

NHA C&S Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2005

Steering Committee Members

Present

Susan Townsend (Chair)
Bill Hoagland
Bob Boyd (with Mike McGowan)
Mike Swain
William Collins

Absent

Carol Bailey (meeting conflict)
Larry Moulthrop (meeting conflict)
Tom Joseph (meeting conflict)
Chris Sloane
Krishna Sapru

Staff

Present

Karen Hall
Patrick Serfass

Susan Townsend called the meeting to order at 2:13PM EDT.

Introductions were made. No breaking news was reported.

Susan Townsend said she liked having all the meeting items on the Member's Only site (<http://www.hydrogenassociation.org/MembersOnly/c&sSteering.asp>). Patrick Serfass will pass Dr. Townsend's comments onto Andre Cutair, TTC's graphics coordinator. **ACTION**

Minutes from the previous Steering Committee telecom (May 18, 2005) were approved unanimously.

Information Items

2005 Fuel Cell Seminar Hydrogen Workshop: "Understanding Hydrogen Energy Technologies"

Karen Hall reported that staff is looking for speakers for the topics on the agenda (see document). The Steering Committee asked staff to provide information on who the expected audience is and what the goals are for the workshop. **ACTION** Karen explained that the audience will be mainly technical folks who know a little about fuel cells, but probably little about hydrogen storage and infrastructure. They appreciate technical detail.

Bill Collins volunteered to either cover the hydrogen specification topic or to convince Mike Steele (GM) to do it. ACTION Mr. Collins also offered to get in touch with Ned Stetson to see if he's interested in speaking on the hydride topics ACTION

Ms. Hall's goal is to collect bios by the 3rd week in July (July 18-22).

Discussion on other agenda topics ensued: The Steering Committee suggested that instead of fuel cell installations, that commercial hydrogen installations be considered instead. Dr. Townsend reported that Ray Hobbs (APS) gave a good learning description of the project in Phoenix and perhaps Brad Smith (Shell Hydrogen) could talk about the DC hydrogen station. DTE's Rob Reagan was also suggested to talk about their power park project as was NextEnergy's Michael Quah. Patrick Serfass suggested a fire marshal's perspective for code implementation (Kevin Scott, Kern County) and Dr. Townsend agreed. Dr. Townsend also suggested that the NHA logo be included in the workshop room (podium) and on the agendas. ACTION (2:31PM)

14th Quarterly Report to DOE, Q1-2005

Mr. Serfass reported that the report is a summary of the NHA's activities from the first quarter of 2005 that were performed in accordance with the DOE C&S contract. No action was taken by the committee

Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Safety: New website and report

<http://www.hydrogenandfuelcellsafety.info>

Ms. Hall reported that NREL asked NHA Staff to expand the *Hydrogen Safety Report* to include other activities and interests (like fuel cells, for example). Users can still search the technical resources and archives from the original Hydrogen Safety Report. Dr. Townsend suggested that staff demonstrate the website in front of large audiences, like at the Fuel Cell Seminar workshop. To Mr. Collins' question about whether the NHA will have a booth at the Seminar, Mr. Serfass explained that the E&O Committee has decided not to spend dues on public events this year, but that the NHA would be open to partnering with the CaFCP, USFCC or others if they are interested. The website could be shown at the booth

Patrick Serfass asked committee members to send him any comments on how to improve the site. ACTION (2:38)

RABQSA Working Group

Since Larry Moulthrop was unable to attend the teleconference, he forwarded his report on this activity prior to the call. Mr. Serfass read his short email:

"I can report that the RABQSA personal certification activity is proceeding at its own pace. Experts on scheme committee are on telecom today to review exam questions. Notably, former chairman of scheme committee Doug Rode of Hydrogen Safety has withdrawn from this effort for business reasons. I still recommend we take a wait and see position on the RABQSA activity and not endorse at this time."

Mr. Collins reported that UTC is monitoring this work and becoming more and more disillusioned with the effort. UTC Fully supports training, continuing education credits and showing that hydrogen can be handled like other fuels, however personally, Mr. Collins feels that the requirements RABQSA asks to certify personnel will not give the public an acceptable level of comfort. Mike McGowan said that BOC is considering pulling out as well. The Steering Committee asked that this topic be kept on the agenda for the next meeting. ACTION

(2:42)

State of Outside (non-dues) NHA C&S Funding

Mr. Serfass reported that NREL has funded the C&S outreach work, primarily the Hydrogen Safety Report, fully through the end of CY05. Ms. Hall added that beyond CY05, NREL anticipates issuing a competitive solicitation. The NHA has received 2 ½ years of funding and this money has come out of Steve Chalk's budget.

For the DOE contract, activities include: technical input ICC, SAE, NFPA, ISO work, etc. NHA has a history of being funded at \$150K /year. This fiscal year, that amount was reduced to \$75k, but since there was a deficit from CY04 and the money arrived late, only \$30-40K is actually available this year—much, much less than previously expected. Including dues that have been allocated to this activity for cost-share (\$45k this year), only \$35K is left in total (all of the DOE funds have been spent) from now until end of FY05. Currently, the NHA has about a \$10K/month burn rate with severely reduced activity. Mr. Serfass stated that we need to reduce this further. No action was taken by the committee. (2:51)

Discussion Items

Prioritizing NHA C&S efforts

Dr. Townsend explained that the purpose of this discussion, in this current period of severely reduced funding, is to identify the top priority things that we should address this CY05

Ms. Hall reported that including articles in the *Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Safety Report* from many authors gives others the perception that the NHA is more involved. She also stated that hydrogen fuel quality, which currently has activities from SAE and ISO TC 197 WG12, should be a high priority activity. Members of the SAE task force and WG12 do not cover the broad range of stakeholders in the hydrogen community.

Dr. Townsend said that comparing the NHA to USFCC, there is better communication and member leaders within the USFCC. One difference between why there's more activity in FCS than hydrogen is that fuel cells are more commercialized and in order for them to get that way, the C&S were needed to get into place. On the appliance level, there is not the same level of commercialization for hydrogen.

Ms. Hall expressed that if the NHA stopped efforts on model codes, members would have the most grief. Hydrogen is a larger subject, with more technologies, compared to fuel cells and so it's natural that it might appear less coordinated.

Discussion ensued on this last point with input on the differences between the C&S programs of the NHA and USFCC. USFCC's groups have a narrower focus based on specific tasks instead of topics like the NHA's groups. Ms. Hall explained that the NHA has disbanded many groups designed to operate similar to USFCC task groups because of lack of interest. Mr. Serfass said that it sounds like we need to stick with a focused WG structure, but change the topics. Mr. Collins suggested that the NFPA issues be one of them and added that with the WG structure, smaller companies find value in being in contact with the larger ones. If the NHA can get more members to lobby as a unit (and vote as a block) on NFPA issues and others, our efforts will be much more successful.

Discussion ensued on where the consensus is among NHA members on whether a consolidated NFPA hydrogen code should be developed. Mike Swain offered to be the connecting person between NFPA and NHA through NFPA's Kathleen Almand. Mr. Collins also suggested coordination with George Earle to identify the NPFA C&S applicable to hydrogen, schedule/cycle, and who the voting members are. ACTION Any comments on the proposed consolidation coming from members should be submitted before July 7, 2005.

As the discussion shifted to answering the question, "Where should we focus our efforts with such limited funding this year?" Mr. Collins suggested that the NHA share this information with CGA, USFCC and API to get buy in (Debbi Angerman, Prentiss Searles, Tony Androsky). ACTION

Other activities mentioned in discussion to be considered for priority::

- NFPA 55, 50 (CGO2), 50A (CGH2), 50B (LH2)
 - Committee members/experts know little about hydrogen for NFPA 86, 57, 99
- Setback distances
 - Real issues were legacy issues from 50A and 50B that have been transferred to 55. Sandia work is a 'hot button' issue
 - NFPA has an RFP out: What accident scenarios were used to establish the existing setback/separation distances? Some think it was only for maintenance. Focus: setbacks for hydrogen cabinets.
- ASME B31—piping code for hydrogen
 - Some folks involved: Bill Collins, UTC; Swagelok; Jim Campbell, Air Liquide; Tom Joseph, Air Products.

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Industry Code Panel

Since the meeting was running quite late, Mr. Serfass explained that the information in the document provided to the committee was self explanatory. The document was essentially a proposal (with buy-in from ICC and DOE) to continue efforts to expand the ICC codes to include hydrogen. NHA staff needs input from the Steering Committee on whether there is support for continuing this activity, although the name will change. Mr. Serfass will pose this question via email. ACTION (4:11)

Decision Items

Next Committee Meeting

The committee proposed to have an in-person meeting with teleconference capabilities in conjunction with the Combined National Hydrogen and Fuel Cells C&S Coordinating Committee/US TAG Team, July 18 or 19, in Troy, Michigan. Mr. Collins is planning to be in Troy and Bob Boyd is only available on the 18th. Mr. Serfass will work with SAE to procure a room. ACTION

Preparation for meeting with Pat Davis

Mr. Serfass explained that the NHA needs to have a document with its priorities for FY06 to share with Mr. Davis. This will be the topic of conversation on June 29, 2005. Dr. Townsend said that this document needs to show that the NHA's program includes many essential activities so that we can assure that we will get funded. Ms. Hall will draft the document by the Monday before Wednesday's meeting. ACTION

Adjourned: 4:40

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