

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JULY 7, 2015

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome –Mario Bergeron, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

In the absence of Chairman Curtit, Vice Chairman Mario Bergeron opened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

2.

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

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

3.

Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt noted that all action items would be covered on today's agenda.

The current status of all action items are listed below.

Action Items Status

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: The RFP for a fleet manager is now under IDOT legal review. This is the last step in the approval process. The RFP for a fleet maintainer is under development by Michigan DOT. The states are meeting on a monthly basis with task forces working on specific issues as well. (ongoing)

Agenda item 5

514 Subcommittee update: 514 is now focusing on the task at hand of getting equipment operating at a state of good repair. (ongoing)

Agenda item 10

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

Agenda item 6

Contract Extensions: Steve Hewitt will research when the SOW and Budget for the no-cost grant agreement was approved by the Board and if/when it was agreed to extend existing contracts as a part of that agreement. Any next steps determined by that research will be taken up through the appropriate processes to follow through

with the Board's initial intent which was to extend existing contracts through to the end of Grant Agreement Amendment #5 – through federal fiscal year 2017 (9-30-17).

Since the last Board call – the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee, on 6-10-15, approved a motion to extend the contract between Amtrak and AASHTO and with AASHTO and Hewitt Consulting/SalciConsult, and others, in accordance with the revised SOW and budget through 9-30-17. On 6-10-15 the motion, with a recommendation for approval, was submitted to Chairman Curtit, who called for an electronic vote of the Board. By 6-11-15 – all votes were cast in the affirmative, and the Chair determined that consensus was achieved, and the motion carried. The Chair then asked Steve Hewitt to transmit the approved motion to AASHTO and Amtrak (along with all Board members) asking that they take the appropriate steps to carry out the extensions.

On the last call, Chairman Curtit called on those responsible for getting the existing contracts extended to please do so in a timely manner – before the June 30th 2015 expiration of the current contracts.

A status report will be provided under agenda item 6 as a part of the FASC update.

Urgent DCR - -Bi-Level Car weight: Technical Subcommittee Chair Mario Bergeron, following the Urgent DCR process, had called for an electronic vote of the Technical subcommittee on the proposed DCR. The motion to approve the DCR was adopted by a unanimous vote of all Technical subcommittee voting members. Chairman Bergeron, on 6-5-17 determined that consensus had been achieved and the motion is approved. Mr. Bergeron has asked Chairman Curtit to formally convene the Bi-Level Review Panel and ask that Larry Salci begin preparing a memorandum for the panel's review.

Larry Salci anticipates completing the memo by Thursday, June 25, 2015. Steve Hewitt will then check calendars and set a date for a Review panel conference call. Expectations are to complete the review process by the end of next week (week of June 29, 2015).

Chairman Curtit following the NGENC process had re-convened the Bi-Level Review Panel.

The Bi-Level Review Panel Members are:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – Chair
Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT
Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT
John Tunna, FRA
Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel
Tammy Krause, Amtrak will provide technical support
Steve Hewitt – support

Timeline/progress update: Agenda item 8.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 6-23-15 conference call meeting – Mario Bergeron:

On a motion by Ron Pate, and a second by Michael Lestingi, FRA, the minutes from the 6-23-15 Executive Board conference call were approved without exception.

5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 – Eric Curtit for Tim Hoeffner:

Tim Hoeffner reported that the group will be meeting tomorrow (7-8-15) and he will have a status update on the next Executive Board call. The group did not meet in June.

6. Progress Report: Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC)– Darrell Smith:

Darrell Smith reported that the FASC continues to work on its NGENC future action items with an eye towards providing a plan with recommendations to the Executive Board in October, 2015.

At this point it appears that there are primarily two potential funding options - charging a specification use fee, and pursuing additional federal funding.

The FASC continues to develop the specification user fee concept and to look at its viability based on future anticipated equipment needs.

On the last FASC call a legislative outreach task force was established by Chairman Smith. The purpose is to put together a group with legislative outreach expertise to assist in providing the NGEC with a strategy and plan for making the case for continued federal funding.

Eric Curtit has agreed to chair the task force and Mariah Morales, Amtrak Government Affairs, will also be a member. Eric Curtit has also asked Missouri DOT's Government Affairs Director to participate.

Shayne Gill has provided a list of potential state members for the group:

CA – Giles Giovinazzi – Giles.Giovinazzi@dot.ca.gov
MD—Andy Dentamaro – adentamaro@mdot.state.md.us
VT – Karen Songhurst Karen.songhurst@state.vt.us
WA – Alison Camden camdena@wsdot.wa.gov

Eric and Darrell plan to touch base this week to organize the task force and reach out to the list of potential state members.

Steve Hewitt has agreed to provide administrative support to this task force as well.

Additionally, the FASC is working on several "white papers" to ultimately be presented to the Board going forward.

7.

Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Momoko Tamaoki:

In the absence of Momoko Tamaoki, Steve Hewitt read the following update on the status of the Bi-Level Procurement into the meeting record:

Bi-Level

- ***First Article Inspection*** - Cab slider/windows FAI was conducted last week. Caltrans' and IDOT subject matter experts were satisfied with the overall FAI, but there are several open actions pending to fully approve the FAI. Carshell FAI is taking place today as we speak. Caltrans will report the outcome of this FAI at the next conference call.
- ***Design Review Open Hot List Items*** – We have 21 items that need to be closed. (Including the close-out items).
- ***RFCs*** – We approved four RFCs in the last two weeks. Caltrans also sent several DCR to Tammy Krause for consideration last week.
- ***Mics.*** –Next QA/Manufacturing Readiness Meeting at Rochelle is scheduled for 7-9-15. Caltrans, IDOT, and FRA will be participating in person.

8.

Status: Review Panel Memo – Bi-Level Car Weight Change DCR – Steve Hewitt for Larry Salci:

Steve reported on the fact that the Review Panel has been reconvened (last NGEC Executive Board call) and will be called into action upon completion of Mr. Salci's review of the DCR, and his memo and recommendation.

This item will remain as an open action for the next Executive Board call. Steve Hewitt will check with Larry Salci on the status and timeline for review of the DCR, and a completion of the memo and recommendation. Steve Hewitt will then check calendars and set a date for a Review panel conference call.

The Bi-Level Review Panel Members are:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – Chair
Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT
Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT
John Tunna, FRA
Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel
Tammy Krause, Amtrak will provide technical support
Steve Hewitt – support

9.

Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – Arun Rao for John Oimoen:

On behalf of John Oimoen, Arun Rao provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

"FDR follow-up action items are being processed for closure.

The next locomotive First Article Inspections (FAI) is for the XITCS and the engine room lighting. The FAI for the traction alternator will be conducted in early August.

Manufacturing for the first locomotive carbody has begun. Some delays have been experienced due to materials and vendor QA, but are being managed within the project's schedule float by the contractor. The contractor is working to verify the extent of the schedule impact.

The welding process reviews are being conducted this week (7/7 – 7/9) in Sacramento.

The last two of the RFCs have been received and approved. Fourteen draft (DCRs) are being prepared and Rich Stegner has contacted Tammy Krause, to coordinate processing.

The JPEs, FRA and AAR (host RRs and Amtrak) met on 6/4/2015 and 6/5/2015 for guidelines for vehicle qualification testing. Follow-up teams will be meeting for action item resolutions.

The next meeting for the diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) review and application team will be re-scheduled from 6/29/2015, due to calendar conflicts.

The locomotive weight has increased slightly to near 271,000 lbs (+/-) but the calculated P2 force is still within specified limits. Weight is being closely monitored."

10.

Status Update: 514 Subcommittee – Ron Pate:

Ron Pate reported that the 514 subcommittee is working with the overall 209 implementation group and has been participating in the FMCS facilitated effort to get PRIIA 209 policy implemented.

For 514 "we are established and recognized under the NGEC...as we move down the road to the establishment of the 209 committee...we want to make sure we get this group (514) recognized as the way we are ...under the NGEC."

As the 209 committee becomes more structured and implements its governance structure, Ron is hopeful that the 514 subcommittee remains under the NGEC and its governance structure rather than moving to the 209 committee and its structure (which is based on that of the NGEC). Ron would like the 514 to be recognized as under 305 NGEC rather than being moved to within the new 209 governance structure.

Ron will keep the Board apprised of what unfolds as the next FMCS facilitated meeting takes place this week (7-9-15) and he plans to raise these points.

On issues related to the work of the 514 subcommittee, Ron reported that there still remain some states or state supported corridors who have not provided information to be used for better forecasting for the next CIP.

Ron noted that he intends to draft a letter to states asking for their assistance in providing the information needed.

Beth Nachreiner, FRA, asked that Ron provide her and Michael Lestingi with a copy of the DRAFT letter. Ron said that he would and noted that he had provided it to Holly Gierisch, FRA, and Ashok Sundararjan, FRA consultant. Beth noted that if they have it, they will provide it to Beth and Michael.

Mario Bergeron commented on the fact that the July 9th FMCS agenda has an item with regard to 514 and the need to be sure to not be redundant. He noted further that it is important to "recognize that we (514) are already up and running and we do not want to lose momentum." Mario noted further "514 has some funding (through NGEC) already and the 209 funds are not there yet." He added that it was important to keep 514 moving forward and to ensure its continued effectiveness.

Ron Pate agreed with Mario's comments and added that they are very much in line with the points he intends to make at the meeting on July 9th.

Ron added that "without 514, the reconciliation process would not have happened."

11.

Other/Adjourn:

With no further business to come before the Board today, Vice Chairman Bergeron adjourned the meeting at 11:57 AM Eastern.

The next call is July 21, 2015

Decisions/Action Items

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: The next meeting of the Mid-West group is tomorrow (7-8-15) and a status update will be provided on the next NGEC Executive Board call.

514 Subcommittee update: 514 is now focusing on the task at hand of getting equipment operating at a state of good repair. (ongoing)

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

FASC Chair Darrell Smith will continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress being made. Board members are asked to submit any names of potential representatives on the newly established legislative outreach task force. Names should be submitted to Steve Hewitt and Darrell Smith.

Urgent DCR Bi-Level Car Weight Change – Review Panel Memo: This item will remain as an open action for the next Executive Board call. Steve Hewitt will check with Larry Salci on the status and timeline for review of the DCR and a completion of the memo and recommendation. Steve Hewitt will then check calendars and set a date for a Review panel conference call.

ATTACHMENTS



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

**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call
July 7, 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 June 23, 2015 Call | Eric Curtit |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 | Tim Hoeffner |
| 6. Progress report: Finance and Administrative subcommittee activities | Darrell Smith |
| 7. Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement | Momoko Tamaoki |

8. Status: Review Panel Memo – Bi-Level Car Weight Change DCR

Larry Salci

9. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement

John Oimoen

10. Status Update: 514 subcommittee

Ron Pate

11. Other

All

Next Call: July 21 2015