

Minutes
Technical Standards Council
Monday, 24 January 2022
via WebEx

Chairpersons:

Mike Wood; Mike Wood Consulting, LLC
Mike Garl; Mike Garl Consulting, LLC (presiding)

Recording secretaries:

Karl Ruling, Richard Nix, and Erin Grabe (ESTA)

Attendees:

D. Andrew Gibbs, Ph.D.; Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; P
R. Duane Wilson; Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants; A
Michael Lay; Candela Controls, Inc.; P
Mike Skinner; Contract Services Administration Trust Fund; A
Steve Terry; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.; P
Todd Spencer; ESTA President; P
Edwin S. Kramer; I.A.T.S.E. Local 1; P
Alan M. Rowe; IATSE Crafts Advancement Program ; P
Mike Garl; Mike Garl Consulting LLC; P
Mike Wood; Mike Wood Consulting LLC; P
Mitch Hefter; Mitch Hefter; P
Jerry Gorrell; USITT; P
Justin Bennett; USITT; A
William Gillett; Walt Disney Company; A

Visitors:

Javid Butler

1 Opening Remarks

Mike Garl called the meeting to order at 11:05, welcoming everyone to the meeting, and thanking them for taking time to attend during these trying times. He reminded everyone to keep their microphones muted when not speaking.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Taking attendance and introductions

2.2 Welcome to visitors

Javid Butler was welcomed. He is representing himself as part of discussion on a later agenda item.

2.3 Call for quorum

Mike Garl announced that a quorum was present.

2.4 Consensus body

Name	Company or representation	Voting status
Keith Sklar	Actors' Equity	P
D. Andrew Gibbs, Ph.D.	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P
R. Duane Wilson	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A
Michael Lay	Candela Controls, Inc.	P
Matthew Antonucci	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	P
Mike Skinner	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	A

Name	Company or representation	Voting status
Steve Terry	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P
Todd Spencer	ESTA President	P
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P
Alan M. Rowe	IATSE Crafts Advancement Program	P
Mike Garl	Mike Garl Consulting LLC	P
Mike Wood	Mike Wood Consulting LLC	P
Mitch Hefter	Mitch Hefter	P
Bill Sapsis	Sapsis Rigging, Inc.	P
Jerry Gorrell	USITT	P
Justin Bennett	USITT	A
David E. Miller	Walt Disney Company	P
William Gillett	Walt Disney Company	A
	Total votes possible	14

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

See *TSCmin10-2021_DRAFT.pdf*.

Eddie Kramer moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded, then carried without objection or abstentions.

4 Patent and anti-trust statements

4.1 Reading of the anti-trust statement

Mike Garl read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

ESTA and its members take seriously their obligation to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. Therefore, during this meeting and during all ESTA events, all discussions will be limited to those subjects that are permitted by the antitrust laws. All members should refrain from any discussion or mention of competitively sensitive subjects such as the current or future prices charged for any member product or services, current or future marketing plans or strategies, and current or future costs, including employee salaries. There also must be no agreement on the suppliers or customers that members will or will not do business with or the markets in which members will conduct business.

Violations of the antitrust laws can have serious consequences. If you have any questions or concerns about anything that is discussed at an ESTA meeting, please bring your concern to ESTA management. An easy to read pamphlet describing the antitrust laws is available from the ESTA staff.

Karl Ruling held the pamphlet up in front of his camera, for all video enabled attendees to see. No anti-trust concerns were reported.

4.2 Reading of the call for patents

Mike Garl read the following statement aloud to the assembly:

ESTA intends not to publish any standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that information can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent and copyright disclosures to implement its intent. ESTA does not conduct patent or copyright searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.

In keeping with the open disclosures policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify this working group of the existence of a patent, patent application, copyright, or other protected intellectual property that might protect material in a standard being developed by this working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright to notify this working group of its existence.

No protected IP was revealed.

5 Approval of agenda

Richard Nix asked that procedural reconfirmation of the working group chairpersons be done at this meeting. It is required every two years, and was last done in 2020, Mike Garl added it as agenda item 7.4.1.

William Gillett moved to approve the agenda as revised. The motion was seconded, then carried without objection or abstentions.

6 Old Business and standing reports

6.1 Financial reports

6.1.1 Treasurer's Report and Status of Contributions and Pledges

[See TSP_financials_2021-12-31.pdf]

Erin Grabe reported. The financials are interim and reflect the ramp-up of salaries for furloughed staff coming back to their normal work schedules. Mike Wood asked if the deficit shown would be made up by ESTA, or if the TSC needed to make up that difference. Erin said that she expected the deficit to be made up through normal support channels and fundraising.

6.1.2 TSP Fundraising

6.1.3 Accounting of TSP documents sold and downloaded

[See SalesReportforTSC_01-2022.pdf]

The report was noted. There were no questions or discussion.

6.2 Old Business

6.2.1 Technical Standards Program project report

[See TSP Project Status Summary_01-2022r1.pdf]

The report was noted. There were no questions or discussion.

6.2.2 Working group documents for possible action by the TSC

6.2.2.1 Public reviews

6.2.2.1.1 BSR E1.6-4, *Design, Manufacture, and Inspection of Control Systems for Electric Chain Hoists in the Entertainment Industry*

See BSR_E1.6-4-202x_Rig2021-2030r1.pdf. The RWG has this for consideration of first public review.

Richard Nix said that the RWG had approved it for PR1. The motion is now before the TSC for consideration.

Steve Terry moved to approve the first public review. The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously.

A BSR8 announcing the public review will be filed with ANSI by ESTA staff.

6.2.2.1.2 BSR E1.6-5 *Selection and Use of Control Systems for Electric Chain Hoists in the Entertainment Industry*

See BSR_E1.6-5_Rig2021-2031r0.pdf. The RWG has this for consideration of first public review.

Richard Nix said that the RWG had approved it for PR1. The motion is now before the TSC for consideration.

Steve Terry moved to approve the first public review. The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously.

A BSR8 announcing the public review will be filed with ANSI by ESTA staff.

6.2.2.1.3 BSR E1.72, Stage Floor Machinery

See *BSR_E1.72-202x_2022-10001r0.pdf*. The SMWG has this for consideration of first public review.

Richard Nix reported that the motion was withdrawn in working group discussion. He said he expects it to return for action at the next meeting.

6.2.2.2 Withdrawals

None.

6.2.2.3 Accept as ANS

7 New business

7.1 New project request – Weapons Safety

[See *TSP_ProjectRequest - Weapon Safety.pdf*].

The ESWG has this on their agenda.

The ESWG voted to accept the project reported Richard Nix. should it be approved by the TSC.

Karl Ruling gave an overview of the ESWG's discussion. There are industry-developed recommended practices, but no formal standards, and the ESWG vote was not unanimous. He said that the intent is to address weapons used for production, not concealed-carry weapons carried by staff or patrons, or weapons for security staff—only the weapons used in a show.

Mike Wood asked if we had competent or qualified people willing to embark on the project. Karl said he was impressed at the number of people with experience on the ESWG—not just firearms, but edged weapons too. Mitch Hefter said there are knowledgeable people in USITT, and other places. ABTT has published booklets, Actors' Equity has a guidelines document, too.

Todd Spencer said he has fielded a number of calls from those who are concerned in either direction. Generally, people are in favor of formal standards for weapons use in production, but whatever advice we give needs to be carefully thought and involve credible experts.

Mike Wood noted that our insurance coverage should be a consideration in taking on this project. Steve Terry agreed. Erin Grabe was directed to consult with our insurance company and legal counsel to see if we would be covered, or would incur unacceptably high liability.

Mike Lay asked to hold action on the item until the next meeting to allow time for due diligence, and to include time to see what happens with the current pending legal actions relating to the recent "Rust" incident.

Mike Lay asked Alan Rowe his opinions on this topic. Alan said that he thinks there is sufficient guidance already available, so not much effort needs to be placed into new guidance, but he said a standard might help with consolidating various guidelines into a single document.

Mike Skinner said that Safety Bulletins 1 and 2 address firearms and Safety Bulletin 30 addresses edged weapons, but that different union locals have different jurisdictions with respects to weapons. Alan also reminded everyone that there are federal laws pertaining to some of this. Nothing is consistent across the industry.

Mike Wood suggested that none of the currently available documents are ANSI standards, and asked if a standard would be useful. Alan said he thought it would be useful as long as it wasn't trying to rewrite the practices now used in the industry successfully.

After discussion, the consensus voting body agreed hold action on the item until the next meeting.

7.3 Discussion on inclusive language

Mike Lay gave background on "inclusive language." He reminded people that Justin Bennett had submitted a

new TSP project request for inclusive language. That project was not taken up since it is not a technical standard, and the project was deferred to USITT. The USITT effort has seen a first public review. There is a current project underway in the CPWG regarding DMX implementation, which contains the term “master” at three locations within the document’s text. This usage is contrary to the suggestions given by the USITT inclusive language document. Two task group members, Maya Nigrosh and Javid Butler, have opposing views – each has confirmed that a working group decision in either direction would result in appealing to the TSC.

Javid Butler gave a short PowerPoint presentation regarding the origins of the word “master” and its meaning apart from slavery. His closing statement asked that ESTA not accept the USITT Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion document without revision, because it potentially denigrates the efforts of many people who have worked hard to become technically qualified “masters” at their craft.

Steve Terry thanked Javid for the presentation. He said it appears as though the idea of sending this to USITT to address, instead of addressing it here, might be about to go off of the rail, since we are now addressing it.

Mike Wood said that if certain terms offend anyone we should change them.

Erin Grabe said that there are manufacturers who have said they will not implement new terms in legacy documents because it is too costly to do so, but will avoid non-inclusive, offensive terms in future documents.

Mike Wood moved to end discussion, with the understanding that we will follow the USITT EDI, when published. The motion was seconded, and carried without objection

7.4 Other new business

7.4.1 Reconfirmation of the working group chairpersons

Steve Terry moved to reconfirm the current working group chairperson roster. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mike Wood said he was resigning as Fog & Smoke co-chairperson, and asked for suggestions on who might be a likely replacement candidate. He has already informed (and asked) the working group. He was encouraged to find his successor.

8 Optional reports

8.1 Optional reports by working and task group leaders on active projects

8.1.1 Control Protocols

Mike Lay gave a report on CPWG activities. Their WebEx meeting was the previous Wednesday, during which four new applicants were approved, including one from China. There are 12 projects on their agenda.

8.1.2 Electrical Power

Mitch Hefter reported there was nothing to report. The working group has not met since September.

8.1.3 Floors

Jerry Gorrell said there are not many active projects. Karl Ruling said there is activity on the Wire Rope Tension Grid standard.

8.1.4 Fog and Smoke

Mike Wood reported they have one active project on ventilation.

8.1.5 Followspot Position

Karl Ruling reported that E1.28 was opened for revision to add information regarding booth glass. Richard Nix is spearheading this effort, and he will start with the IBC to see what relevant information is contained there, if anything. The major concern is safety, preventing falls through a broken booth window.

Todd Spencer asked if the IEBC would be a possible reference, since most followspot booths are already existing. Richard Nix answered, yes.

8.1.6 Photometrics

Jerry Gorrell reported progress on BSR E1.41.

8.1.7 Rigging

Richard Nix reported in Bill Sapsis' absence. There are several active projects, all of which are making progress. Two came before the TSC today. He noted that there were 85 attendees online for their WebEx meeting on Tuesday.

8.1.8 Stage machinery

Jerry Gorrell reported, reiterating that one of three active documents was retracted from TSC action by the working group.

8.1.9 Event Safety

Richard Nix said that Don Cooper wants to put the brakes on some projects to evaluate their progress and quality.

8.2 Reports of affiliated organizations

8.2.1 ASTC

Andy Gibb reported no news. Duane Wilson concurred.

8.2.2 Event Safety Alliance

8.2.3 NFPA

8.2.3.1 FDW-AAA committee (NFPA 80 fire doors & fire safety curtains)

Jerry Gorrell said they're working their way through the current cycle/series; a lot unrelated to our industry.

8.2.3.2 SPE-AAA (NFPA 160 & 1126, flame and pyrotechnics)

Karl Ruling reported there is a task group addressing "fireballs," mainly working on deciding if they are within the scope of 160 or 1126.

8.2.3.3 SAF-AXM & BLD (assembly occupancies. NFPA 101, 102, & 5000)

Karl Ruling reported they had meetings. They were long but no proposed changes are likely to affect our industry.

8.2.3.4 NEC (NFPA 70)

From an email update sent by Mitch Hefter:

"The 2023 NEC 2nd draft committee balloting concluded December 21, 2021. As of this writing, it is not known if a recirculation ballot will be needed. Next step is the correlating Committee, then onto the NFPA Technical Meeting this June in Boston. BTW, in addition to being the principal rep for IES on Panel 15, I am now also the alternative rep for USITT on Panel 13."

Mitch Hefter had nothing to add in person at the meeting.

8.2.3.5 NFPA 70E

Jerry Gorrell reported nothing to report.

8.2.4 USITT

Mitch Hefter said a conference in Baltimore is still on track.

8.2.5 ICC

Richard Nix reported that there are new Code Change Proposals active in the Group B 2022 change cycle, that may have significant impact on our industry. He and several other engineers in the ESTA constituency have

been providing feedback throughout the development process. He has only just received the private code change proposals two days ago (they won't be made public until mid-February.) The main issue stems from the ASCE's desire to explicitly remove any applicability of ASCE 37 to any temporary structure, except those under construction. This would have a negative impact on us because we use ASCE 37 for all temporary special event structures referenced by ANSI E1.21-2020. He said there is also a chance that ES1.7 (Weather Preparedness) may be successfully referenced, but all depends on the next two months, and ASCE's willingness to collaborate with us on the main code change proposal.

8.2.6 IES

From an email update sent by Mitch Hefter:

"The IES Controls Committee is working resolving Committee comments on new BSR/IES LP-16 – Documenting Control Intent Narratives and Sequence of Operations. If I have more updates by meeting time, I will let you know."

Mitch Hefter had nothing to add in person.

8.2.7 UL

No report.

8.2.8 ASSP

Jerry Gorrell had nothing new to report, except that they are actively working on revisions to the fall protection code.

9 Other business and announcements

9.1 Above & Beyond Awards

Information on the Above & Beyond Awards may be found at http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award_recipients.html. We have many ways to recognize the efforts of volunteers. (line items 9.2, 9.3. and 9.4 below).

Mike Garl reminded everyone of the three opportunities to recognize one's peers, as listed below.

Erin Grabe reported that awards were sent to Maya Nigrosh and Dan Murfin for their work on OTP, and to Alan Rowe for his work on NFPA Article 530.

Steve Terry also commended Alan for successfully convening multiple groups of stakeholders, gaining consensus acceptance prior to actual voting. He said success could not have been possible without Alan's perseverance.

9.2 Lifetime Technical Achievement Award

Duncan McKenzie will be presented this award at the USITT convention at ESTA's AGM.

9.3 Volunteer of the Year Award

9.4 Swan Award

John Sini with High Output will be presented this award.

9.5 TSP participation fee donor fund

9.7 INNOVA

10 Schedule for future meetings

The meeting schedule is posted at <http://www.esta.org/ESTA/meetings.php>. The next TSC meeting will be held in conjunction with the USITT conference; in-person, 15:00 – 18:00 EST on Thursday 04 March 2022, somewhere in Baltimore, MD.

The Summer 2022 meetings again will be held in conjunction with the rescheduled NAMM Show 2022, in-person, 03-05 June 2022, Anaheim, CA.

Erin Grabe said we are currently in contract discussions with DFW Marriott Solana for Fall meetings. There will be a Plugfest.

11 Adjournment

Alan Rowe arrived at this time. There was discussion on several topics, the summaries of which are placed up in the agenda, at each specific agenda item's location.

The agenda business completed, there being no new business, Mike Garl declared the meeting adjourned at 12:38.

Technical Standards Council members

Name	Representing	Status
Matthew Antonucci	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	A
Justin Bennett	USITT	A
Harry Box	PERG	O
Mike Garl	Mike Garl Consulting LLC	P
William Gillett	Walt Disney Company	A
Jerry Gorrell	USITT	P
Mitch Hefter	Mitch Hefter	P
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P
Michael Lay	Candela Controls, Inc	P
David E. Miller	Walt Disney Company	P
D. Andrew Gibbs, Ph.D.	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P
Eddie Raymond	IATSE Local 16	O
Alan M. Rowe	IATSE Crafts Advancement Program	P
Bill Sapsis	Sapsis Rigging, Inc.	P
Mike Skinner	Contract Services Administration Trust Fund	P
Keith Sklar	Actors' Equity Association	P
Todd Spencer	ESTA President	P
Steve Terry	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P
R. Duane Wilson	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A
Mike Wood	Mike Wood Consulting LLC	P