

SECTION 305 FINANCE and ADMINISTRATIVE SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES JULY 21, 2021 3:00PM EASTERN CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Tim Ziethen, Chair of the S305 Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC)</i>
ATTENDEES	<i>Tim Ziethen, John Oimoen, Arun Rao, Troy Hughes, Mike Murray for Jeff Gordon, Strat Cavros, Steve Hewitt</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Jeff Gordon, Brian Beeler II, Ray Hessinger, Amanda Martin, Jason Biggs, Larry Salci, Shayne Gill</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1. Welcome and Open Meeting – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Subcommittee Chair, Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, opened the conference call meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

2. Roll Call – Steve Hewitt:

Steve Hewitt called the roll and could not confirm the presence of a quorum. It was agreed that the meeting would take place, but with no votes taken.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 6-23-21 conference call – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the Draft minutes from the 6-23-21 meeting were tabled until the next meeting – 8-18-21.

4. Treasurer’s Update – Tim Ziethen:

Tim Ziethen provided the following Treasurer’s update:

Balance and Spend Rate

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
 Amount Spent through April 2021: \$779,984.75
 Balance remaining: \$ 464,743.12.
 Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$392,628.44.
 Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,022.44
 Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$72,114.68

5. Conveying the message - Tim/Steve:

2021 NGECC two-page handout - Steve:

Over 555 of these documents have been distributed electronically.

Reauthorization of the NGECC - Tim/Steve:

Steve Hewitt reported that he talked to Steve Morrison, Siemens, twice last week and got an update on conversations Steve Morrison has had over the past two days.

He reported that:

He spoke to the Siemens lobbyist Harrison Wadsworth. Harrison told him that Frances Bourne, House T&I committee staff, assured him that the NGECC is "covered" in the Budget. When I asked Steve - what budget - he went back to

Harrison, and he said she is referring to the FRA's budget.

Steve M also reported that he had a call with Charlie King, now in his new role at FRA, and let Charlie know where things stood with the NGEC. Charlie was supportive and agreed that it is a good program which should be continued. Charlie was going to reach out to Michael Lestingi (now interim Executive Director of FRA) and make sure he is aware and see where he stands on this.

Tim Ziethen reported that Ken Altman, Amtrak Government Affairs, believes (and others seem to agree), that the NGEC does not necessarily need to be reauthorized, although that would be a cleaner way to go, because the original statute in PRIIA and the FAST Act did not sunset the NGEC. Therefore, the NGEC can continue to operate as long as it wishes to until its funds are no longer available. Tim reiterated that the NGEC has 'funds enough for the better part of the next 3 years'. Tim also noted that the NGEC can get funding from a variety of sources – through authorization and a subsequent appropriation, through the FRA or even through Amtrak, but we "still need to get pen to paper". It remains important that the effort continues to pursue all avenues to get the NGEC reauthorized with funding.

Tim added that Amtrak supports the NGEC and has included it in its grant request as one possible use of funds it receives.

John Oimoen, IDOT, reported that, following the last Executive Board call, he informed his Government Affairs office of the issue of reauthorizing the NGEC with funding, and emphasized the importance of the NGEC and how valuable and important it has been to IDOT and to the other Mid-West states throughout the procurement process and the resulting production and placement into service of the new locomotives and now passenger rail cars.

John noted that Steve Hewitt provided him with background information and proposed legislative language (scope and funding), which he gave to his Deputy Secretary, Doug House. Initial conversations with Senator Durbin's staff were positive, and they were receptive.

This week IDOT's Secretary and Deputy Secretary are in DC this week. They are working the Hill and John provided the following email he received from Deputy Secretary Doug House on the issue of the NGEC:

John, Yes, the Secretary and I have followed up with the delegation and personally placed it in the hands of Secretary Buttigieg's staff Charles Small Government Liaison, Maurice Henderson Senior Advisor. All that can be done is being done! Cross your fingers!

John hopes that there "may be a path forward".

Thanked for his efforts on behalf of the NGEC, John responded "we (IDOT) have benefited from the NGEC in our procurements. We reaped the benefits and are trying to do some 'payback'."

In closing the discussion, Tim Ziethen summarized that there are some options for the NGEC moving forward, and that the efforts should continue. He will continue to talk to Ken Altman; Steve Hewitt will keep in touch with Siemens and others in the industry, and John Oimoen will keep the FASC, and the Executive Board apprised as he hears more from IDOT's efforts on the Hill. In the meantime, the NGEC will continue to move forward and continue its work with its current funding which will take it through at least 9-30-2023.

6.

Setting Timelines for Annual By-Laws Review and Two-Pager Update – Steve/Tim:

Steve Hewitt suggested that, in September, FASC Secretary, John Oimoen and Steve Hewitt begin the annual review of the NGEC By-Laws and make any suggestions they may have to the FASC by the end of October. If the FASC agrees, the By-Laws as revised (or not) will be sent to the Executive Board where they will be required to have them for 30 days before considering any changes that may be suggested. This will enable the Board to vote for consideration of approval by December 2021 and fulfill the annual review requirement.

John Oimoen, agreed to participate in the review, and Tim Ziethen approved the timeline as suggested.

The two-pager, Steve Hewitt suggested, should be reviewed, again by the FASC and recommended updates should be provided to the Executive Board for consideration.

This document should have updates as spec revisions will have taken place, more vehicles will have been put in service and an even better story can be told. The goal will be to have a DRAFT update approved by the Executive Board by January 2022 to allow for time to be finalized electronically and in hard copy for distribution at the NGEC Annual meeting on 2-25-22.

Steve asked Troy Hughes, MODOT, if the MODOT graphics art office would be willing to, once again, make the updates

and print the hard copies.

Troy Hughes agreed to have MODOT, once again, produce the document with whatever changes are requested and provide it electronically and print hard copies as needed.

7.

Status- Quarterly Report due 7-30-21 to FRA – Tim Ziethen:

The Quarterly Report for the period ending 6-30-21 is due next week by 7-30-21. Tim Ziethen reported that he will have it ready for a review by Steve Hewitt early next week and it will be submitted on time. (Note, the report has been submitted on time every quarter since its inception and there have been no issues to date.)

Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Ziethen adjourned the call at about 3:30pm Eastern.

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

Next call – 8-18-21

Decisions - Action Items

Treasurer's Report – 7-21 -21:

Balance and Spend Rate (through May 2021)

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.

Amount Spent through April 2021: \$779,984.75

Balance remaining: \$ 464,743.12.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$392,628.44.

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Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$72,114.68

Conveying the message (Federal Surface Transportation Authorization):

Executing action Plan – status/activities as of 7-21-21:

2021 NGEC two-page handout:

Approximately 555 of these documents have been distributed electronically. Feedback has been positive.

Update on Reauthorization

See detailed discussion above under agenda item 5.

Reauthorization efforts continue...

Actions:

Tim Ziethen will continue to talk to Ken Altman, Amtrak Government Affairs.

Steve Hewitt will keep in touch with Siemens and others in the industry.

John Oimoen, IDOT, will keep the FASC, and the Executive Board apprised as he hears more from IDOT's efforts on the Hill. In the meantime, the NGEC will continue to move forward and continue its work with its current funding which will take it through at least 9-30-2023.

Quarterly Grant Progress Report to FRA for quarter ending 6-30-21:

The Quarterly Report for the period ending 6-30-21 is due next week by 7-30-21. Tim Ziethen reported that he will have it ready for a review by Steve Hewitt early next week and it will be submitted on time as have all quarterly reports to date.

Annual By-Laws Review and Two-Pager Updates:

Annual By-Laws review:

It was agreed that, in September, FASC Secretary, John Oimoen and Steve Hewitt begin the annual review of the NGEC By-Laws and make any suggestions they may have to the FASC by the end of October. If the FASC agrees, the By-Laws as revised (or not) will be sent to the Executive Board where they will be required to have them for 30 days before considering any changes that may be suggested. This will enable the Board to vote for consideration of approval by December 2021 and fulfill the annual review requirement.

Updating the two-pager:

It was agreed that the two-pager should be updated again for 2022. The review begins with the FASC, and recommended updates should be provided to the Executive Board for consideration.

The goal will be to have a DRAFT update approved by the Executive Board by January 2022 to allow for time to be finalized electronically and in hard copy for distribution at the NGEC Annual meeting on 2-25-22.

Troy Hughes agreed to have MODOT, once again, produce the document with whatever changes are requested and provide it electronically and print hard copies as needed.

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Next Call -8-18-21

ATTACHMENTS



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Finance and Administrative Subcommittee (FASC)

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

AGENDA

7-21-21

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| 1. Welcome/Open | Tim Ziethen |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approval of the Minutes from 6-23-21 | Tim Ziethen |
| 4. Treasurer's Update | Tim Ziethen |
| a. Balance-Spend Rate | |
| 5. Conveying the Message | Tim/Steve |
| Educational Document | |
| Update on Reauthorization/Funding of the NGEC | |
| 6. Setting Timelines for Annual By-Laws Review and Updating Two -pager | Steve/Tim |
| 7. Status Quarterly Report due July 31,2021 to FRA | Tim |
| 8. Other Issues/questions | All |

Next Call 8-18-21