

# SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2015

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Mario Bergeron, Vice Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Mario Bergeron, Ray Hessinger, Darrell Smith, Michael Lestingi Arun Rao, Arun Rao also as proxy for John Oimoen, Paul Worley, Sharon Beasley for Stan Hunter, Ron Pate, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II <b>Support Staff:</b> Steve Hewitt, Nico Lindenau, Brian Hong, Larry Salci, Dave Warner, Dale Engelhardt, Sal DeAngelo,
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members,</b> Eric Curtit, John Oimoen, Tim Hoeffner, John Rosacker, Tammy Nicholson <b>Support:</b> Jason Biggs, Allan Paul, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Jeff Gordon, Patrick Centolanzi Martin Schroeder, Tammy Krause, Vincent Brotski

## DECISIONS MADE

**1. Welcome – Mario Bergeron, Vice Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board:**

In the absence of Chairman Curtit Vice Chair Mario Bergeron opened today’s meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to take the roll.

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

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

**3. Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:**

### Decisions/Action Items

**Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report:** This remains as an ongoing agenda item. An RFP for a Fleet Manager is being finalized by IDOT, and an RFI for a Fleet Maintainer has recently been released.

**Agenda item 5**

**514 Subcommittee update:** Cost Control is currently the major outstanding issue and continues to be a focus point.

**Agenda item 8**

**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.

**Agenda items 6 and 7**

**Host Railroad Blessing of NGENC equipment:** Criteria for new equipment has been developed by the locomotive committee. The committee will brief Jim Grady, AAR on the criteria. Following this – a subgroup will be formed to work with the NGENC after the beginning of the new year. **(ongoing)**

**Letter to the FRA:** At the annual Meeting February 20, 2015 – the state members of the Board approved the letter and agreed that Board Chairman Eric Curtit would sign and send the letter on behalf of the states. It is to go to FRA and the appropriate House and Senate Appropriations committees.

**Status:** Eric has sent the letter to the FRA – to Paul Nissenbaum – and Steve Hewitt has provided him with the information/instructions for sending the House and Senate versions. Eric expects to get them out this week.

**NGEC Future:** The FASC has several assignments which are to be the first steps taken towards establishing the NGENC future – short term and long term:

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**Development of a Statement of Work and budget for a no-cost extension of the current grant agreement through September 30, 2017:**

At the Annual Meeting the Executive Board approved the revised SOW and budget for a no-cost extension through 9-30-17. Darrell Smith will submit it to the Amtrak Grants office. They will work with FRA grants people to get it finalized and executed. Darrell will keep the Board apprised as this effort progresses.

**Agenda item 9/1**

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee has begun developing a proposal for potential funding options to present to the Board for its consideration by October, 2015:**

The FASC began discussions on this activity on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Members of the FASC have been asked to bring ideas to the table for discussion.

Exploring options for long term future funding of the NGEC is now the primary focus of the FASC with a due date of submitting recommendations to the Executive Board by October of 2015.

Darrell Smith compiled a list of concepts/ideas for discussion at the Annual meeting. While no conclusions were reached, the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee was directed to look into the question of the NGEC's ability to accept money and participate in the receipt of costs.

The list of potential funding concepts has been sent to the FASC as well, and will be a part of the next FASC conference call agenda on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Outreach to All Aboard Florida:**

It was agreed that a "simple outreach" to AAF would be made by Chairman Curtit with regard to use of the NGEC specs. Tim Hoeffner will provide Eric Curtit with contacts for the outreach.

**Status/next steps:**

Eric notified Steve Hewitt that he has not yet made the call, but has the contacts provided and will make the call before the Exec Board's next call.

**Design of safety cards for insertion in seatbacks of the new bi-level cars:**

At the Annual Meeting, after some discussion, it was agreed that members of the Board will submit suggestions for naming the bi-level cars and including the name on the safety seat card. Suggestions are to be sent to Steve Hewitt by COB on March 11, 2015 for Board discussion on March 17, 2015. Steve Hewitt will also reach out to Stan Hunter to better clarify/frame the request.

All comments/suggestions received were distributed to all Board members prior to this call.

**Agenda item 10.**

**Backgrounder educational piece:** This item has been updated. All attendees of the Annual Meeting received hard copies. The full NGEC email list received PDF versions emailed to them by Steve Hewitt. Several requests have come in for hard copies. Steve has placed an order with AASHTO. They are now at the printers.

**New NGEC Call-in number:** AASHTO has secured a new conference call service – thus the NGEC number will change. The current one is good till the end of March. Steve will send a new calendar appointment with the new call in info and will ask that everyone delete the old appointments from your calendars. (Steve will try to do it – but it does not seem to work all the time)

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NGEC Meeting – February 20, 2015 – Mario Bergeron:**

On a motion by Paul Worley, NCDOT, and a second by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, the minutes from the February 20, 2015 NGEC Annual Meeting were approved without exception.

**5.**

**Progress Report – Mid-West States – Section 6 – Arun Rao for Tim Hoeffner:**

Arun Rao provided a brief update on the Mid-West states Section 6 activities:

The RFP for a Fleet Manager is close to being approved. It is currently being reviewed by the Illinois Governor's office.

The Mid-West group continues to work on developing a governance and ownership model. They have a concept document and are in the process of developing a draft MOU.

The RFI for a Fleet Maintainer was successful with a number of responses. Michigan is now in the process of drafting an RFP.

Ron Pate asked if Arun had raised the issue with Michigan in regard to looking at other states "as a part of the mix" to gain economies of scale.

Arun said he had asked the question, but had not gotten a response and will ask again during the next meeting of the group.

Ron asked Arun to provide him with a call in number so that he can join the call. Arun agreed to do so.

## **6.**

### **Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – Arun Rao for John Oimoen:**

Arun Rao provided the following update, as submitted by John Oimoen, IDIT, for inclusion in today's minutes:

*"The locomotive option ordering agreement and RFP are both under review by our Governor's office.*

*Locomotive update:*

- A) Weekly JPE conference calls continue for both projects.*
- B) FRA continues participation in conference call meetings.*
- C) Siemens continues weekly engineering and project management conference calls w/ JPEs.*
- D) The locomotive schedule is slightly ahead of schedule (maybe 2 months), for the engineering phase.*
- E) Week #1 of the Final Design Reviews (FDR) for the locomotive was held in Seattle on 2/9/2015 – 2/13/2015. Week #2 was held during the week of March 2nd and Week #3 is being held this week.*
- F) Follow-up action items for IDR for the locomotive are complete and we expect the invoice for Milestone C for IDR."*

## **7.**

### **Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement – Sharon Beasley:**

Sharon Beasley provided an update on the status of the bi-level car procurement:

The program is moving along nicely.

The revised schedule as presented by the contractor has been approved.

They are making up some of the lost time.

Final Design Review should be closed in late March or early April (2015).

More First Article Inspections (FAI's) will take place in April.

There will be a quality inspection of the Rochelle factory next week.

IDOT, Caltrans and FRA met yesterday (3-16-15). It has been agreed that communication skills need to be improved especially with regard to keeping the FRA informed. As a result, they have developed a progress report which will go to FRA from Caltrans and IDOT.

They have changed the wheel profile from 140 to 340.

4 car shells and under frames are completed .

Mario Bergeron asked if the timeline noted by the manufacturer's at the NGEC meeting was still accurate. They had said that the first vehicle (pilot car) would be ready in December, 2015 – about 6 months behind the original schedule.

Sharon responded that she believes they are still on track for December.

She also noted that she was not at the NGEC Annual Meeting and was not aware of what the OEM's said.

Steve Hewitt will provide Sharon with the Annual Meeting presentations.

**8.**

**Status Update – 514 Subcommittee – Ron Pate:**

Ron Pate reported that the 514 Subcommittee is making progress and "a lot of work is behind us."

The Subcommittee is now moving onto next steps – keeping the plan, which is a living document, updated.

Amtrak is nearing completion of its 5 year forecast. The next call of the Subcommittee will include a preview of the forecast.

Minor CIP updates will be presented/discussed on the next call – Monday 3-23-15.

Ron noted that they are awaiting the FY 14 reconciliation from Amtrak

Cost controls have been a concern of the states – they believe that auditing specific areas of costs will help.

Overall, 514 is moving forward and making progress.

Darrel Smith, Amtrak, concurred that next Monday's call will provide information on minor updates to the CIP and he noted that there is "a good chunk of information which will lead to answering questions."

**9.**

**Status Update/Discussion: NGEC Future Activities - Darrell Smith:**

Darrell Smith reported that the revised SOW for a no-cost grant agreement extension is all but set to go to FRA. The last remaining item is an answer from AASHTO (Shayne Gill) as to what category the support for 514 is to go into. Darrell has encouraged AASHTO to put the agreed upon funds in to additional consultant support rather than into AASHTO administrative support.

Darrell acknowledged it is AASHTO's decision, but he cannot submit the SOW until this last item is resolved. He added that FRA is waiting for the SOW and the Amtrak grants office is ready to submit it as soon as Darrell gives them the final version – once he has heard from AASHTO.

Shayne is out of the office until tomorrow (March 18<sup>th</sup>) and it is Darrell's hope to get this resolved so that the SOW can be submitted by the end of the week.

Ultimately, it was agreed that the SOW would be sent to FRA by COB on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, hopefully with input from AASHTO, if not, Darrell would "make an executive decision".

Darrell also reported that the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) did not meet for its regularly scheduled call because of the proximity to the Annual meeting. He noted that the Board had discussed some potential funding options during the annual Meeting, and the "talking points" from the meeting were distributed last week to the FASC members. Darrell has asked that all members review those talking points and submit comments to Darrell and Steve in advance of the next FASC call – April 8, 2015.

Darrell emphasized that he "wants to be able to push this forward" and will have a more substantial report for the Board following the FASC call.

**10.**

**Discussion/Recommendations: Naming the bi-level fleet/Safety Card Design - Mario Bergeron:**

Steve Hewitt reported that he had provided the Board members with all of the comments received with regard to suggestions for identifying a name for the bi-level cars for inclusion on the safety seat card. Comments included were from Ron Pate; Dave Warner; Stan Hunter; and Josh Coran (Talgo).

Mario Bergeron asked for a discussion.

Ron Pate commented that he had suggested the name be U S national Fleet bi-level 305. The idea behind using U.S National was "Buy America".

Josh Coran, in the comments he provided, had expressed concern that bi-level is used for other cars and suggested the



**The next call is March 31, 2015**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report:** This remains as an ongoing agenda item. The RFP for a Fleet Manager is close to being approved. It is currently being reviewed by the Illinois Governor's office. The Mid-West group continues to work on developing a governance and ownership model. They have a concept document and are in the process of developing a draft MOU and the RFI for a Fleet Maintainer was successful with a number of responses. Michigan is now in the process of drafting an RFP.

**514 Subcommittee update:** The Subcommittee is now moving onto next steps – keeping the plan, which is a living document, updated. Amtrak is nearing completion of its 5 year forecast. The next call of the Subcommittee will include a preview of the forecast. Minor CIP updates will be presented/discussed on the next call – Monday 3-23-15. The Subcommittee awaits 14 reconciliation from Amtrak. Cost controls have been a concern of the states – they believe that auditing specific areas of costs will help.

**Design of safety cards for insertion in seatbacks of the new bi-level cars:** The Board approved a designation for inclusion on the safety seat card: the NGEC logo along with: multi-state passenger cars.

**Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment:** Criteria for new equipment has been developed by the locomotive committee. The committee will brief Jim Grady, AAR on the criteria. Following this – a subgroup will be formed to work with the NGEC after the beginning of the new year. (ongoing)

**NGEC States Letter to the FRA, House and Senate Appropriations:** Eric Curtit has sent the letter to the FRA – to Paul Nissenbaum – and Steve Hewitt has provided him with the information/instructions for sending the House and Senate versions. Eric expects to get them out this week.

**Submitting the revised SOW for a no-cost grant agreement through 9-30-17:** The SOW will be submitted to the FRA Grants office by COB on Friday, March 20, 2015. Last outstanding item to be included is what category the approved fund transfer for administrative support for 514 should go into. Darrell awaiting a response from AASHTO.

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee has begun developing a proposal for potential funding options to present to the Board for its consideration by October, 2015:**

The FASC began discussions on this activity on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Members of the FASC have been asked to bring ideas to the table for discussion.

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**Outreach to All Aboard Florida:**

It was agreed that a "simple outreach" to AAF would be made by Chairman Curtit with regard to use of the NGEC specs. Tim Hoeffner will provide Eric Curtit with contacts for the outreach.

**Status/next steps:**

Eric notified Steve Hewitt that he has not yet made the call, but has the contacts provided and will make the call before the Exec Board's next call.

Steve Hewitt will email the OEM presentations from the Annual Meeting to Sharon Beasley.

<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>



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

**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call  
 March 17, 2015  
 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern  
 Call in number: 866 299 7945 passcode: 1601544#**

**Agenda**

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting   | Mario Bergeron |
| 2. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt   |
| 3. Action Items Status Review   | Steve Hewitt   |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2015 Annual Meeting  | Mario Bergeron |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6   | Arun Rao       |
| 6. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive procurement  | Arun Rao       |
| 7. Status Update: Bi-Level Car procurement  | Sharon Beasley |
| 8. Status Update: 514 subcommittee  | Ron Pate       |
| 9. Status Update/Discussion: NGEC Future Activities<br>Status: SOW - no cost GA extension (approved by the Board 2-20-15) | Darrell Smith  |
| 10. Discussion/recommendations: Naming the bi-level cars/safety card design   | Mario Bergeron |
| 11. Other   | All            |

**Next Call: March 31 2015**