

# SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

MAY 26, 2015

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Eric Curtit, Dale Engelhardt for Mario Bergeron, Darrell Smith, Ray Hessinger, Michael Lestingi, Tammy Nicholson, John Oimoen, John Oimoen as proxy for Arun Rao, Tim Hoeffner, Michael Jenkins, Momoko Tamaoki, Ron Pate, Brian Beeler II</i> <b>Support Staff:</b> <i>Steve Hewitt, Beth Nachreiner, Brent Thompson, Larry Salci, Nico Lindenau, Shayne Gill</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members,</b> <i>Mario Bergeron, Arun Rao, John Rosacker, Paul Worley,</i> <b>Support:</b> <i>Jason Biggs, Allan Paul, Martin Schroeder, Sal D'Angelo, Bryan Hong, Patrick Centolanzi, Dave Warner, Tammy Krause, Vincent Brotski</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.

Eric expressed his thoughts and concerns for Amtrak members over the recent accident in Philadelphia, and recognized the extraordinary effort and depth the organization has shown through these difficult times. Eric expressed his thoughts and prayers to the Amtrak family, and to those families impacted by this tragic accident.

**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:**

### Action Items Status

**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 still being reviewed by the Illinois Governor's office, but expected to be posted soon. The Mid-West group continues to work on developing a governance and ownership model. A draft agreement to oversee the Fleet manager and Fleet Maintainer (governance arrangement) is under review. Michigan continues to be in the process of finalizing an RFP for a Fleet Maintainer.

**Agenda item 5**

**514 Subcommittee update:** Ron Pate reported that the subcommittee continues to work on redoing the capital investment minor updates for concurrence on cost increases. The 514 subcommittee will meet again on 5-18-15. (Ongoing)

**Agenda item 8**

**Executing a no-cost amended grant agreement through 9-30-17:** The extension has been filed by Amtrak and is under FRA review. Amtrak is waiting on a reply from FRA to execute the amended agreement. Michael Lestingi, FRA, will, again, follow up with FRA Grants Office to see what the status is and see about getting the agreement out.

**Agenda item 9**

**Host Railroad Blessing of NGENC equipment:** AAR has created a committee to address issues related to the introduction of new equipment into service. Jeff Gordon is coordinating the effort from the NGENC. A meeting has been set for June 4<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Jeff Gordon has asked for interested states representatives from the Technical subcommittee to contact him if they would like to participate [Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov) This announcement was made on the 4-23-15 and on the 5-7-15 Technical subcommittee calls.

On the 5-7-15 Technical subcommittee call, Jeff Gordon reported that he has received confirmation from Caltrans and IDOT that they will have representation at the AAR meeting to be held in DC on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that Rich Stegner will represent IDOT. Michael Burshtin will attend on behalf of Amtrak. On the last Board call – 5-12-15 – Ron Pate reported that Washington State will be represented by Rob Edgcumbe and Sharon Beasley reported that Caltrans will be represented by Momoko Tamaoki.

**Status: There was nothing new to report today as the meeting won't take place until June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**Developing a policy for public access to NGENC Specs and/or reference documents and drawings:**

The Executive Board approved the following revised language for the website and agreed to include vehicle specifications along with reference specifications and drawings as NGENC restricted access items, and to move them to that section of the website:

*The documents and drawings below are available upon request to contracted vehicle builders and associated suppliers only. To request one of the following documents, click on the document name. A pre-addressed email-box will open. Then please provide your name, phone number, email address, company affiliation and reason for requesting the document. The Chairman of the NGENC 305 Next Generation Equipment Committee reserves the right to reject a request.*

The "memo to file" (attached to the 5-12-15 Minutes) was also accepted and will be posted on the website on the Executive Board page.

**Status: The changes, and memo to file as approved by the Executive Board were submitted to AASHTO on 5-12-15, but, as of this morning (5-26-15) those changes have not been made to the web site.**

**Shayne Gill reported that Bryan Hong has been out the last few weeks – (he has just graduated – Congratulations!) and will be out for another week or so, and he will then address the changes requested.**

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee continues to look at potential funding options and strategies for the future of the NGENC: (ongoing)**

FASC Chair, Darrell Smith, will continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress being made. All Board members are asked to provide their thoughts or views on what the message should be to the Hill, and how would it be delivered.

**Industry requests for the CIP:** Several requests have come in from members of the industry for copies of the CIP. Before considering releasing this document Steve Hewitt has asked the Board to determine if this is an internal document or if it is something that can be released and posted to the web site. The general view of the Board members is that Amtrak needs to make this determination.

Darrell would first check with Mario Bergeron and then let Steve Hewitt know. If Mario agrees, then Steve will send the CIP to AASHTO for posting to the website and distribute it to the industry members who have requested it.

**Status: This item was tabled until the next call due to the more pressing issues related to the recent Amtrak accident in Philadelphia.**

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 5-12-15 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit:**

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Michael Lestingi, FRA, the minutes from the 5-12-15 Executive Board conference call were approved without exception.

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

Tim Hoeffner reported that the Mid-West states met last Wednesday, and that they are close to finalizing and getting out the RFP for a Fleet Manager. He also reported that they are working on the RFP for a Fleet Maintainer. Both of these occurrences Tim categorized as "huge steps for us in the Mid-West".

Tim also reported that the manufacturers have refined commitments relevant to the manufacture of the equipment; and that the "first car body was been married to the roof last week or the week before...and we are moving into the 3 dimensional stage"

**6.****Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – John Oimoen:**

John Oimoen reported that “good progress” continues with the engineering phase remaining about 2 months ahead of schedule.

Final Design Review has been completed with a few issues remaining, but those are expected to be finalized in June.

First Article Inspections on PTC took place a few weeks ago and went well – a few items yet to be resolved but “all is trending well.”

JTEs visited the Cummins factory to observe the engines on blocks. They were able to go from 0-4000 RPMs in 15 seconds with no visible exhaust. “We are very pleased.”

A supplemental Buy America audit was conducted in Jacksonville and went well.

The locomotive weight is holding at 270,000 lbs. and the P2Force remains within the specified limits.

**7.****Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement – Momoko Tamaoki, Caltrans:**

Momoko Tamaoki is Caltrans new representative for the Bi-Level car procurement, and provided the following report:

Of 81 Design Review actions – 42 have been closed and 39 remain open.

First Article Inspections: 14 have been completed; 4 are planned for May; 5 in June and 4 in July, 2015.

Drawings: 1, 542 have been approved – 12 have yet to be submitted.

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

Ron Pate reported that the subcommittee held its most recent call on May 18<sup>th</sup>. He complimented Amtrak staff for its efforts and willingness to participate on the activities of the subcommittee even as their attention is on the recent accident. Amtrak’s willingness to still take the time to participate on the call and move forward on the items under discussion showed “extraordinary commitment” to us and it is greatly appreciated.

Ron reiterated the concerns expressed previously about the forecasts presented and noted that Amtrak and the states are working to resolve their differences.

There will be a meeting among the states, Amtrak, FRA and FMCS on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in DC to discuss Amtrak’s implementation on 209, and the forecast discussions will be continued.

Overall, Ron feels the group is demonstrating that it can work together and the end result will be better efficiencies and maximum benefits.

**9.****Status Report from the Finance and Admn Subcommittee (FASC) on NGEC Future Activities – Darrell Smith:**

- a. Progress: Funding Options Task Force - Brent Thompson:

Brent Thompson reported that task force is making progress as planned. There are a number of outstanding questions that the FRA will be providing answers to, and the task force is expects to wrap up its work with recommendations to the full Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC) on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

- b. Status: Amended Grant Agreement - Mike Lestingi:

Michael Lestingi, FRA, reported that they are “in the signature stage” for executing the amended grant agreement. About 5 people at FRA need to sign the agreement, but “we are about a week away” from

getting it done.

- c. Discussion: Developing a message for the Hill: Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit reported that he and Steve Hewitt have been discussing the development of a quarterly progress report to go from the Chair to Congress.

Steve added that there are two items under development – a revised Backgrounder document set up as more of a forward look-ahead; and a quarterly progress report from the Chair. Both documents (draft) will be presented for review of the FASC before advancing to the Board.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the Board today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:50AM Eastern.

**The next call is June 9, 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. The Mid-West group continues to work on developing the RFP for a Fleet Maintainer. The manufacturers have refined commitments relevant to the manufacture of the equipment; and that the “first car body was been married to the roof last week or the week before...and we are moving into the 3 dimensional stage”.

**514 Subcommittee update:** Ron Pate reported that the subcommittee continues to work on redoing the capital investment minor updates for concurrence on cost increases. A meeting facilitated by FMCS will take place on June 2, 2015 in DC on Amtrak’s implementation of 209. (Ongoing)

**Executing a no-cost amended grant agreement through 9-30-17:** The extension is now in the signature stage at FRA and should be out in about a week’s time.

**Host Railroad Blessing of NGEN equipment:** AAR has created a committee to address issues related to the introduction of new equipment into service. Jeff Gordon is coordinating the effort from the NGEN. A meeting has been set for June 4<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Jeff Gordon has asked for interested states representatives from the Technical subcommittee to contact him if they would like to participate [Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov). This announcement was made on the 4-23-15 and on the 5-7-15 Technical subcommittee calls.

**Status:** On the 5-7-15 Technical subcommittee call, Jeff Gordon reported that he has received confirmation from Caltrans and IDOT that they will have representation at the AAR meeting to be held in DC on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Developing a policy for public access to NGEN Specs and/or reference documents and drawings:** The Executive Board approved the following revised language for the website and agreed to include vehicle specifications along with reference specifications and drawings as NGEN restricted access items, and to move them to that section of the website:

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**Status:** The changes, and memo to file as approved by the Executive Board were submitted to AASHTO on 5-12-15, but, as of this morning (5-26-15) those changes have not been made to the web site.

Shayne reported that Bryan Hong has been out the last few weeks – (he has just graduated – Congratulations!) and will be out for another week and then will address the changes requested.

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee continues to look at potential funding options and strategies for the future of the NGECC: (ongoing)**

FASC Chair Darrell Smith will continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress being made. All Board members are asked to provide their thoughts or views on what the message should be to the Hill, and how would it be delivered.

**Industry requests for the CIP:** Several requests have come in from members of the industry for copies of the CIP. Before considering releasing this document Steve Hewitt has asked the Board to determine if this is an internal document or if it is something that can be released and posted to the web site. The general view of the Board members is that Amtrak needs to make this determination.

Darrell would first check with Mario Bergeron and then let Steve Hewitt know. If Mario agrees, then Steve will send the CIP to AASHTO for posting to the website and distribute it to the industry members who have requested it.

**Status: This item was tabled until the next call due to the more pressing issues related to the recent Amtrak accident in Philadelphia.**

**ATTACHMENTS**



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

**S305 NGECC Executive Board Conference Call  
May 26, 2015**

**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 the May 12, 2015 Call        | Eric Curtit                   |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6          | Tim Hoeffner                  |
| 6. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement | John Oimoen                   |
| 7. Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement               | Sharon Beasley/Momoko Tamaoki |
| 8. Status Update: 514 subcommittee                       | Ron Pate                      |
| 9. Status Report: NGECC Funding/Financing Activities     | Darrell Smith                 |

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- d. Progress: Funding Options Task Force
  - e. Status: Amended Grant Agreement
  - f. Discussion: Developing a message for the Hill

Brent Thompson  
Mike Lestingi  
Eric Curtit

10. Other

All

**Next Call: June 9, 2015**