
SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

AUGUST 29, 2017

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

DECISIONS MADE

1. Welcome –Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board:

Chairman Curtit, Missouri DOT, convened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

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

3. Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:

All actions items are to be covered under today's agenda, but for the record, a status update of all open action items, as of the start of this meeting, is included below:

Procurement Updates: (Ongoing)

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

Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement update as of 8-29-17 – **Agenda item 6.**

Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:

Status as of 8-15-17: The Mid-West Fleet Pool Board held its initial meeting on 7-26-17. By-Laws were approved and Officers were elected.

On the Mid-West Locomotives – they are in service on several routes.

Agenda item 5.

Finance and Administrative Subcommittee and New Grant Activities:

Status as of 8-15-17: Darrell Smith received word on 8-15-17 that the agreement had cleared the section where Amtrak addresses the new FRA requirements regarding plan goals for DBE. This item has now cleared Amtrak, and its purchasing department will be in touch with AASHTO soon to move forward with the contract extension between Amtrak and AASHTO through the life of the grant agreement (9-30-19). AASHTO will then, in turn, work with the sub-contractors to do the same with those contracts.

Next update on this activity– 8-29-17

Agenda item 7.

Technical subcommittee update: Next update 8-29-17.

Agenda item 8.

514 subcommittee next update: 9-12-17

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.

Members have been identified.

Eric Curtit reported on 5-23-17 that he and Steve Hewitt were working on a brief that will encapsulate what it is the working group should accomplish and will send it out for member feedback. Following that input, it will be sent to NGECE Executive Board members for review and comment. (ongoing)

Status as of 8-15-17: In recent conversations with Steve Hewitt, Eric has begun to re-focus his attention on the formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Working Group. As you will recall, the Board agreed to wait until the Locomotive procurement process was complete and the equipment was in service so that those involved would have the time and ability to provide their input and insight into the efforts of the working group. With that process coming to completion, Eric intends to begin the activities of the working group soon. He has noted that his intent is to capture the things we've learned and to develop best practices for ownership and acquisition. More will follow on this in the coming weeks.

Agenda item 9.

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 8-15-17 Conference call meetings – Eric Curtit:

On a motion by Darrell Smith, Amtrak, and a second by John Oimoen, IDOT, the minutes from the 8-15-17 Executive Board conference call were approved as presented.

5.

Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 – John Oimoen, IDOT and Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT:

John Oimoen reported that the Mid-West States held a ribbon cutting ceremony introducing the Charger locomotive his past week with representation from all the Mid-West State partners in the procurement, as well as Amtrak, FRA and Siemens. Amtrak did a great job of coordinating the event. It was a great way to showcase the new locomotives and was a celebration of a great accomplishment. John also noted that the event got "good press".

Arun Rao added that the introduction also rolled out Amtrak's branding of the Mid-West locomotives promoting regional connectivity.

On Section 6 requirements, the draft plan has been updated with a final draft to be sent back to FRA "shortly".

6.

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

John Oimoen provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

- a) All locomotives have completed required testing and all reports have been submitted and received. 110 mph hour testing in MI and the Chicago/St. Louis line will take place when all PTC logistics and software are up and in place. Progress was made this week in getting the proper agreements in place to move this forward.*
 - b) All Caltrans locomotives are in revenue service.*
 - c) IDOT and Siemens have signed conditional and final acceptance on 21 IDOT units.*
 - d) IDOT Revenue service started 7/27/2017, with units placed in trailing position. IDOT locomotives began revenue service in Lead Position last Thursday 8/24/2017.*
 - e) IDOT locomotives 4616 - 4625 have completed burn-in testing at TTCI. Locomotives 4626 & 4627 will be burn-in tested next week at TTCI. The locomotives stored at TTCI will be shipped to Chicago, as soon as storage space becomes available. Storage space in Chicago is limited, until the P-42 locomotives are re-deployed by Amtrak.*
 - f) The Wi-tronix system has been installed on all locomotives and all units in Chicago, except one, have had the necessary software installed which will allow the remaining units to be placed in Lead Position for revenue service. Caltrans software installation is scheduled for next week. Tentatively WSDOT the following week.*
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- g) All WSDOT Locomotives have been delivered and have completed pre-revenue testing and are being readied for revenue service.*
- h) WSDOT is finalizing their lease with Amtrak*
- i) Siemens warranty service locations are now established at all JPE locations.*
- j) The Failure Review Board has been established, with two meetings taking place so far with all JPE's included and Siemens. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept 7th. The meeting for October (5th) is planned to be held in Wilmington Delaware and include a visit to Siemen's customer service facility. Plans are being made to hold some meetings with Amtrak personnel based in Wilmington. Amtrak representation will also be asked to take part in future meetings.*

7.

Status: Amtrak/AASHTO Contract extensions – AASHTO/consultant extensions-timeline to complete - Darrell Smith:

Darrell Smith reported that this effort is moving long well, and that he has a conference call with the Amtrak procurement team on Thursday (8-31-17) which should "wrap it up for getting the paper work over to AASHTO".

8.

Technical subcommittee Monthly Progress Report – Mario Bergeron, Amtrak:

Eric Curtit opened this agenda item by commenting on the recent announcement that Mario Bergeron will be leaving Amtrak and going to VIA Rail effective 11-3-17. Mario has been a major part of the NGEC from the beginning and has served from day one as Vice Chair of the NGEC Executive Board and Chairman of the Technical subcommittee. "Mario, you will be missed...we all wish you all the best and congratulate you...on behalf of the NGEC thank you for all that you do".

Mario thanked Eric for the kind words and said he would save his good byes for later since he will still be working with the NGE for the next few months.

Mario provided the following Technical subcommittee progress report:

The Technical subcommittee continues to monitor the progress of the "Charger" locomotive, and we receive an update from IDOT on a bi-weekly basis. Great progress has been made – it is of special significance that the locomotives have now been introduced into lead position. So much work goes on behind the scenes to make all of this happen. It is a great accomplishment!

The Technical subcommittee has established a working group to look at the future of electronics on trains. The working group is chaired by Cynthia Dietz, SNC-Lavalin, and meets bi-weekly. The working group is following the NGEC process for developing a requirements document for a DTL software specification, and is currently reviewing a DRAFT outline of the document.

As for document control, the changes to the PRIIA Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification which will comprise Revision B, as adopted by the Executive Board, is currently with the technical specification writer. Once complete, it will be sent to Steve Hewitt and AASHTO where it will become available through the NGEC request process.

9.

Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit reminded members that in February 2017 at the NGEC Annual Meeting, it was agreed that an Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices working group would be established to develop a best practices manual – something that is "right in the NGEC's wheel house and a part of our mission".

The activities of the working group had been tabled because of the heavy work load of its volunteers in completing the task at hand of getting the locomotives completed and launched into service. With much of that having been accomplished, it is now time to begin to focus on the working group and begin to develop its scope and start the process of developing the best practices manual.

Eric hopes to have a draft scope out to the Board members prior to the next call, to be sure he has captured the key areas to be addressed, and following that, the scope will go to the members of the working group and assignments will be made.

Eric asked Steve Hewitt to remind the Board of who has volunteered, to date, to be on the working group. Steve read the list and asked those who are on it to let him know if anything has changed since the initial outreach for volunteers.

Working Group Members:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair - Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov

Sal DeAngelo, FRA Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov

Joe Paul – Amtrak – joseph.paul@amtrak.com

Tim Hoeffner - Michigan DOT - Hoeffnert@michigan.gov

Michael Jenkins – Oregon DOT - Michael.l.jenkins@odot.state.or.us

John Oimoen - Illinois DOT- john.oimeon@illinois.gov

Jennifer Bastian – Illinois DOT – Designated Alternate – Jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov

Ron Pate – Washington State DOT - pater@wsdot.wa.gov

Jason Biggs – Washington State DOT – Designated Alternate – biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov

Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans – momoko.tamaoki@dot.ca.gov

Paul Jamieson – Industry Member – SNC-Lavalin - Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com

Dick Bruss – Industry Member – NARP - rjembruss@gmail.com

Steve Hewitt - NGEC Support: Steve Hewitt - Shewitt109@aol.com

Larry Salci – Consultant - larry@salciconsult.com

**10.
Other – all:**

**11.
Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming for today, Eric Curtit adjourned the call at 11:48 AM Eastern.

The next conference call is September 12, 2017

Decisions/Action Items

Procurement Updates: (Ongoing)

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On Section 6 requirements, the plan has been updated with a final draft to be sent back to FRA "shortly".

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

Darrell Smith reported that this effort is moving long well, and that he has a conference call with the Amtrak procurement team on Thursday (8-31-17) which should "wrap it up for getting the paper work over to AASHTO".

Next full Finance and Administrative subcommittee progress report – 9-12-17

514 Subcommittee Progress Report: (ongoing)

Brian Beeler II reported on 8-15-17 that he had just received from Amtrak, the first full draft of the updated CIP. This will be reviewed and discussed on the (8-15-17) next scheduled 514 subcommittee conference call.

He also reported that the 3rd quarter reconciliation call was held last week (week of 8-7-17) and the information/details on equipment capital overhauls are going well within a very good timeframe.

The next 514 subcommittee update to the NGECE Executive Board (9-12-17) will likely be more detailed as they expect to have progressed to a final draft of the CIP by then.

Next 514 Progress Report – 9-12-17

Standing Subcommittee monthly update schedule:

Technical subcommittee – next update – 9-26-17

514 subcommittee – next update – 9-12-17

Finance and Administrative subcommittee – 9-12-17

Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group: Eric Curtit plans to have a draft scope out to the Board members prior to the next call (9-12-17) to be sure he has captured the key areas to be addressed, and following that, the scope will go to the members of the working group and assignments will be made.

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group Members:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair - Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov

Sal DeAngelo, FRA Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov

Joe Paul – Amtrak – joseph.paul@amtrak.com

Tim Hoeffner - Michigan DOT - Hoeffnert@michigan.gov

Michael Jenkins – Oregon DOT - Michael.I.jenkins@odot.state.or.us

John Oimoen - Illinois DOT- john.oimeon@illinois.gov

Jennifer Bastian – Illinois DOT – Designated Alternate – Jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov

Ron Pate – Washington State DOT - pater@wsdot.wa.gov

Jason Biggs – Washington State DOT – Designated Alternate – biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov

Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans – momoko.tamaoki@dot.ca.gov

Paul Jamieson – Industry Member – SNC-Lavalin - Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com

Dick Bruss – Industry Member – NARP - rjembruss@gmail.com

Steve Hewitt - NGECE Support: Steve Hewitt - Shewitt109@aol.com

Larry Salci – Consultant - larry@salciconsult.com

ATTACHMENTS



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

S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call
August 29, 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 the 8-15-17 conference call meetings | Darrell Smith |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 | Tim Hoeffner |
| 6. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement | John Oimoen |
| 7. Status: Amtrak/AASHTO Contract extensions – AASHTO/consultant extensions-timeline to complete | Darrell Smith |
| 8. Technical subcommittee Monthly Progress Report | Mario Bergeron |
| 9. Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group | Eric Curtit |
| 10. Other | All |

Next Meeting -September 12, 2017
