
SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

OCTOBER 24, 2017

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Eric Curtit, Mario Bergeron, Ray Hessinger, Tim Ziethen, Beth Nachreiner for Michael Lestingi, Amanda Martin, Allan Paul, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, John Oimoen, John Oimoen also as proxy for Arun Rao, Kyle Gradinger, Tim Hoeffner, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II Support Staff: Jon Dees, Momo Tamaoki, George Hull, Bill Auve, Tammy Krause, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Charles King, Steve Hewitt
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Michael Lestingi, Arun Rao, Ron Pate, John Rosacker, Support: Jeff Gordon, Sal DeAngelo, Larry Salci, Patrick Centolanzi

DECISIONS MADE

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

Chairman Curtit, Missouri DOT, convened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

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

3. Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:

All actions items were to be covered under today's agenda, but for the record, a status update of all open items, as of the start of this meeting, is included below:

Procurement Updates:

Status Update – Multi-state Car Procurement (Caltrans - Lead State):

As of 9-7-17: "Contract Negotiations are still underway to determine if proposed substitute subcontractor is able to fulfill SCOA's contractual obligations."

Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement update:

Agenda item 12.

Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

The most recent Section 6 plan went to FRA on 9-13-17. Details in the plan include Fleet management, ownership changes etc. The plan will be a living document and will be continually updated. There was nothing new to report on this activity today (10-10-17).

Agenda item 11.

Finance and Administrative Subcommittee Update:

Status: The FASC meeting scheduled for 10-18-17 was canceled to provide Amtrak time to sort things out on how to fill the roles and responsibilities formerly provided by Darrell Smith on behalf of the Amtrak CFO.

Amtrak will inform the NGENC Executive Board as to who will replace Darrell Smith as Treasurer and as Chair of the FASC.

Agenda item 7

514 subcommittee:

Actions:

CIP update: As of 10-10-17, Bill Auye, Amtrak, was to ask Max Johnson to connect with Brian Beeler regarding Amtrak's recommendations on the FRA edits to the CIP document.

Agenda item 13.

Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group: On 9-26-17, it was agreed that Steve Hewitt will send the memo to the working group members and schedule a kick-off meeting for some time in October. Steve will work with Eric on some potential dates and times for the first call. Steve will send the memo to working group members when he sends out the calendar notice for the first call.

Agenda item 14.

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 10-10-17 Conference call meetings – Eric Curtit:

On a motion by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and a second by Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA for Maine DOT, the minutes from the 10-10-17 Executive Board conference call were approved as presented.

5.

Introduction of Charles King, Amtrak – incoming CMO – Mario Bergeron, Amtrak:

Mario Bergeron, the current Amtrak CMO, and the NGECE's long serving (legacy member) Vice Chair and Chair of the Technical subcommittee is retiring from Amtrak effective COB 11-3-17. Today, Mario introduced his replacement as CMO of Amtrak – Charles King – and announced that Charles also plans to represent the Amtrak CMO's office in both NGECE roles currently held by Mario. (Vice Chair of the NGECE Executive Board, and Chair of the Technical subcommittee. George Hull will remain as the designated representative to the Board in Charles' absence, and will serve as vice chair of the Technical subcommittee.

Before introducing Charlie, Mario expressed his appreciation to "this fine group". He commented on the challenges and rewarding accomplishments that 305 has achieved adding "we have accomplished a lot – together – through an all-inclusive process". He cited the "collective energy" that included a collaboration from among Amtrak, FRA, the states and over 240 members of the industry. "We did it together". Mario added that the number of agencies and corporations that have come together to support the work of 305 included "the best of the best".

Mario acknowledged that he will be staying with the railroad industry (VIA Rail Canada) the "industry I love" and will remain closely associated with this group.

Mario went on to introduce Charlie King, and added that he (Mario) is committed to making it a smooth transition for Charlie as Amtrak CMO and including the activities of 305.

Charlie King thanked Mario and added that he was pleased to be here. He noted he had just addressed the Beech Grove employees and told them much of what he was to tell this group. "It was an honor to be asked by Amtrak to come out of retirement" and take on these challenges. Charlie added that he looks forward to the NGECE challenges and he knows "I have big shoes to fill".

Eric Curtit expressed "our sincerest appreciation" to Mario Bergeron, "for all you have done...you will be missed". Eric welcomed Charlie King, "we know you will fill those shoes and we look forward to working with you." Eric added "we take care of stuff...and a most important part of what we do is the Technical subcommittee."

6.

Executive Board Action – Appointing Charles King as Vice Chair, NGECE Executive Board, and, as Chair of the NGECE Technical subcommittee – Eric Curtit:

After Mario's announcement, and his introduction of Charlie King, per the NGECE By-Laws, Eric Curtit formally appointed Charles King to the positions of Vice Chair of the NGECE Executive Board, and Chair of the Technical subcommittee – both effective COB on 11-3-17.

7.

Update from Amtrak Finance – Tim Ziethen for Laima Bashir:

Laima Bashir was unable to participate on today's call and asked Tim Ziethen to provide the Update from Amtrak Finance.

Tim reported that he has been asked by Amtrak to serve as the NGEC Treasurer and as Chair to the Finance and Administrative subcommittee. He noted that he is "honored to do this" and added that he is somewhat familiar with 305 activities, and has been going through all the meeting minutes and getting up to speed. He said that he hopes to "meet and exceed expectations" and he asked that members provide him with feedback, emphasizing that he doesn't "want to miss anything that is in flight...share with me if we miss something." He concluded by saying that he anticipates a smooth transition, and is "excited about being a big part of the team".

Completing the Grant Progress Report for the 3rd quarter due to FRA 10-30-17:

Tim reported that he is working on completing the quarterly grant agreement progress report and expects to have that done shortly (due 10-30-17).

8.

Executive Board Action – Appointing the NGEC Treasurer and Chair of the FASC – Eric Curtit:

Chairman Curtit thanked Tim Ziethen and Amtrak for moving so quickly to fill the critical roles previously held by Darrell Smith. Per NGEC policy, Eric Curtit formally confirmed the appointment of Tim Ziethen as Treasurer of the NGEC, and as Chair of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee.

9.

Document Management Update – single level car DCRs – Tammy Krause, Amtrak – and the NGEC Revision Control Coordinator (RCC):

Tammy Krause reported that Caltrans has submitted a DCR on weight change and that it has been distributed to the NGEC Technical subcommittee. Comments have been coming in – some are favorable to the change, and one or two are not. One person commented that the specs should never be changed, and that is contrary to the intent of the NGEC specifications which are living documents.

Tammy is planning on holding a conference call with Technical subcommittee members to go over the comments received. Once this is complete she will assemble the comments and ask that Steve Hewitt send them out to all subcommittee members. It is Tammy's intent to ask for a vote to consider the DCR on the next Technical subcommittee call – 11-2-17. From there it goes to the NGEC Executive Board and the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel.

Steve Hewitt explained the process, and added that he had heard from Larry Salci, who has agreed and is prepared to conduct the technical review of the change to ensure compliance with the requirements document, and make a recommendation to the Review Panel – which will then convey its recommendation to the Executive Board for its consideration of the DCR. Larry also advised that the review of the DCR for compliance with the requirements document should not happen until the DCR has been approved by the Technical subcommittee.

Steve noted that the Review Panel members and Larry have been provided with the DCR, and that they will await any further changes and/or approval by the subcommittee before acting.

10.

Reconvene the PRIIA Single Level Car Specification Review Panel – Eric Curtit:

As this and other DCRs will be coming through the NGEC process for the single level specification, Chairman Curtit formally reconvened the PRIIA Single Level Car Specification Review Panel, and asked that Larry Salci, technical consultant to the panel, be prepared to conduct the technical review as soon as the subcommittee has approved the DCR(s).

Steve Hewitt went over the names of the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel members:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT - Chair
Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT
Kevin Kesler, FRA
Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel
Tammy Krause, Amtrak – technical support
Steve Hewitt – NGEC support

In closing this session of the agenda, Chairman Curtit emphasized "these specs are living documents and the whole purpose of the NGEC is to develop the specs and maintain and update them to keep them useful and current".

Mario Bergeron added, and Chairman Curtit agreed, that the Technical subcommittee and the NGENC "are not commercial, but strictly technical."

11.

Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 –John Oimoen, IDOT:

John Oimoen reported that the Section 6 plan is in its final draft stages and is currently going back and forth between IDOT and the FRA. John expects that it will be finalized and ready to go within the month of November 2017.

12.

Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – Jennifer Bastian, IDOT:

Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

- a) *All locomotives have completed required testing and all reports have been submitted and received. 110 mph hour testing in MI and the Chicago/St. Louis line will take place when all PTC logistics and software are up and in place. There may be a window of opportunity to do this testing next month when the UP turns off cab signal in that territory.*
- b) *IDOT and Siemens have signed conditional and final acceptance on 27 IDOT units.*
- c) *IDOT Revenue service started 7/27/2017, with units placed in trailing position. IDOT locomotives began revenue service in Lead Position as of 8/24/2017, but that was suspended, due to a forward-facing camera download problem with Wabtec LDRS-V. This is the data storage for the video recorder. Wabtec, Siemens and Amtrak are addressing. Units continue to operate in trailing position. A new software update was installed last week. We are advised by Amtrak that an issue remains. Siemens and Wabtec are working to resolve the remaining problem. One unit continues in Lead position, others are being used run in trailing position.*
- d) *IDOT locomotives 4616 - 4630 have completed burn-in testing at TTCI. Locomotive 4631 experienced a component failure (first locomotive in 30) and will be completed this week. Locomotives 4632 and 4633 will go to TTCI next month. These are the last units of the order that are shipping from Siemens.*
- e) *The locomotives stored at TTCI will ship to Chicago, as soon as storage space becomes available. Storage space in Chicago is limited, until the P-42 locomotives are re-deployed by Amtrak.*
- f) *All WSDOT Locomotives have been delivered and have competed pre-revenue testing and are ready for revenue service.*
- g) *WSDOT is finalizing their lease with Amtrak; they are down to one last item that they are working on.*
- h) *All Caltrans Locomotives have been delivered and are operating in revenue service in trailing position.*
- i) *The Failure Review Board has been established, with two meetings taking place so far with all JPE's included and Siemens. The meeting for October was held in Wilmington Del and included a visit to Siemen's customer service facility. Amtrak representatives were added and are participating in the meetings. The first Bi-weekly warranty meeting was held by Siemens, they are working on setting this up as a recurring meeting with the JPE's.*

13.

514 subcommittee status of the CIP major update – anticipated timeline – Brian Beeler II:

Brian Beeler reported that he was unable to give a date for completion of the CIP as he was waiting for Amtrak to add the FRA edits to the document, and was unsure where that was in the process.

Tim Ziethen and Bill Auve, Amtrak, reported that Eric Smith has updated the document with the FRA comments and is formatting it. It is very close to complete and it should be sent to Brian Beeler soon.

Brian commented that, it is possible, that he will be able to get it submitted to the NGENC Executive Board by its next call or the one after that.

14.

Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit reported that the "kick off" meeting of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices and Lessons Learned Working Group has been scheduled for Noon Eastern on 11-2-17. Steve Hewitt has sent out the call-in information and a calendar appointment to all working group volunteers. He also provided the approved memo previously submitted by Chairman Curtit, describing the purpose of the working group. An agenda for 11-2-17 will be sent out shortly.

Members of the working group:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair - Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov

Sal DeAngelo, FRA Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov

Joe Paul – Amtrak – joseph.paul@amtrak.com

Tim Hoeffner - Michigan DOT - Hoeffnert@michigan.gov

Michael Jenkins – Oregon DOT - Michael.I.jenkins@odot.state.or.us

John Oimoen - Illinois DOT- john.oimeon@illinois.gov

Jennifer Bastian – Illinois DOT – Designated Alternate – Jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov

Jason Biggs – Washington State DOT – Designated Alternate – biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov

Momo Tamaaki, Caltrans – momoko.tamaaki@dot.ca.gov

Paul Jamieson – Industry Member – SNC-Lavalin - Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com

Dick Bruss – Industry Member – NARP - rjembruss@gmail.com

Steve Hewitt - NGEC Support: Steve Hewitt - Shewitt109@aol.com

Larry Salci – Consultant - larry@salciconsult.com

15.

Other – all:

Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming for today, Eric Curtit adjourned the call at 12:01PM Eastern.

The next conference call is November 5, 2017

Decisions/Action Items

Procurement Updates:

Status Update – Multi-state Car Procurement (Caltrans - Lead State):

As of 9-7-17: "Contract Negotiations are still underway to determine if proposed substitute subcontractor is able to fulfill SCOA's contractual obligations."

Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement update – see agenda item 12 for update.

Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

The Section 6 plan is in its final draft stages and is currently going back and forth between IDOT and the FRA. John Oimoen, IDOT, expects that it will be finalized and ready to go within the month of November 2017.

Finance and Administrative Subcommittee:

Moving 514 to SAIPRC:

The FASC is preparing By-Law revisions that will remove 514 from the B-Laws and Operating procedures of the NGEC.

On the last call, held on 9-27-17, the FASC agreed to begin a review of the grant agreement SOW and will propose

amendments for moving 514. Also, at the suggestion of Amtrak's Grants office, the subcommittee will review the SOW for possible revisions, beyond just the move of 514 to SAIPRC, to reflect current NGEC activities and/or needs.

Contract Extensions:

The support services contract between AASHTO and Amtrak has been extended to run through the life of the grant agreement - 9-30-19. AASHTO has executed an extension to the contract of the NGEC Program Manager also through 9-30-19 and is in the process of extending the other sub-contractor contracts.

Filling the Vacant Chair position:

On today's call 10-24-17 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, was appointed as NEC Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee.

Completing the Grant Progress Report for the 3rd quarter due to FRA 10-30-17:

Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, reported on 10-24-17, that he is working on completing the quarterly grant agreement progress report to FRA and expects to have that done on time (due 10-30-17).

The next meeting of the FASC is 11-15-17.

Next Finance and Administrative subcommittee progress report to the Executive Board – 11-21-17

514 Subcommittee Progress Report: (ongoing)

Final edits are being incorporated into the CIP by Amtrak. It should be completed and formatted shortly and will be sent to Brian Beeler when complete. Brian anticipates the CIP to be ready for consideration by the Executive Board by either the next Board call 11-7-17 or the one following that – 11-21-17.

Next 514 Progress Report to the Executive Board– 11-7-17

The Technical subcommittee update:

Filling the upcoming vacancy at Chair:

On today's Executive Board call (10-24-17) Charles King, Amtrak, was appointed as Chair of the Technical subcommittee and as Vice Chair of the NGEC Executive Board. Both appointments are effective COB 11-3-17.

Document Management:

A DCR for car weight in the single level car specification is under review and it is expected to be voted on during the 11-2-17 Technical subcommittee call. Following that vote, if approved, it will be submitted for review and recommendation by the Single Level Car Specification Review Panel.

On 10-24-17 NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit formally re-convened the Review Panel and requested that Technical specification consultant Larry Salci be ready to conduct a review for compliance with the requirements document, once the DCR has been approved by the subcommittee.

Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group: On 9-26-17, it was agreed that Steve Hewitt will send the memo to the working group members and schedule a kick-off meeting for some time in October. Steve will work with Eric on some potential dates and times for the first call. Steve will send the memo to working group members when he sends out the calendar notice for the first call.

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group Members:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair - Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov

Sal DeAngelo, FRA Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov

Joe Paul – Amtrak – joseph.paul@amtrak.com

Tim Hoeffner - Michigan DOT - Hoeffnert@michigan.gov

Michael Jenkins – Oregon DOT - Michael.I.jenkins@odot.state.or.us

John Oimoen - Illinois DOT- john.oimeon@illinois.gov

Jennifer Bastian – Illinois DOT – Designated Alternate – Jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov

Jason Biggs – Washington State DOT – Designated Alternate – biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov

Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans – momoko.tamaoki@dot.ca.gov

Paul Jamieson – Industry Member – SNC-Lavalin - Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com

Dick Bruss – Industry Member – NARP - rjembruss@gmail.com

Steve Hewitt - NGEC Support: Steve Hewitt - Shewitt109@aol.com

Larry Salci – Consultant - larry@salciconsult.com

ATTACHMENTS



S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call

October 24, 2017

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern

Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127

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 10-10-17 conference call meetings Eric Curtit
5. Introduction of Charles King – incoming Amtrak CMO (**effective COB 11-3-17**) Mario Bergeron
6. Executive Board Action – Appointing Charles King as Vice Chair, NGEC Executive Board, and as Chair, NGEC Technical subcommittee – (**effective COB 11-3-17**) Eric Curtit
7. Update from Amtrak Finance - Tim Ziethen
- Status Update on:

Naming the Amtrak CFO's representative to the NGEC Executive Board and filling the Treasurer's position (officer of the NGEC Executive Board)

Naming the Amtrak CFO's representative to the Finance and Administrative subcommittee and filling the role of Chair of the subcommittee

Completing the Grant Progress Report for the 3rd quarter due to FRA 10-30-17

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| 8. Executive Board Action- Appointing the NGEN Treasurer & Chair, NGEN Finance & Administrative Subcommittee | Eric Curtit |
| 9. Document Management Update – single level car DCRs | Tammy Krause |
| 10. Re-Convene PRIIA Single Level Car Specification Review Panel | Eric Curtit |
| 11. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 | John Oimoen |
| 12. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement | John Oimoen |
| 13. 514 subcommittee – status of the CIP major update – anticipated timeline for completion | Brian Beeler II |
| 14. Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group | Eric Curtit |
| 15. Other | All |

Next Meeting -11-5-2017
