

MINUTES
Fog and Smoke Working Group
Saturday, January 23, 1999
Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott
Irving, Texas

Chairman: Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling

Members attending: Murray Gellatly; A.C. Lighting Ltd.; Principal; General interest
Brad Dittmer; Associated Theatrical Contractors; Principal; User
Gary Falls; City Theatrical, Inc.; Principal; Producer
Edwin S. Kramer; IATSE, Local 1; Principal; User (joined at this meeting)
Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.; Principal; Producer
Adrian Segeren; Le Maitre Special Effects; Principal; Producer
Martin Michaud; MDG Fog Generators Ltd.; Alternate; Producer
Tim Cox; PLASA; Principal; General interest
Martin Becker; Reel EFX; Alternate; Producer
Eric Tishman; Rosco Laboratories; Principal; Producer
Eckart Steffens; SOUNDLIGHT (VPLT rep); Alternate; General interest
Bill Hektner; USITT Health & Safety Commissioner; Principal; General interest

1 Opening remarks

Larry Schoeneman called the meeting to order at 13:09.

Schoeneman started the meeting by giving an update on Larisa Rudenko, the work proposal we have with her, and her current employment situation. The TSC finally, after much delay, approved her proposal. Rudenko is not with Environ anymore, however. She is now with Life Sciences Consultancy, and it is that company that will do our stink test. For our information, Schoeneman noted that Ken Wilmarth is still with Environ, but is now located on the West Coast.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Introductions of those present

Everybody introduced himself and gave his company or organizational affiliation.

2.2 Determination of quorum (5 needed)

Schoeneman announced that we have a quorum.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

Martin Michaud for MDG, Eckart Steffens for VPLT, and Martin Becker for Reel EFX were recognized.

2.4 Requirements for membership

Schoeneman noted that the attendance rule has been modified slightly. We now have representation on the F&S Working Group from overseas trade associations. These representatives, because of the extraordinary cost of coming here, may not be able to meet the general meeting requirements. Thus, the attendance rule is changed to:

"Except for organizational members, a member's voting status will be changed to observer if he misses two consecutive meetings, pending that member's attendance at another meeting. "

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Eddie Kramer applied as a principal representing the IATSE Local 1. Schoeneman asked for the will of the group. By show of hands, there were 11 in favor of accepting Kramer and none against. Kramer was admitted as a principal voting member.

Monona Rossol applied as an individual member representing herself. By show of hands the vote was 11 in favor of accepting her, and none against. Rossol was admitted as an individual voting member.

2.6 Processing of changes to observer status

None.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Bill Hektner moved that the minutes be accepted. Eric Tishman seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

4 Approval of Agenda

Bill Hektner moved that the agenda be accepted. Eric Tishman seconded. Unanimous by show of hands.

5 Call for patents:

Schoeneman read the following statement:

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

"In keeping with the open disclosure policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify the working group of the existence of a patent or copyright that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright in order to notify the working group of its existence. "

No patent or other intellectual property issues were declared by anyone.

6 Anti-Trust Statement

Schoeneman read the following statement:

"The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee, and the leadership of this Working Group will reject or nullify any actions that restrain trade. Anyone who feels that an action restraining trade is being or has been taken is requested to bring the matter to the attention of the chair immediately. Anyone who feels that actions in restraint of trade have been taken and not properly annulled is requested to notify the TSC chair or ESTA president immediately."

"ESTA legal counsel has informed us that any member of this working group may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this working group. An individual convicted of a violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as \$100,000 and be imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade is available from the Technical Standards Committee."

7 Task Group Reports

7.1 Fog standard E1.5

The TSC accepted the 'stink test' proposal from Rudenko. Schoeneman had already explained this in his opening remarks.

7.2 Fog machine instruction manual standard (Brad Dittmer & Lee Iwanski)

Brad Dittmer reported that the draft standard was not ready to present yet.

7.3 Fog Book III

7.3.1 TSC's acceptance of the addendum

Ruling reported that the TSC had accepted the addendum to the Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects. It was now up to Lori, MaryLisa, and him to layout the inserts, to get them printed, and to figure out how to get them inserted and the covers marked to indicate that the books contain the addendum.

7.3.2 New edition (Ruling)

Ruling distributed the beginnings of his first draft of the revised Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects. It was a very rough document, and was not ready for any action, but showed what he intended to include.

Eckart Steffens asked that Florian von Hofen be added to the credits.

7.4 CMA project (Schoeneman and Segeren)

Schoeneman reported that he had talked with Larisa Rudenko and told her of the Dow letter banning sale of mono-propylene glycol for use in fog machines. Rudenko wanted to know where the letter came from, so Schoeneman needs to know that to pass the information on to her. Tishman reported that Rosco was having this problem in Brazil.

8 Old Business

There was no report on Gary Crawford's letter asking for documentation.

9 Liaison Reports

9.1 PLASA (Tim Cox)

Cox reported that he needs a letter from the F&S Working Group to back up a funding request for the stink test. Schoeneman said he'd send one, and one to VPLT too.

9.2 JATET (Schoeneman)

No report.

9.3 VPLT (von Hofen)

Eckart said that Schaidt had sent a letter saying that it is not hard to get raw materials for fog fluid in Germany so far.

9.4 Labor Unions (Fails)

Fails reported that air curtains to control fog are going into the Majestic.

Eddie Kramer was asked about Local One, but had no formal report to offer.

Fails suggested that Kramer talk to George Green at Local 1 for updates on the Union and its concerns regarding atmospheric effects. Kramer suggested that he and Fails should divvy up who to talk to whom for a union report. This report on future agendas will be the "Kramer and Fails Report."

Schoeneman offered to send a letter to Local One thanking them for sending Kramer. No motion was offered from the floor, but the tenor of the conversation seemed to be that this was a good idea.

10 New business

10.1 There was a discussion, initiated by the chair, of when we should cancel meetings. If there is too little work to do, it would be more cost-effective to postpone a meeting until the next meeting time. Schoeneman announced that in the future, if at three weeks before a scheduled meeting time it doesn't look like we will have enough to do, the meeting would be postponed until the next normal meeting time.

10.2 We discussed the timetable for the new edition of the Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects. Ruling said that by USITT there should be enough of the booklet done to take a whack at it, but big work would be done by the July meeting.

10.3 Tishman asked, as we do more research, how do we add new chemicals to be investigated to the list? The particular question was about PEG 200, which had been used by High End and is now being used by Rosco.

Schoeneman said he'd ask Rudenko if it costs more to add PEG200 to the stink test. If not, we'll go ahead. If more, we'll decide what to do then. Ruling pointed out that standards need to be updated every three to five years anyway, and so any list in the standard would have to be updated regularly.

10.4 Martin Becker moved that we go to the Board for funding for a legal search of concluded litigation dealing with theatrical smokes and fogs. Brad Dittmer seconded.

There was discussion dealing with what this information would tell us, and whom it would benefit. The discussion also touched on judgements of how much information would be available, given that civil suits are often sealed and the litigants and that there was a judgement or settlement is public knowledge.

Bill Hektner moved the previous question, which passed with more than a 2/3rds majority.

The motion that we go to the board for funding for a legal search failed with one in favor and eleven opposed.

10.5 Becker moved that we draft a request for proposals (RFP) for a search of the concluded litigation, and that this RFP be sent to the Board for approval. The motion failed for lack of a second.

10.6 Adrian Segeren asked "What's up?" with NFPA 160, Special Effects before a Proximate Audience. Schoeneman answered that the review cycle is starting, but that no meetings have been held yet. He said the group has no desire to deal with smoke and fog.

11 Other business

None.

12 Schedule for future meetings

Schoeneman announced that the next meeting will be Friday night, March 26, 19:00 to 23:00 (7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.) in Toronto at the Royal York Hotel.

13 Adjournment

Bill Hektner and Eckart Steffens moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn. Schoeneman declared the meeting adjourned at 15:15.

F&S Working Group Membership List As Of The End Of The January 23, 1999 Meeting

Name	Company	Vote Stat.	Int. Cat.
Murray Gellatly	A.C. Lighting Ltd.	P	G
Hugh A. Rose	Alliance of Motion Pict. & Television Prod.	O	G
Brad Dittmer	Associated Theatrical Contractors	P	U
Patrick O'Rourke	Big Apple Lights	O	U
Gary Crawford	C.I.T.C.	P	P
Gary Fails	City Theatrical, Inc.	P	P
F. Lee Iwanski	Four Star Lighting	P	U
Mike Wood	High End Systems	P	P
Lowell Fowler	High End Systems	A	P
Edwin S. Kramer	IATSE, Local 1	P	U
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	P	P
Jack Suesse	J.R. Clancy, Inc.	O	G
Greg Meeh	Jauchem & Meeh, Inc.	O	P
Norman Wright	Jem Smoke Machine Co./Group One	O	P
Jon Petts	Jem Smoke Machine Co, Ltd.	O	P
Adrian Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	P	P
Randy Segeren	Le Maitre Special Effects	A	P
Marc Gingras	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	P	P

Name	Company	Vote Stat.	Int. Cat.
Martin Michaud	MDG Fog Generators Ltd.	A	P
Monona Rossol	Monona Rossol	I	G
Tim Cox	PLASA	P	G
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA Standards Office	A	G
George Sabbi	PRG Lighting Division	O	U
Jim Gill	Reel EFX	P	P
Martin Becker	Reel EFX	A	P
Eric Tishman	Rosco Laboratories	P	P
Dan Faulkner	Rosco/ Entertainment Technology	A	P
Gordon Pearlman	Rosco/ Entertainment Technology	A	P
Heinz Siller	RST Präsentationssysteme	O	G
Beverly Huggins	SFX Design, Inc.	O	P
Eckart Steffens	SOUNDLIGHT (VPLT rep)	A	G
Nathan Kahn	Theatre Effects, Inc.	P	P
Thomas Costello	TJC and Associates	P	G
Colin Waters	TMB Associates	O	G
James F. Foley	UCISCO, Inc.	P	P
Bill Hektner	USITT Health & Safety Commissioner	P	G
Rob Schneider	University of Arizona	O	U

Name	Company	Vote Stat.	Int. Cat.
Florian Von Hofen	VPLT	P	G
Gunther Schaidt	VPLT / Safex Chemie	A	P
Jeffrey Lind	Walt Disney Imagineering	O	U
Michael Zilz	Zilz International GmbH	O	G

Status:

P = Principal voting member
A = Alternate voting member
I = Individual voting member
O = Observer, non-voting

Interest Category:

P = Producer of fog equipment
U = User of fog equipment
G = General interest