

SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

APRIL 29, 2014

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>Eric Curtit, Jack Madden for Ray Hessinger, John Tunna as proxy for Paul Nissenbaum, Eric Curtit as proxy for Tammy Nicholson, Ron Pate, Tim Hoeffner, John Oimoen, Stan Hunter, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II, Support Staff:</i> <i>Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Steve Hewitt, David Ewing, Larry Salci, Vincent Brotski,</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Mario Bergeron, Paul Nissenbaum, Gerald Sokol, Ray Hessinger, Paul Worley, Tammy Nicholson, Craig Moody, Donna Brown-Martin, Support:</i> <i>Jason Biggs, Kerri Woehler, Allan Paul, Arun Rao, Jeff Gordon, Sara Sarkhili, Melissa Shurland, Dale Engelhardt, Dave Warner, Darrell Smith, Patrick Centolanzi, Martin Schroeder, Andy House</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board:

Chairman Curtit opened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

2.

Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, Manager, S305 NGENC Support Services:

Steve Hewitt called the roll and reported the lack of the presence of a quorum due to the absence of both Amtrak members of the Executive Board, and no designated proxy.

It was agreed that the call would go on, but no votes would be taken.

3.

Review of Action Items Status – Steve Hewitt:

Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

Status: This remains as an ongoing agenda item – to be discussed as agenda item #5

305-209 Working Group updates: Ron Pate will provide a list of the members of the 514 working group to Steve Hewitt to update the NGENC record. **Task complete – list received.**

Ron will continue to provide updates to the Board on the progress of the "514" working group.

Status: Update under agenda item #9.

Bi-Level Review Panel Membership:

Status: Eric Curtit has talked to Paul Worley about the possibility of Allan Paul, NCDOT, becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel. Eric will reach out to Allan to determine his interest in serving as a Review Panel member.

On this topic: LeAnna Wall is a member of all of the Review Panels – representing Wisconsin DOT – with the change in Wisconsin membership on the Board – this seat needs to be addressed – Is Wisconsin remaining on the Panel – and – if so - who will be the representative.

Stan Hunter to provide DCRs on the bi-level cars and d-e locomotive to Eric Curtit and Dave Warner.

Status: Both, the bi-level list of DCRs and the D-E locomotive list have been submitted to Eric Curtit and Dave Warner. Dave and Jeff Gordon are conducting a review of the changes as per the NGENC DCR process. Under agenda item #6 the Chair will discuss anticipated timelines for receiving those changes and for convening the respective Review Panels.

NGENC Procurement updates: The 2 procurements – bi-level cars and the diesel-electric locomotives-will continue to be standing agenda items on the Executive Board calls. **Status: Agenda items # 7 and 8.**

NGEC Future discussion: Eric Curtit tabled the discussion on the last call in order to re-think it going forward.
Status: Eric will provide an update on his thoughts on the next steps for the NGEC Future effort and, subsequently, discuss a tentative plan for the next face to face Executive Board Meeting. Agenda item #10.

Virginia DRPT request: Eric Curtit has continued to reach out to Kevin Paige to get his assistance in gauging the needs for this type of equipment going forward.

Status: Eric reported that he has reached out several times, but still has not gotten a response from Kevin Paige. If, and when he does hear from Kevin, he will report back to the Board.

Developing a Reauthorization Strategy: It was agreed that the 2-page Backgrounder will be the primary educational document to be distributed to Congress and others. As the NGEC future effort makes progress and if statutory changes are needed, a follow up to the Backgrounder in regard to those changes will be the next step.

Status: A distribution of new Backgrounders has been sent out from AASHTO. (Steve Hewitt received his on April 24, 2014 – Board members should be on the look-out for their distribution). Steve has already received a request for 60 Backgrounders from Technical subcommittee industry participant Al Engel. Al will be speaking at a conference on the US Intercity Passenger Rail Program at the end of this week and a portion of his presentation will be about the NGEC. The Backgrounders were sent out to Al on Thursday (4-24-14) by AASHTO.

RR202 webinar on "the Basics of Program Management": On the last call it was agreed that John Tunna would send Shayne Gill a re-wording of the title for the May 1st webinar to better relate it to the NGEC's work.

Status: As a result of FRA's ongoing concerns with regard to RR202 webinar topics – that they be directly related to rolling stock if they are to be sponsored by 305 - the Basics of Program Management webinar scheduled for May 1, 2014 will not be a 305 webinar. It will still take place, but as an AASHTO Rail Resource Center activity rather than a joint effort.

Shayne Gill confirmed that the webinar will take place as scheduled, via AASHTO, on May 1, 2014 at 2:00PM Eastern.

4.

Approval of Minutes from the April 15, 2014 Executive Board conference call – Eric Curtit:

This item was tabled until the next call due to a lack of a quorum.

5.

Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit asked John Oimoen, IDOT to provide a brief progress report on the activities of the Mid-West states in regard to Fleet management and Section 6 requirements.

John reported that the group has been meeting monthly. FRA's Wynne Davis has been the catalyst and the one who has been the driving force in getting the group together.

Key topics being discussed include:

Fleet Management – communication and coordination

Ownership – options

Overall, the group is proactive and good progress is being made on.

6.

Status: Review of Bi-Level Car Change Requests – anticipated timeline – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit reported that progress has been made in regard to Bi-Level Car change requests. The DCRs have been submitted to Dave Warner (also - Eric Curtit and Jeff Gordon, FRA) by Stan Hunter. Dave and Jeff have reviewed the items and sent some comments back to Stan Hunter. Stan expects to respond to Dave and Jeff this week. After that – the DCRs will adhere to the process as defined during active procurement and will be submitted to Chairman Curtit who will, in turn, convene the Bi-Level Review Panel to begin its review of the changes against the requirements document. Larry Salci will be the consultant to the Review Panel and will develop the report with recommendations for its consideration and ultimate approval and submittal to the Executive Board.

7.

Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive – John Oimoen:

John Oimoen reported that the official “kick off” was held on April 14-15, 2014 at the Siemens plant in Sacramento, Ca. The meetings were well attended with representatives from Siemens, FRA, Washington State DOT, Caltrans and others.

“It was a good day and a half.” Discussions revolved around key topics such as project management and setting up scheduling meetings.

Preliminary Design Review is scheduled to begin the week of May 19th, 2014.

All in all it has been a good start. John also noted that they are following the process and format for document control that has been used for the bi-level cars.

8.

Status Update: Bi-level car procurement – Stan Hunter:

Stan Hunter reported that “we are in the second week of a two week Final Design Review in Chicago, Illinois.” Last week and this week a variety of items are completing final review, including a few items (IE electric locker) that were re-evaluated.

At conclusion of this Final Design Review process there will remain some documentation to close out a few items That are not quite ready yet for final FDR – so there will be some work to do after this week in that regard.

The next step will be to begin holding monthly progress review meetings either in Chicago or Rochelle. The effort will shift from engineering to the manufacturing side.

Stan noted, also, that he is pulling together an equipment compatibility oversight team to evaluate interoperability issues “to be sure we’ve got everything right.” It will basically be a “procedural check list.”

9.

Status update – 514 Working Group – Ron Pate:

Ron Pate reported that there “has been a lot of information sharing – we have been getting a lot of information that has been helpful.”

He has prepared a list of “identified items for next steps.

Some of the items he identified included:

- The Amtrak audit process
- The reconciliation process
- How to incorporate spreadsheet information into a form that can become a public document.
- Draft Capital Investment plan.

Ron reported that he has sent out a work program for discussion on the next call along with dates for responses.

Although the effort is still challenging, “we are making progress and may get a product...we are by far in a better place than we were.” He noted that the key for states is to have “predictability and a clear message.”

10.

Discussion: NGEC Future/next face to face Board meeting – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit provided some brief thoughts on advancing the NGEC future effort or, “what do we want to be when we grow up”.

Eric noted that the key questions still to be answered in any effort to look at the NGEC future include “How, what and purpose.

It is Eric’s intent to establish a working group to begin focusing on next steps. He is asking for volunteers from among the Board members, and will reach out specifically to members to ask that they take part.

The next call is: May 13, 2014, 11:30am Eastern

Decisions/Action Items – 4-29-14 Executive Board Conference Call

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item

305-209 Working Group updates: Ron will continue to provide updates to the Board on the progress of the “514” working group.

Bi-Level Review Panel Membership: Eric Curtit will continue to follow up with NCDOT about possibly becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel.

NGEC Procurement updates: The 2 procurements – bi-level cars and the diesel-electric locomotives-will continue to be standing agenda items on the Executive Board calls.

NGEC Future discussion: Board members are asked to contact Eric Curtit to express interest in serving on an NGEC Future Working Group. Eric will also reach out to some Board members to request that they serve on the working group. (this will remain an ongoing agenda item)

Virginia DRPT request: Eric will report back to the Board once he has heard from Kevin Paige.

Board members are asked to submit recommendations for a location and date for the next face to face Executive Board meeting. The Board will not meet during the Denver SCORT meeting.

ATTACHMENTS



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

S305 NGEN Executive Board Conference Call
April 29, 2014
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern
Call in number: 866 299 7945 passcode: 1601544#

Agenda

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from the April 15, 2014 conference call | Eric Curtit |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 | Eric Curtit |
| 6. Status: Review of Bi-Level Car Change requests – anticipated Timeline | Eric Curtit |
| 7. Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive procurement | John Oimoen |
| 8. Status Update: Bi-Level Car procurement | Stan Hunter |
| 9. Status Update: 305– 209 Working Group | Ron Pate |
| 10. Discussion: NGEN Future/next face to face Board Meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 11. Other | All |

Next Call: May 13, 2014