

SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2014

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Eric Curtit, Mario Bergeron, Ray Hessinger, John Tunna for Paul Nissenbaum, Arun Rao for Donna Brown-Martin, Stan Hunter (Stan also as proxy for John Oimoen) Ron Pate, Support Staff: Jeff Gordon, Shayne Gill, David Ewing, Larry Salci, Sara Sarkhili, Steve Hewitt, Kevin Kesler, Ashok Sundararajan,
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Darrell Smith, Tammy Nicholson, Tim Hoeffner, Craig Moody, Paul Nissenbaum, Donna Brown-Martin, Paul Worley, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II, Support: Jason Biggs, Allan Paul, Melissa Shurland, Nico lindenau, Strat Cavros, Andy House, Michael Lestingi, Sal DeAngelo, Martin Schroeder, Patrick Centolanzi, Dave Warner, Dale Engelhardt, Vincent Brotski, Nikki Rudnick

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

Chairman Curtit 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. Action Items Status Review – Steve Hewitt

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item. RFIs for a fleet manager and a fleet maintainer are expected to be released in late June or early July, 2014.

Status: Under agenda item 7 – a status report will be provided.

514 Working Group updates: Ron will continue to provide updates to the Board on the progress of the working group.

Status: Under agenda item 10 – a status report will be provided.

Bi-Level Review Timeline: Larry Salci is beginning his review of the 106 DCRs. He expects to complete the process by mid-August. Larry will provide Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt with a timeline as he nears completion so a bi-level review panel call can be scheduled.

Status: Larry Salci provided the following status update:

"I am planning to complete the Review Panel Report, Revision C.2 by afternoon of Wed. August 13 and mail to Review Panel same day. I would be available for Review Panel Meeting Aug 14, 15, 16, and 18. I have to be in Milwaukee on Tue., August 19 for meeting of Midwest States on Bi-level Procurement issues, ownership, management and vehicle maintenance meeting. I would also be available after August 19 for meeting."

It was agreed that the Review Panel would plan to meet on August 20, 2014 at 1:00PM Eastern. Steve Hewitt will send out a calendar appointment to all Panel members.

D-E Locomotive DCRs: IDOT anticipates having the DCRs completed by the end of July and submitted to Dave Warner for his review.

Status: Stan Hunter reported that the list of DCRs is being finalized and is expected to be sent to Dave Warner tomorrow (August 6, 2014)

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.

Status: Under agenda items 8 and 9 – status reports will be provided.

NGEC Future discussion: Eric Curtit will provide a DRAFT scope to the working group members by the end of the week.

Status: On July 31, 2014 Eric Curtit provided NGEC Future Working Group members with a DRAFT Scope of Work and background material from the 2013 Working Group efforts. Eric has asked for comments on the DRAFT scope by COB August 8, 2014.

Steve Hewitt will work with Andrea Ryan on logistics for the Wilmington, DE meeting of the NGEC Executive Board. Steve will give a status update on the next Board call.

Status: This was to be taken up under agenda item 11, however, Steve reported that he spoke to Andrea Ryan today and the dates are not yet locked in – but the dates being looked at as preferred are October 20-22. At issue is the availability of Government rate on those dates. This could push it back to the 23-24. We should know something more firm by next week, and, as soon as it is confirmed, Steve Hewitt will notify all Board members and send a calendar appointment. Until then, all members are asked to put a tentative hold on those dates on their calendars (20-24) until plans are finalized.

The ATF is developing straw man proposal to guide it in evaluating topics for the webinar series and to decide if it has enough of a connection for the NGEC to sponsor it or if it should be referred to AASHTO's Rail Resource Center. The ATF will be considering the proposal on its August 1st call and will keep the Board informed.

Status: Ray Hessinger will provide an update on this activity under agenda item # 6.

Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment: Jeff Gordon is working with Jim Grady, AAR on a list of issues the freight railroads have and on what they need to learn about with regard to the new passenger rail equipment.

Status: Jeff Gordon reported that this is still ongoing.

4.

Approval of Minutes from the July 22, 2014 Executive Board conference calls – Eric Curtit:

On a motion by Ron Pate, Washington State DOT, and a second by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, the Minutes from the July 22, 2014 Executive Board conference call were approved without objection.

5.

Update: Finance subcommittee activities – Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt for Darrell Smith:

- a. Status of efforts to Explore Options for Financing passenger rail equipment

Eric Curtit provided an update on the status of the Finance subcommittee's efforts to explore financing options for passenger rail equipment.

The subcommittee has held a number of webinar presentations on various financing options. The most recent was a presentation by Allan Rutter "Send Lawyers, Trains and Money". This presentation was deemed to fit the criterion for a RR202 webinar and was offered to a broader audience.

David Ewing has been the lead in securing speakers (all pro-bono) and is looking to add a few more to the series in the future.

- b. Funding the NGEC beyond the June, 2015 Grant Agreement

Steve Hewitt reported that Darrell Smith, in his role as both NGEC Treasurer and Finance subcommittee chair, has notified the subcommittee that a priority agenda item beginning with the next call (August 27th) will be to begin the process of finding a way to fund the NGEC beyond its current grant agreement expiration date of June 30, 2015. Darrell's intent for today was to raise this issue with the Board - as an FYI – reminding members that this is a long process and the expiration date is less than 11 months

away. The time is now to begin addressing funding beyond that date.

**6.
Update: Administrative Task Force activities - Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger provided an overview of the ATF activities thus far this year:

- a. The ATF is monitoring the website to make sure it is kept up to date
- b. It has updated the one page backgrounder document.
- c. The ATF has monitored the resolution of the IG audit recommendations. All have been addressed and the audit is now closed with all actions having been completed.
- d. The ATF monitored and concluded the Grant Agreement Amendment.
- e. The members discussed Re-authorization (PRIIA and MAP21) and determined that the backgrounder document will be the NGEN's outreach document.
- f. The ATF developed a RR202 webinar criteria evaluation scoring sheet.

On its last call (August 1, 2014) the ATF reviewed and approved a proposed evaluation scoring sheet developed by Tammy Nicholson. The document will be revised slightly to reflect changes requested by the ATF. Those changes include formatting it to one page; adding a date to it; and listing on the bottom that it is to be initially completed and submitted to Ray Hessinger, Steve Hewitt, Tammy Nicholson, and Shayne Gill. From there it is submitted to the ATF for approval.

A copy of the draft document was distributed to the Board as an FYI prior to today's call.

**7.
Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 - Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit reported that the Mid-West Section 6 effort continues to make good progress.

They continue their "ongoing quest for RFI's; and continue to meet on a regular basis to make sure that Section 6 requirements are met."

**8.
Status Update: Bi-Level car procurement – Stan Hunter:**

Stan Hunter reported that progress continues to be made. The IDR is near close out; and a milestone payment to Sumitomo is about to be made.

The current focus is to go into the first article inspection stage.

They are getting ready for car shell production.

The issue of weight reduction strategy is still being worked on.

There was a grand opening of Shop 3 of the Nippon Sharyo facility in Rochelle, Illinois. This expansion of the facility will increase plant capability dramatically.

Eric Curtit commented that there was a recent press release issued by IDOT in which Governor Quinn and FRA Administrator Szabo announced that they were comfortable that, although they are still working on amendments, the options for increased car orders will be executed. If this occurs as expected the total of cars to be manufactured will increase from 130 to 175. This would equate to an increase of 34 cars for the Mid-West states – up from 88; and an increase of 11 cars for Caltrans – up from 42.

Following the call, Eric provided Steve Hewitt with the link to the press release and he distributed it to all Board

members.

Here is the link:

<http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=2&RecNum=12463>

9.

Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive procurement – Stan Hunter for John Oimoen:

Stan Hunter provide the following report from John Oimoen and Rich Stegner:

“Follow-up action items for Preliminary Design Review (PDR) are nearly closed. Only 9 remain and should be closed within the next several days.

NTP+120 CDRLs have been reviewed by JPEs and comments sent back to the contractor. NTP+30 & 45 day and NTP+90 CDRLs are nearly all closed, with only a few action items remaining for Siemens to re-submit.

We anticipate first invoice for PDR in August (Milestone B – for PDR).

Mock-up reviews for locomotive cab and trucks are now scheduled for Week of September 8th at Siemens factory.

Intermediate design review (IDR) is scheduled for weeks of September 29 – October 3, October 20 and November 10 in Chicago at PB’s large meeting room at 30 LaSalle St.

Weekly JPE conference calls continue.

Siemens continues weekly engineering and project management conference calls w/ JPEs.

FRA continues participation in conference call meetings.

The list of proposed specification revisions (DCRs - 15 items at this time) has been prepared and reviewed with Caltrans on 8/1. We will review with JPEs tomorrow (8/5) and submit to D. Warner at NGEC on Wednesday (8/6).”

David Ewing asked if there was a potential for additional locomotive orders.

Stan Hunter responded that options are possible within the Siemens contract, but none have yet been firmed up. He added, “there are 225 option slots available if so desired.”

10.

Status Update: 514 Working Group –Ron Pate:

Ron Pate reported that the working group is completing its work on developing a Capital Equipment 5 Year Plan. Darrell Smith is out in Washington (State) working on finalizing the plan. Once complete it will be what Ron is referring to as “a final interim draft for use”.

Overall the process is moving forward and “we will have product to show and share soon.”

Eric Curtit expressed his thanks and appreciation to Ron and the working group for the “heavy lift – you’ve moved the mountain.”

Ron noted that he had “lots of help” from the states and Amtrak and FRA. He added that having “some kind of ongoing discussions to manage expectations will be critical.” He also noted the need for ongoing updates with solid information and a clear process.

11.

Adjourn:

With no further business to come before the Board today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the call at approximately 12:16 PM

Eastern.

The next call is: August 19, 2014, 11:30am Eastern

Decisions/Action Items – 8-5-14 Executive Board Conference Call

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item. Progress is being made – governance is a key issue yet to be resolved.

514 Working Group updates: The Capital Equipment 5 Year Plan is being finalized – the goal continues to be to have it before the NGEC Executive Board for approval in mid-September, 2014.

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.

The ATF has approved an evaluation scoring sheet for determining whether or not a topic meets the criterion as an NGEC sponsored webinar.

NGEC Future discussion: The working group members have received a DRAFT scope of work and have been asked to send their comments to Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt by COB on August 8th.

Steve Hewitt will continue to work with Andrea Ryan on logistics for the Wilmington, DE meeting of the NGEC Executive Board. Currently it is anticipated that the meeting will take place over two days during the week of October 20.

Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment: Jeff Gordon is working with Jim Grady, AAR on a list of issues the freight railroads have and on what they need to learn about with regard to the new passenger rail equipment.

Bi-Level Review timeline: Larry Salci will have a DRAFT report ready for distribution to Review Panel members on August 13. Steve Hewitt will set up a conference call for the Review Panel for 1:00PM Eastern on August 20th.

D-E Locomotive DCRs: IDOT anticipates having the DCRs ready to go to Dave Warner on August 6th.

The Finance subcommittee will begin looking at options for funding the NGEC beyond June 30, 2015. Darrell Smith will keep the Board informed on the status of this effort.

