

Minutes of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances
Spring Meeting March 31, 2005
Held in Norfolk VA.

The spring meeting of AREMA Committee 28 - Clearances, was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Norfolk VA. On March 31,2005.

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 10 members and 3 guests in attendance.

David Slover, acting Secretary, read the minutes from the previous fall meeting in New Orleans LA. Tom Hinton made a motion to accept the minutes as written and amended and Mike Scott seconded and all were in favor.

Tom Hinton gave a short report on AREMA headquarters' news. The annual conference will be held at the Palmer house in Chicago September 25, 2005 through September 28, 2005. He advised that the meetings were very interesting and educational and urged all to attend. Tom also suggested that we might wish to hold our Fall Committee 28 meeting in conjunction with AREMA in Chicago. As it stands now, we are scheduled for our Fall meeting in September in New Orleans in conjunction with the Break Bulk conference. Tom advised we would have a vote later in the day on the Fall meeting site.

A short discussion concerning the AREMA 28 web page followed. It was noted that the web page is very useful and has many capabilities such as paying your dues and posting success stories / photos.

The committee reports begin with Mike Scott on :

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

Subcommittee (B) –Mike Scott talked about an upcoming ballot to change wording of Section 3.3.1 and diagram 28-3-5 of the glossary. The existing wording describing top of rail clearance dimensions and superelevation is too general and the new wording will be outlined in the ballot. All in attendance agreed with the proposed verbiage.

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

talked about the age of the NS fleet and suggested that perhaps the AAR should look into extending the age limits on HD cars to 60 years in interchange service and require the

- 2 -

Sub-committee C-4-85 cont'd

cars to be shopped and inspected on a regular basis . Jim Pearsall interjected that someone should discuss this with Pat Ameen with the AAR. Jim Howell discussed some proposed changes in the manual relative to HD car diagrams. Tom Hinton took a quick vote to confirm that Jim should create a new ballot to cover the suggested changes for the committee to approve.

NS Marketing Presentation - Ms. Kelly Avery, NS Marketing Dept, made a timely appearance and Tom Hinton postponed the Sub-Committee reports and announces Kelly's arrival and gave her the floor. Kelly gave a power point presentation covering Norfolk Southern Railroad. Kelly talked about the various facets of NS including Transportation, Mechanical, Clearance and Engineering departments. Tom questioned whether or not NS has made any plans to upgrade some of their bridges to allow for heavier machinery loads. A brief discussion ensued concerning the need across the industry to upgrade bridge and rail capacity. Kelly thanked all for their attention and departed the meeting

RICA REPORT – Harry Ketterman – Harry advised the RICA meeting in 2005 has been set up for Savannah GA. Beginning June 17. The hotel has already received close to 50 percent of the bookings at this meeting time and he expects that it will be a great turnout. The meeting will have some new and interesting agenda items. Harry welcomed any sponsorships to cover costs of coffee breaks etc.... at the meeting.

Sub-Committee D-10-97 (Minimum Safe Clearances) Soma Gupta – Tom announced that Soma Gupta would not be at this meeting and that Soma had contacted him and briefly discussed the Sub-Committee. Tom advised that we decided to continue this Sub-Committee to finish the goal, which is to publish an article dealing with this subject matter. He advised that we needed a new chairman to step up to the plate account Soma could no longer participate. David Slover, CSXT, agreed to accept the chairmanship for this sub-committee. Tom suggested that he should send an email to Soma to obtain all the documentation that has been completed to date, which evidently is quite a bit.

C-6-89 (EDI/WEB) - Joe Boehle – Joe was not in attendance so David Slover read his report. David advised that Joe hasn't received any photos or success stories from the general membership to post onto the AREMA 28 web page to date. He did advise that since our last meeting in New Orleans there has been an electronic ballot created by Mr. Jim Howell, which was posted on the web page. He urges all to complete the ballot after reading the email instructions, which were sent out to the membership at the same time the ballot, was posted. Jim Howell interjected that AREMA headquarters webpage has a

calendar that can be accessed to find out when/where a particular Committee meeting is scheduled. Tom Hinton advised that he forwards this information to AREMA.

- 3 -

C-6-89 cont'd

Tom Hinton perused a document presented to him by Mike Scott outlining some manual changes which he requested from AREMA cover heavy duty equipment diagrams and various other changes. Tom thought that we may have to vote on this issue but decided the changes were okay without voting.

AREMA Technical Conference update – AREMA 28 representative did not attend.

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 will return to U.S. in June 2005. Charlie Smoot asked about the possible discrepancy a particular State clearance information and Tom advised he was contacted by someone and will investigate further.

D-8-94 (New Measurement Methods) – Jim Howell . Jim handed a written subcommittee report and went through it for the benefit of all. Jim advised that the letter ballot material approved in March 2004 must be presented to the AREMA VP Structures group for approval and then if approved it must be presented to the AREMA board. Tom Hinton advised he would investigate further.

D-12-00 (Maintaining Existing Clearances) Jim Howell – Jim passed out a written report to all members. Jim advised that at the Fall New Orleans meeting that a letter ballot covering the new material for Section 3.13 was suggested and completed. The ballot was put on the web site and only 8 members had responded. The deadline date was extended. Tom noted that this was the first electronic ballot for AREMA 28. A brief discussion about how to complete an electronic ballot and the notification process ensued

D-11-99 (Handling High CCG Loads) – Craig Steffey / Joe Boehle – David Slover read report submitted by Joe Boehle. The goals of the committee are as follows:

- A. To have an AAR Circular published for "Recommended procedures for handling shipments with CCG exceeding 98 in. ATR "
- B. Standardize both the maximum ATR CCG dimension Railroads will accept in normal interchange, in regular train service, and in special train service.
- C. Provide written evidence of calculations and theory relative to combined center of gravity.

Clearance officers agreed that not much background info exists covering high CCG shipments and that the procedures for each railroad were carried over from year to year. Joe did receive some information from Mr. Charlie Powell from the AAR Mechanical committee concerning raising the acceptable interchange CCG from 89 inches to 98 in. ATR. This

information is being further reviewed. Tom interjected that Charlie Powell is a retired NS Mechanical Dept officer and is very knowledgeable and Tom will approach Charlie about joining our committee. Rick Doty emphasized that the AAR study involved a 100 ton

- 4 -

D-11-99 cont'd

box car. Jim Howell noted that there are many existing AAR studies on "rock and roll" that may have some CCG info as well.

Unfinished Business – Tom announced that it was decided in the Fall meeting in New Orleans that our Fall meeting will be held in New Orleans as long as the Break Bulk conference was in existence and that the meeting would be at the same hotel. Tom confirmed that everyone still wanted the Fall meeting in New Orleans on September 7. He explained that the Break Bulk conference folks advised they will have a meeting room for us for no charge. The RICA board meeting would also be held at the same time. Tom also commented that since the meeting will be at the conference and not at a hotel we'll have to decide where to stay. It was decided that each member would make his or her own hotel arrangements.

New Business: David Slover read a copy of a letter from Mr. Charlie Powell of the AAR Equipment Engineering Committee covering suggested changes to Plate sizes, specifically truck centers. The complaint letter concerned the side steps of cars and the requirement for them to be narrower because of the longer truck centers. Jim Howell talked a little about the Sub-Committee we had that worked on the proposed Plate H diagram. A general discussion among the members continued and the majority of group agreed that the requested changes would have to be studied by all the roads and it would be a major undertaking to lengthen the standard truck center dimension on each plate size.

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 Jim Pearsall, seconded by Bill Thurow. Tom thanked those in attendance for their ongoing efforts to support Committee 28.

Respectfully submitted by:
J.B.Boehle - Secretary