



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – Eric Curtit Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

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

2. Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:

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

3.

Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reported that open action items not covered under the agenda this week will be included on the next call agenda and the current status of each is included in today's minutes (11-5-19)

Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 11-5-19:

The current version of the NGEC educational (two-pager) document was released at the Annual Meeting on 2-22-19 and is available in hard copy or electronically.

To date, (11-5-19) 265 hard copies and 393 electronic copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. If hard copy, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement Update as of 10-8-19:

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Next Update: 12-3-19

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

On 4-9-19, John Oimoen, IDOT, provided an overview of the METRA Equipment Procurement effort:

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties must respond by August 2019.

METRA has the NGEC specification, but John does not know if they plan to use it or if they will be in contact with the NGEC or not.

Next Update: as appropriate

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Mid-West States Experience:

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One area that they are striving for improvement and are making improvements on is parts availability and field service. These issues are challenging but being worked out and improving.

John also pointed out the fact that there have been several vehicle strikes, and debris strikes in the Mid-West, but the good news is that the Crash Energy Management (CEM) performed very very well. The engineers were very satisfied with the safety of the cabs.

Overall, John reported that they are very pleased with the performance of the locomotives.

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Overall, the locomotives are performing very well.

Washington State Experience:

No report provided

Amtrak Experience:

Charlie King reported that Amtrak has held several meetings with Siemens on parts availability as "we continue to support the states" as our partners.

Amtrak is leasing a state unit to test in Long Distance service. Rolling Stock Engineers are on board to see how the locomotives perform in the hot days and high altitudes. The locomotive is in the trail, not lead, position on this test.

So far it has performed extremely well.

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Next Update: 2020 NGEC Annual Meeting (February 2020)

FASC update and Treasurer's Report as of 10-22-19:

Treasurer's Report:

Amount Spent: \$ 472,593.10
Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Balance remaining: \$ 777,406.90
Spend Rate per month: \$ 13,899.80

At this rate there is enough funding for several years. The grant period (as extended) runs through 9-30-2020. FRA has given verbal approval to apply for, and hopefully approve, another no-cost extension to be requested and the intent was to begin the request process in the Spring 2020.

Establishing timeline and next steps for another no-cost Grant Agreement extension:

Steve Hewitt suggested during the 10-16-19 FASC call that the NGEC process for making the extension request should begin earlier in order for the Executive Board to formalize its request by the NGEC Annual Meeting – thus providing Amtrak and FRA grants offices with ample time to complete their process.

NGEC Annual By-Laws Review:

On the 10-16-19 FASC call, Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger were tasked with conducting the Annual Review of the By-Laws. They will then present any recommended changes at the November or December meeting of the FASC. Following FASC approval of any changes, the updated By-Laws with the changes noted will be submitted in writing to all Executive Board members 30 days prior to a vote in consideration of adoption.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 10-22-19 conference call meetings – Eric Curtit, MoDOT:

On a motion by Michael Lestingi, FRA, and a second by John Oimoen, IDOT, the minutes from the 10-22-19 Executive Board call were approved as presented.

5. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 11-5-19 – Caltrans:

Caltrans provided the following update to the NGEC Technical subcommittee on 10-31-19 – and Steve Hewitt read them into the record for today's call (11-5-19).

All FDR System Level and related submittal approvals for the standard coach are at a Conditional Approval level or greater. Cab Car PDR action items are addressed, and approval is in process.

The Café Galley Mock-Up was held in Roseville, Michigan on October 1st-3rd. The Complete Coach FAI is scheduled for November 13 – 14 in Sacramento.

The first 34 carshells are in production at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Cars 1 and 2 have shipped to Pueblo for testing at TTCI and are being prepared for the various procedures. EMI testing is scheduled for week of November 4. Car #3 has been shipped to the environmental testing facility in Ottawa. Carshell #4 has completed static testing and is in preparation for First Car FAI. The remaining carshells are in various stages of component installation, welding, integration, painting or storage.

The FAI process continues and most system-level FAIs for standard coach are complete. Cab Car Structure IDR documents have been submitted and are in review. The IDR meeting is scheduled for December 11 – 12.

6. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement – Charlie King, Amtrak:

Charlie King reported on the status of the Amtrak Equipment Procurements as of 11-5-19:

On the Acela replacement:

Trainset 1 is together – both power car on the ends.
Trainset 2 is being put together for the NEC.
Tilt testing has been completed and has been or will be submitted to the FRA.
Passenger cars are in the final testing and once complete will be submitted to FRA.

On the Locomotives:

Design review is well underway – there are some changes being processed and in the near future Amtrak will come back to the states with some of the adjustments being made.

The issue of snow ingestion is being addressed and Siemens appears to have a solution for it.

On the Trainsets:

The RFP is due back this month.

On the Maintenance of Way Yard Locomotive Replacements:

The RFP is due back this month.

7.

Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reported that Metro-North continues to negotiate with vendors on the dual mode locomotive procurement.

8.

Update: TRB Session – “The NGEC - 10 Years of Progress” – Steve Hewitt:

TRB has confirmed the date and time for “The NGEC -10 Years of Progress” as Tuesday, 1-14-20 10:15AM.

The confirmed participants/panelists for the NGEC are:

Eric Curtit, Chair - NGEC Executive Board - Presentation Title: “NGEC Goals and Policies”

Charlie King, Vice Chair - NGEC Executive Board – Chair - NGEC Technical subcommittee - Presentation Title: “NGEC Technical Subcommittee and Specification Development”

John Oimoen, Deputy Director of Railroads, Illinois DOT - Presentation Title: “The States’ Role”

Jeffrey Gordon, Federal Railroad Administration - Presentation Title: “The Federal Role”

Larry Salci, *SalciConsult* - Presentation Title: “The Industry Role”

Steve Hewitt - NGEC Program Manager – will attend as support for the panel.

Steve Hewitt has provided the NGEC PowerPoint Template to all panelists.

Each panelist should plan for about a 15-minute presentation.

Once all presentations are prepared, panelists should provide them to Steve Hewitt who will make sure all panelists have them all.

Steve will reach out to Jack Madden about timeline and logistics for getting the presentation in to TRB.

9.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today’s (11-5-19) minutes:

Not much to report this morning on the document control side. I have reached out to the Technical Writer about compiling Revision B of the Train Set specification. I should have a date for completion by the next Executive Board meeting.

10.

Update: NGEC Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group – Eric Curtit:

The working group last met on 10-31-19.

As of that date, 3 of 4 Revised/updated sections had been submitted and distributed to working group members. The Planning section, led by IDOT, is in process of being updated.

Steps going forward:

Eric Curtit presented that his thinking was to check on the availability, and willingness, of Cameron Cordell (NGEC Specification Technical Writer) to potentially take on the assignment of meshing the 4 sections into one voice and preparing one complete DRAFT. The thought is that since she is already under contract with the NGEC as its specification technical writer and there is an ample budget balance for that item, this may be the easiest path forward. The working group agreed to this proposal if Cameron is available and willing to take this on.

The goal remains to have a DRAFT ready for the NGEC Annual Meeting in February.

Actions:

Jennifer Bastian will let Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt know her ETA for completion of the updated Section 1 (Planning).

Once the Planning Section has been updated it will be distributed to all working group members.

Cameron Cordell will be asked if she is willing and available to do the technical writing.

Once the technical writing has been completed, the working group will receive the full DRAFT and an opportunity to review and comment.

The next step would be submittal of the DRAFT to the Executive Board for its review.

Action:

Tammy Krause agreed to reach out to Cameron Cordell about her availability and willingness to take on the assignment.

11.

Preparing for the 10th NGECE Annual Meeting 2-21-20 – Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt:

Confirming the date as 2-21-20:

Eric Curtit reported that the date of the Annual Meeting is 2-21-20 at the Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. The meeting will begin with registration at 8:00am and kick off at 8:30am.

Sending out announcement to all NGECE members -timeline:

Following this call, Steve Hewitt will send a notice with the hotel room block booking information to all NGECE members (states, Amtrak, FRA and the industry)

Hotel room block information:

The hotel is the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Washington, DC. The link for reserving a room is below:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-APT5>

The rate is \$149 per night. Currently this is for double bedded rooms only; anyone wanting a King will need to contact the hotel directly to see if this is a possibility. However, additional cost may be incurred.

Review: Preliminary DRAFT agenda:

Steve Hewitt reviewed the DRAFT agenda and asked for clarifications on speakers and for changes or suggestions for additional topics by the next Exec Board call 11-19-19.

Tim Ziethen will contact Ken Altman, Amtrak Government Affairs to see if he is available or who from his staff would be available.

Michael Iestingi will follow up with FRA to determine who will provide the FRA update.

Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt will talk on 11-8-19 to go over the DRAFT agenda a bit further before Steve sends out the first DRAFT.

Executive Board members are asked to review the current DRAFT and confirm their participation where noted or provide a designated representative.

Appointing a nominating Committee – for Election of State Executive Board Members:

Eric Curtit called for two state members to volunteer to join him as the nominating committee to put forward the State Board members to be elected (re-elected) to new 2-year terms of office. There were no volunteers today. Eric will follow up to request volunteers for the nominating committee.

NGECE two pager – Revise/ Update:

Steve and Eric reviewed the two-pager and noted that at least two of the specifications have been updated since last year's version was distributed. Those updates will be added to the updated version and will be printed by Missouri DOT for distribution at the Annual Meeting.

Executive Board members are asked to provide any additional suggested changes to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt by 11-19-19.

**13.
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Eric Curtit adjourned the meeting at 12:00 Noon Eastern.

The next conference call will be 11-19-19

Decisions/Action Items

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Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 10-8-19:

Metro-North continues to negotiate with vendors on the dual mode locomotive procurement.

Next Update – 12-3-19

Document Control Update – 11-5-19:

Tammy Krause has reached out to the Technical Writer about compiling Revision B of the Train Set specification. Tammy expects to have a date for completion by the next Executive Board meeting. (11-19-19)

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 11-5-19:

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**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call
November 5, 2019
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

Agenda

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|--|--------------------------|
| 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 10-22-19 conference call meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Equipment Procurement | Charlie King |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: TRB Session –The NGEC 10 Years of Progress | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 10. Update: NGEC Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group | Eric Curtit |
| 11. Update: Preparing for the 10 th NGEC Annual Meeting – | Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt |

Confirming the date
Sending out announcement to all NGEC members -timeline
Review: Preliminary DRAFT agenda

Appointing a nominating Committee – for Election of Executive Board Members and NGEC officers
NGEC two pager – Revise/ Update

12. Other

All

Next Call-11-19-19