
SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2017

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>Eric Curtit, Darrell Smith, Jeff Gordon for Michael Lestingi, Jon Dees for Paul Worley, Arun Rao, Tim Hoeffner, Momo Tamaoki for Steve Keck, Amanda Martin, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II</i> Support Staff: <i>Shayne Gill, Bryan Hong, Steve Hewitt, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Patrick Centolanzi, Sal DeAngelo</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Mario Bergeron, Michael Lestingi, Ray Hessinger, John Oimoen, Paul Worley, Ron Pate, John Rosacker,</i> Support: <i>Allan Paul, Jason Biggs, Dale Engelhardt, Beth Nachreiner, Lynn Everett, Nico Lindenau,</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

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

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

NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit, convened today's meeting.

3.

Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt reported that there was no need to review the action items as primarily all will be covered under today's agenda. For the record a status update will be included in the minutes.

Below is a status of all action items:

514 Subcommittee: Update provided on 2-24-17 – NGEC Annual Meeting

Open Action: The Subcommittee needs to address the provision in the NGEC By-Laws that calls for Amtrak to have a leadership role within each Standing Subcommittee.

Next update: 3-28-17

Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

The group continues to work on lease agreement with Amtrak.

Agenda item 6

Procurement Updates: Ongoing – see status updates within the minutes of this meeting.

Bi-Level procurement updates are tabled until new information is available and appropriate to share.

Diesel Electric Locomotive Procurement update - Agenda item 7

Annual Meeting open actions and follow ups:

At the Annual Meeting, Chairman Curtit announced that he will be establishing a task force to develop "lessons learned" from the first two multi-state procurements. He called for volunteers to participate (Ron Pat, WSDOT, John Oimoen, IDOT, Mario Bergeron – for Amtrak, and Michael Lestingi for FRA all agreed to name representatives to the task force).

Steve Hewitt agreed to provide support.

There will be further details and discussion on the next Board call – 3-14-17.

Interested volunteers should send an email to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt expressing interest in participating on the task force.

On the Executive Board call on 3-14-17 Eric will formally establish the task force – name it – and appoint its members.

The timeline for completion of the task force efforts and a report out on the actions taken will be “this time next year” – at the 8th NGEC Annual Meeting.

Expense Reimbursement Forms: Please get them into AASHTO asap – send to scavros@ashto.org

Agenda item 5

Finance and Administrative Subcommittee and New Grant Activities: (ongoing)

Syncing contracts with the new grant:

Darrell reported that because the current Amtrak/AASHTO contract (and AASHTO’s contract with its sub-contractors) is in effect through 9-30-17, there is no need for action now. Once the 9-30-17 date draws near there will be an extension consistent with the new grant period and grant amount between Amtrak and AASHTO and AASHTO and its subcontractors as called for in the SOW and budget.

No action needed now.

John Oimoen, IDOT, will work on getting jobs numbers from the manufacturers for inclusion as a milestone in the reports. (ongoing)

Treasurer’s Report – Report was presented and accepted by the NGEC Executive Board on 2-24-17

Next Finance and Administrative subcommittee update – 4-11-17

Determining impacts of Iran Divestment Legislation and confirming contractual status with Iran and Siemens: NCDOT has received a response from Siemens and the NC DOJ has offered its determination. Allan Paul will provide status update under agenda item 8

Status update – Agenda item 8

Technical Subcommittee updates: The subcommittee continues to review relevant Bi-Level Specification changes that may pertain to the Single Level Specification Revision A, and will revise as appropriate through the DCR process.

The Subcommittee is completing its review of the Locomotive DCRs.

Next update: 3-28-17

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2-24-17 Annual Meeting – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit noted that he and Steve Hewitt had received an inquiry from a member of the industry asking why the question about the status of the bi-level procurement was not included in the Annual Meeting minutes.

As the minutes are not meant to be verbatim, and the answer to the question was not substantive, it was not elaborated upon.

The response from the Chair, at the Annual Meeting, was something to the effect that the NGEC’s role is to address proposed changes to the control documents for each of our specifications. Since currently there is only one vehicle requesting changes that is the only one on the agenda and that is the only one we will be addressing.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Annual Meeting Minutes should be revised to note the question and the Chair’s response.

On a motion made by Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT, and seconded by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, the minutes from

the 2-24-17 NGEC Annual Meeting were approved with the change as noted above.

5.

Annual Meeting Review and Follow Ups Eric Curtit

a. Overview/summary

Eric Curtit reported that he thought the Annual Meeting went well and was productive. He added that he will be sad to see Dale (Engelhardt) go. (Dale announced that he planned to retire in June, 2017).

Eric added that at the Annual Meeting he had announced his intent to form a task force to look at "lessons learned". His intent is for the task force to look at issues related to the acquisition and ownership process and to see what the states, Amtrak and FRA can do better.

At this point, Eric suggested that the task force be called: the "Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Task Force". With no other recommendations, it was agreed that this would be the name of the task force.

Eric volunteered to serve as the Chair of the task force and called for volunteers to serve as members.

Tim Hoeffner, Michigan and Mike Jenkins, Oregon, agreed to serve. At the Annual Meeting, the states of Washington and Illinois had volunteered to appoint a member to serve as well. At the Annual Meeting, Amtrak and FRA also agreed to name members to serve.

Mike Jenkins asked how this differed from the lessons learned effort Larry Salci was undertaking.

Larry commented that the "white paper" he and FRA/Volpe had planned to do has been on hold due to more pressing matters revolving around the ongoing procurements. He noted that, "coincidentally" that effort is about to begin. Larry will work with Volpe on the paper which will include general procurement practices specific to passenger rail. An outline of the paper will be completed by the end of April, and the paper is anticipated to be completed by the end of June, 2017. The NGEC's input will be of great help. Larry will keep the NGEC in the loop as progress is made, and he agreed to participate on the NGEC task force as well. It will be a cooperative effort.

Steve Hewitt added that Paul Jamieson, SNC-Lavalin, is the only industry member who has expressed an interest to participate so far.

Eric and Steve will send a note to all NGEC Board members announcing the establishment of the task force and asking for additional volunteers to serve.

By the next call, it is hoped that the membership can be finalized and a call schedule can be developed.

The timeline for completion of the work of the task force is by the next Annual Meeting (February, 2018).

6.

Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 – Tim Hoeffner:

Tim Hoeffner reported:

The FRA led Planning Study kicked off last Wednesday and it seems to be "an interesting approach".

The next meeting of the Mid-West states and its partners will take place in the twin Cities in June, 2017.

The states and Amtrak continue to work on the lease agreements.

There is an effort by the states and Amtrak to develop a logo for the Amtrak/Mid-West equipment to "show off our ownership". This branding effort will include the establishment of a website.

Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, added that it is exciting that "we are doing more as a region". He added that the Amtrak/Mid-West umbrella for "our own routes will be reflected in the logo".

Tim Hoeffner announced that the annual Michigan Rail Conference with Michigan Tech is being expanded to be a Mid-West Rail Conference and will be held August 15-17, 2017 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

7.

Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – John Oimoen, IDOT:

John Oimoen was not available today, so Eric Curtit tabled the item for today.

Tim Hoeffner did note that the static tests on the locomotives will be taking place in Chicago soon and that great progress is being made on this procurement.

Following the call, John Oimoen, IDOT, provided the following update for inclusion in these minutes:

- *JPEs continue to work with Siemens on schedule and conduct weekly conference calls.*
- *As of now, successful 500-mile conditional acceptance tests have been completed on 11 IDOT units.*
- *All locomotives will next ship to Chicago, pending IDOT and Amtrak schedule agreement.*
- *All Maintenance Demonstrations have been successfully completed.*
- *IDOT and Amtrak now have signed agreements for storage, testing and commissioning the locomotives.*
- *Amtrak/JPE insurance issues are progressing for resolution.*
- *IDOT locomotive 4611 has been successfully completed at WSDOT for 238.111(b) testing and 213.345 testing on the Cascades route. Other JPEs are working with Amtrak for 238.111(a) test plans.*
- *Wi-Tronix application, as required by Amtrak is being applied by FMI. Siemens progress looks good so far.*
- *LED Headlight issues have been resolved with UP and JPEs, Amtrak and Siemens will keep in contact with AAR technical group for future review.*
- *All Document Change Requests (DCR) have been processed. Rich Stegner and Tammy Krause have closed the loop.*
- *As-Built weights have been reported at a bit less than 267, 000 lbs (+/-). This is a little bit better than previously estimated. The calculated P2 force is within specified limits.*
- *IDOT and its' Fleet Manager Contractor now have a signed agreement in place for on-going support.*

8.

Standing Subcommittee Monthly Updates – review schedule - Steve Hewitt:

Based on the rhythm of the subcommittee calls – and the Chair's request for monthly updates, it appears that the Technical subcommittee and 514 subcommittee can both be scheduled for an update on the 3-28-17 Executive Board call since both will have had meetings prior to the 28th.

The Finance and Administrative subcommittee will not meet again until 4-5-17. That will put it in line to provide an update to the Board on 4-11-17.

9.

Update: Contractual status with Iran and Siemens - Allan Paul:

In the absence of Allan Paul, nothing new was reported on this issue. It was tabled until the next call.

10.

Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming for today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the call at Noon Eastern.

The next conference call is March 28, 2017

Decisions/Action Items

514 Subcommittee update: next update 3-28-17

Procurement Updates: (Ongoing)

On 1-17-17, the Chair tabled Bi-Level procurement updates until new information is available and appropriate to share.

The Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement update was initially tabled for today (3-14-17) due to IDOT's unavailability. However, following the call, the update was provided by John Oimoen, and has been included in the minutes under agenda item 7.

Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

The FRA led Planning Study kicked off 3-8-17.

The next meeting of the Mid-West states and its partners will take place in the twin Cities in June, 2017.

The states and Amtrak continue to work on the lease agreements.

There is an effort by the states and Amtrak to develop a logo for the Amtrak/Mid-West equipment to "show off our ownership". This branding effort will include the establishment of a website.

Finance and Administrative Subcommittee and New Grant Activities: (ongoing)

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Treasurer's Report – Report was presented and accepted by the NGEC Executive Board on 2-24-17

Next Finance and Administrative subcommittee update – 4-11-17

Standing Subcommittee monthly update schedule:

Technical subcommittee – 3-28-17

514 subcommittee – 3-28-17

Finance and Administrative subcommittee – 4-11-17

Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Task Force – The task force has been named, with Eric Curtit serving as Chair. Members include: Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT and Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT as well as representatives (yet to be named) from Illinois DOT, Washington State DOT and Amtrak and FRA. Larry Salci will also participate and Paul Jamieson, SNC-Lavalin has volunteered as well.

A note will go out to the Board requesting members to be named to the task force.

ATTACHMENTS



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

S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call
March 14, 2017
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern

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 2-24-17 NGEC 7 th Annual Meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. Annual Meeting Review and Follow Ups | Eric Curtit |
| b. Overview/summary | |
| c. Formally establishing/naming a "Lessons Learned" Task Force | |
| Appointing Members | |
| Appointing a Task Force Chair | |
| Establishing a timeline for completion | |
| 6. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 | Tim Hoeffner |
| 7. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement | John Oimoen |
| 8. Standing Subcommittee Monthly Updates – review schedule | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Update: Contractual status with Iran and Siemens | Allan Paul |
| 10. Other | All |

Next Meeting -March 28, 2017 – 11:30AM Eastern
