

SECTION 305 FINANCE and ADMINISTRATIVE SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES MARCH 6, 2019 3:00PM EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Tim Ziethen, Chair of the S305 Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC)</i>
ATTENDEES	<i>Tim Ziethen, Jeff Gordon, Ray Hessinger, Eric Curtit, Amanda Martin, Arun Rao, Mike Murray, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Michael Lestingi, Beth Nachreiner, Brent Thompson, Tim Hoeffner, Brian Beeler II, Jason Biggs, John Bell, Larry Salci</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1. Welcome and Open Meeting – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Subcommittee Chair, Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, opened the conference call meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

2. Roll Call – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum

3. Approval of Minutes from the 2-6-19 call – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

On a motion by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, and a second by Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, the minutes from 2-6-19 were approved as presented.

4. Summary Overview 2019 NGEC Annual Meeting – Tim Ziethen:

Tim Ziethen and Steve Hewitt provided an overview of the NGEC Annual Meeting.

Tim noted that the meeting went well, the participation was good.

Tim added that he was pleased to see Mario Bergeron (former NGEC Vice Chair and Amtrak CMO) and his VIA Rail contingent at the NGEC Annual Meeting. The presentation was informative and beneficial to those in attendance.

As for the "order of business" of the meeting. Tim commented that it was run "efficiently and effectively".

Tim then segued into – what is next, asking "do we need to expand or change roles or activities we are doing? Is there an opportunity to do more?"

Tim also asked if there are other speakers and/or topics of interest for the next Annual Meeting.

Steve Hewitt was asked to give his overview as well and he noted that he though the meeting was very well attended and productive. There were approximately 70 attendees – slightly more than last year – a good sign.

Feedback has been excellent – several industry members contacted Steve Hewitt to let him know how pleased they were with the meeting, its flow, its information and its length. The new half day format was a hit.

The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved by the Board. A copy of the final presentation was sent last night along with the agenda.

All presentations have been sent to AASHTO for posting to the NGEC website.

Weighing in on Tim's points about speakers and future activities, Steve noted that a change in activities would require a change to the Statement of Work so it would need to be thought through as to what those changes (in activities) should be. Tim concurred.

Eric Curtit commented that “next year we will be running to the end of our authorization, and we do need to see what the Fed wants to do...with vehicles procured and in service, what is the direction of standardized specs?”

Tim asked if there were other entities doing similar work.

Eric stated that APTA develops specs but not standardized.

Steve Hewitt added that it was the standardization of the equipment specifications that was the goal when the NGEN was established and is what separates this committee from others.

Eric added that PRIIA established the NGEN for equipment to be constructed under the stimulus Act (ARRA) and it will be important to see where this effort goes and what the Fed wants to do going forward with standardization.

**5.
Future Funding Options – next steps – time frame – Tim Ziethen:**

The discussion continued into agenda item 5:

Steve Hewitt commented that looking at reauthorization of the FAST Act, the first order of business is to make sure that the NGEN is reauthorized in the successor to the FAST Act. The committee was reauthorized in the FAST act without any additional funds being included and would need to be authorized again – and potentially with funding attached.

The discussion revolved around how to sell Congress on reauthorizing the NGEN, and it was emphasized that the NGEN cannot lobby, but can educate – which is the purpose of the two-page educational document. Beyond that, it is most important that other organizations support the reauthorization of the NGEN.

Shayne Gill, AASHTO, reported that AASHTO has called for the NGEN to be reauthorized in its Authorization Principles, and the States for Passenger Rail have included it in its DRAFT principles. Shayne noted that Amtrak should likely also call for it.

Tim Ziethen will follow up with Amtrak’s Government affairs office to make that point.

Steve Hewitt noted that, being authorized is one key step, but another important step, one which the FASC should take on, is looking at whether or not it is eligible for another extension of the current grant agreement (no-cost). If the answer is yet, the process should begin soon. If the answer is no, then the effort to get an appropriation for a new grant is crucial.

Tim Ziethen agreed to talk to the grants office at Amtrak to see if it is possible to get another no-cost extension of the grant.

**6.
Other Issues/Questions – All:**

Adjourn:

With no further business forthcoming, Chairman Ziethen adjourned today’s meeting at around 3:20pm Eastern.

The next call is scheduled for April 3, 2019

The call-in number is:

888 585-9008 passcode 559-120-127#

Decisions - Action Items

Legislative Outreach – developing a strategy and implementation plan to obtain future federal funds for the NGEN

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Revising/updating the two-page NGEC Educational Document and the NGEC “vision” statement:

The new two-pager was distributed at the NGEC Annual meeting and is available by request through Steve Hewitt.

Overview: Quarterly Grant Progress Report to FRA – submitted 1-31-19:

Tim Ziethen reported that the Quarterly Grant Progress Report to FRA has been submitted. Tim will provide Steve Hewitt with the submittal for distribution to FASC and Executive Board members.

Task Complete – the Quarterly report was distributed to all FASC members and Board members following the last FASC call.

Next report due to FRA April 30, 2019.

888 585-9008 passcode 559-120-127#
Next Call 4-3-19

ATTACHMENTS



Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

SECTION 305 NGEC Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC)

Conference call

3-6-19

3:00PM Eastern

888 585-9008 passcode 559-120-127#

AGENDA

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| 1. Welcome/Open | Tim Ziethen |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approval of the Minutes from 2-6-19 | Tim Ziethen |
| 4. Summary/Overview Annual Meeting | Tim Ziethen |
| 5. Future Funding Options – next steps – time frame | Tim Ziethen |
| 6. Other Issues/questions | All |

Next Call April 3, 2019

888 585-9008 passcode 559-120-127#