifugal force. The goals of the committee are high but we should learn more information about the effects of moving high CCG shipments on rail. There are two AAR reports that Joe will try to locate and investigate. Charlie Smoot interjected that Phil Sarris had done some preliminary work on this same subject in the past. Bobby Brown commented that most shippers don’t understand the discrepancy amongst railroads operating departments on this issue. There must be some reason for the restrictions that are in place today. Tom interjected that Charlie Powell was a very good person to work with on this subject.

D-10-04 – Identify Significant Clearance-Critical Structures and Facilities and the Maintenance Procedures & Events that can alter clearances at those facilities. Jim explained that this subcommittee was a spin-off from the original assignment of Subcommittee D-12-2000. Jim further explained that the subcommittee’s intent was to identify various structures and the types of maintenance activities or other events that could result in a loss of clearance at those facilities. The work of this subcommittee will be refined, submitted to the Committee for discussion and comment and ultimately submitted for Letter Ballot vote, probably in late 2006.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Tom advised all that we need to elect officers at next meeting. Normally Vice Chairman moves to Chairman, Secretary moves to Vice Chairman and a Secretary is either nominated or volunteers. He explains that we have 2 options. One that Joe Boehle will assume both roles of Vice Chairman and Secretary and two that a Secretary will come forward. Tom will be sending a notice through headquarters explaining this situation prior to the Spring meeting.

David Slover brought up the subject of proposed plate size changes that the AAR Mechanical committee has been involved with and a letter written by Joe Boehle addressed to all Class I carrier's clearance officers. This subject will be further discussed at the Spring meeting in Jacksonville.

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

Tom entertained a motion to adjourn for the day. Carried by Charlie Smoot, seconded by Mike Scott. Tom thanked those in attendance for their ongoing efforts to support Committee 28.

Friday April 2nd - Members and spouses met for the tour outside the hotel at 8:30 and traveled to the General Electric plant in South Greenville SC. They were met by Bobby Brown who initiated the tour with a safety briefing. Members observed various stages of both gas turbine and windmill nacelles manufacturing. They also observed several rail cars already loaded outside the door in the rail yard. It was a very successful learning experience for all.

Respectfully submitted by:
J.B.Boehle - Secretary