

# SECTION 305 FINANCE SUB COMM

MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2011

3:00 PM EST

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>DJ Stadtler, Treasurer S305 NGENC Committee Executive Board, and Chair of the S305 Finance Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<i>DJ Stadtler, Rob Edgcumbe, Steve Hewitt, Nancy Greene, Ken Uznanski, Leo Penne, Chad Edison</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Brent Thompson, Paul Nissenbaum, Whitney Phend, Juli Salvi, Scott Witt, Shayne Gill, Jim Donlin, Bill Bronte, David Ewing, Amy Arnis</i>

## DECISIONS MADE

DJ Stadtler called the meeting of the Finance subcommittee to order and the roll call was taken. As a lack of a quorum was noted, it was agreed that approval of the minutes of the previous meeting be tabled until the next call (June 29, 2011)

Agenda items:

1. Update on the Finance and Structure Working Group (FSWG) – Rob Edgcumbe
2. Open discussion on future funding of the NGENC – moving forward – DJ Stadtler/all
3. Discussion: Mica/Shuster proposal - All
4. Other discussions

### **Item 1 – Update on the FSWG – Rob Edgcumbe:**

Rob Edgcumbe reported that he and the sub group leaders of the FSWG met in person last week. Subgroup leaders are: Nancy Greene, Structure; Reuben Vabner, Finance; and Larry Salci, Management.

The group discussed the work each had done and will be restructuring an early draft template. They will prepare an Executive Summary type document as well as a full document "behind that".

Rob reported that there remains serious questions about whether it will be necessary to create an entity or not and, if so, at what level.

Rob anticipates having a draft of the documentation by June 30, 2011 for distribution to the Finance subcommittee for its review and comment. He plans to send a revised "program" to Steve Hewitt for distribution by the end of the day (June 15, 2011).

Steve also requested a list of the members of the FSWG for the record. Rob agreed to provide it.

### **Item 2 – Open discussion on future funding of the NGENC – moving forward – DJ Stadtler:**

DJ reported that he was preparing a draft document on the issue of the need for future funding for the NGENC moving forward. He noted that the Committee did not receive funding in FY2011 and will need to make a case to obtain funding in FY 2012. DJ noted that he will build on the letter sent to Trains magazine by Bill Bronte citing the positive things the NGENC has done and add to it the need for funding in the future.

DJ asked for input from the members of the subcommittee as he prepares the draft document:

- Rob Edgcumbe commented that the FSWG has identified the likelihood of the need for full time staff – possibly in the form of an Executive Director and some Administrative support. The extent of staffing will depend on the type of structure the NGENC establishes or becomes.
- Leo Penne noted that this continues the struggle the Board has had in trying to, as Bill Bronte has said, "determine what we want to be when we grow up". Leo stated that once you know "what you want to be", you need to determine "what you need to perform in that capacity".
- Leo also commented that there are three key areas to focus on:
  1. Governance
  2. Capacity to coordinate
  3. Permanent capability for doing the work.
- Leo also pointed out the fact that the document control/maintenance process currently being developed in the Technical subcommittee will require something more permanent in the long term.
- Rob Edgcumbe and Steve Hewitt noted that they were on a call earlier today with members of the

Document Control Task Force, and it is becoming evident that, in the long term, people in review aspects of the process will change, and the process itself may need to evolve so that it functions more efficiently.

- Leo commented that it will be important to retain the elements that are making the NGEC work now, while looking to add elements that will keep it moving forward in the future.
- DJ summarized that we will need to "juggle the fact that we know what we need, even if we don't know what we will become." There will be a need to "shift from volunteerism to more of a structure" moving forward.

DJ will prepare a draft document to be distributed to subcommittee members through Steve Hewitt, by tomorrow. (June 16, 2011). The draft document will be circulated to the Executive Board in advance of the June 23, 2011 Board meeting. DJ will also prepare a short power point presentation for Ken Uznanski to present (on DJ's behalf) at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. (It was determined that, in DJ's absence, Ken will have DJ's proxy for that Executive Board meeting) The presentation will be sent to Steve Hewitt so that it can be presented at the Board meeting.

### **Item 3 – Brief discussion of the Mica-Shuster proposal – All**

There was a brief discussion concerning the proposal introduced by Congressmen Mica and Shuster which would call for dramatic changes. It was agreed that it is a bit premature to have a Board level discussion on this proposal, but it will likely be a future discussion topic as more is learned about it, and as it progresses through the House legislative process.

**Next Finance subcommittee conference call: June 29, 2011 at 3:00pm Eastern  
866 209 1307 access code: 8597804#**

### **Action Items Update (New and Current)**

**Carryover Action Item:** Leo Penne, AASHTO, has sent out a request for states to provide contact information of state attorneys who work with their state's rail program. Purpose is to establish a states legal pool as a resource to the Committee. Leo will provide a list of the 20 states that have responded and send it to Steve Hewitt for distribution.

**Carryover Action Item:** Nancy Greene to provide DJ Stadtler with proposed voting procedures for the Finance subcommittee to consider. (It will be based on the procedures adopted by the Technical subcommittee)

**Action Item:** DJ Stadtler to prepare a draft document in regards to securing future funding for the NGEC. He will also prepare a brief power point presentation for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Executive Board. The draft document and power point to be sent to Steve Hewitt (and Ken Uznanski) in advance of the Board meeting

**Action Item:** Rob Edgcumbe to send the list of FSWG volunteers/members to Steve Hewitt for the record.

**Action Item:** Rob Edgcumbe to provide a revised FSWG program to Steve Hewitt for Finance subcommittee member distribution on June 15, 2011.

**Action Item:** Rob Edgcumbe to provide draft proposal from the FSWG for subcommittee review by June 30, 2011.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Agenda  
June 15, 2011

1. Roll Call – Steve Hewitt
2. Update on the Finance and Structure Working Group (FSWG) – Rob Edgcumbe
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