

SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2014

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGENC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Eric Curtit, Eric Curtit also as proxy for Tim Hoeffner, Mario Bergeron, Ray Hessinger, Darrell Smith for Gerald Sokol, Kevin Kesler for Paul Nissenbaum, John Oimoen, Ron Pate, LeAnna Wall, Brian Beeler II, Michael Jenkins Support Staff: Steve Hewitt, David Ewing, Andy House, Nico Lindenau, Sara Sarkhili, Vincent Brotski, Dave Warner, Patrick Centolanzi,
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Gerald Sokol, Paul Nissenbaum, Tammy Nicholson, Paul Worley, Craig Moody, Tim Hoeffner, Stan Hunter Support: Jason Biggs, Kerri Woehler, Allan Paul, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Larry Salci, John Tunna, Jeff Gordon, Melissa Shurland, Dale Engelhardt, Martin Schroeder

DECISIONS MADE

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

Chairman Curtit welcomed those on the call and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

- Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, Manager, S305 NGENC Support Services:**

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

- Review of Action Items Status – Steve Hewitt**

At the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board accepted the Task 1 report and has determined that Tasks 2 and 3 will move to the mid-west states to develop their Section 6 plans. There will be a standing agenda item on Executive Board calls to get a progress report from the mid-west states. Currently the states and FRA are planning/organizing the activity and expect to meet face to face monthly.

Status Report: Agenda item #5

Steve Hewitt will update all subcommittee and task force rosters reflecting today's additional appointments. Calendar notices will be updated, Ron Pate will provide a list of the members of the 514 working group.

Status: Ron Pate reported that the list was forthcoming – and he hoped to get it out today.

The 305-209 (514) effort will continue to move forward and remain as an ongoing agenda item on Board calls.

Status report: Agenda item #8

The 2 procurements – bi-level cars and the diesel-electric locomotives- will continue to be standing agenda items on the Executive Board calls.

Status Report: Agenda items #6 and #7

The NGENC Future working group will be reconstituted and re-convened in the near future. This effort will go hand in hand with the 514 effort and that of the mid-west Section 6 and fleet deployment plan activity.

Status Report: Discussion item re: next steps for the NGENC moving forward agenda item #9.

Brian Beeler II will provide the Executive Board with a letter from Maine DOT designating Brian Beeler/ NNEPRA as its NGENC representative.

Status Report: Brian Beeler reported that they have been working with the Commissioner's office and expect a letter will be forthcoming soon – possibly in a day or two.

Eric Curtit will contact NCDOT about becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel.

Status Report: Eric Curtit reported that he has not connected with NCDOT on this as of yet.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 4, 2014 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit:

On a motion by Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, and a second by Darrell Smith, Amtrak, the Minutes from the March 4, 2014 conference call meeting were approved without objection.

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

Eric Curtit reported that this effort is underway. The Mid-West states are meeting “face to face” on Section 6/fleet deployment plan development on a monthly basis. “We are not into the meat of it yet, but we are beginning the process.”

6. Status Update: Diesel-electric Locomotive – John Oimoen, IDOT:

John Oimoen, IDOT reported that there has been “a flurry of activity”. The master agreement has been signed; the Mid-West ordering agreement is in the process of being signed and a Notice to Proceed “has been given”.

John also reported that they had an “alignment meeting with Siemens last week” to discuss a management plan, protocols and communication. They also met with FRA to get a sense of their reviews and timelines.

The formal “kick off” meeting will take place April 14-15, 2014 in Sacramento, CA.

Overall, John reported, “we are working well together as we move forward and we are ready to start building some locomotives.”

7. Status Update: Bi-Level Cars – Stan Hunter:

Stan Hunter was not available today, but John Oimoen reported that Stan and the team is in Rochelle, Illinois doing the mock up review.

8. Status update: 305-209 Working Group – Ron Pate:

Ron Pate, Washington State DOT, reported on the status of the work of the “514” working group. He noted that FRA has asked for an update on the status of the February 20, 2014 action items agreed to by Amtrak and the States.

A Draft SOW for a consultant has been circulated to a core team and is in the process of being reviewed. Ron thanked Ashok Sundararajan, FRA consultant, and Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA, for their help in putting this together. Comments from the core team are due tomorrow (March 19) and then the next step would be to connect with AASHTO, and ultimately to get it to the Board for its approval. The intent is to have the SOW to the Board for its approval on the next call – April 1, 2014.

Ron also reported on the status of the SOGR repair spreadsheet, and noted that Amtrak had provided him with its definition of SOGR, and he had circulated it to the NDA states for comment. He has asked for comments by March 19, 2014.

Overall, there is still a “ways to go” but good progress continues to be made. And “we are having candid discussions.”

Mario Bergeron, Amtrak, commented that Ron had provided “a good description of all that has taken place, including the intensity of moving forward.” He added, in regard to the “overhaul scope details – we are progressing the narrative to describe how we work.”

Eric Curtit asked Ron “who did the SOW go to, other than me” and what was the timeline for it to come to the Board.

Ron noted that the SOW went to Eric and a core team of the 514 working group. Ron and Eric agreed to speak off line about "how to work through the process."

9.

Next Steps: NGEN Future – re-establishing NGEN Working Group – Eric Curtit:

Eric Curtit commented on the need to start thinking again about looking at the NGEN future. He reminded members that the Board had tabled the discussion in September, 2013 "as the 209 group kicked off, but I think we can't wait to move forward...we do need to begin thinking about it" and he added "we may need to re-constitute the group." He asked that Board members begin thinking about how best to proceed and how this ties in with the Section 6 and the 209 efforts.

Ray Hessinger asked that Steve Hewitt provide Board members with the materials from the previous working group as a way to remind former Board members and educate new Board members on "where we left off."

Steve agreed this made sense, but also offered the caveat that the proposal that was offered to the Board in September by the working group was reviewed and discussed, and it was agreed that more work needed to be done. Steve's point was for new members not to draw conclusions that the draft proposal was anything more than a DRAFT concept paper.

It was agreed that Steve will provide material from the working group, including the facilitators report, and the concept paper, and will provide the section of the minutes from the September meeting of the Board in Columbus Ohio pertaining to this topic.

Steve and Eric will also add this to their topics for discussion for their weekly one on one conference call.

Kevin Kesler, FRA, reminded Board members that "part of the discussion is to identify tasks that will be necessary for the care and feeding of equipment" and then from that begin to consider what, if any entity would be needed and what it would need to do.

10.

Adjourn:

With no other business forthcoming on today's call, Chairman Curtit adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:05 pm Eastern.

The next call is: April 1, 2014, 11:30am Eastern

Decisions/Action Items – 3-18-14 Executive Board Conference Call

At the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board accepted the Task 1 report and has determined that Tasks 2 and 3 will move to the mid-west states to develop their Section 6 plans. There will be a standing agenda item on Executive Board calls to get a progress report from the mid-west states. The effort is underway with the mid-west states meeting face to face on a monthly basis.

Ron Pate will provide a list of the members of the 514 working group to Steve Hewitt to update the NGEC record. A DRAFT SOW for a consultant is under review, and the intent is to bring it to the Board for its consideration on the April 1, 2014 call.

The 305-209 (514) effort will continue to move forward and remain as an ongoing agenda item on Board calls.

The 2 procurements – bi-level cars and the diesel-electric locomotives-will continue to be standing agenda items on the Executive Board calls. The bi-level is currently in the process of “mock up” review. The locomotive procurement is progressing well with a master agreement having been signed and a notice to proceed having been given. The kick off meeting is scheduled for April 14-15, 2014 in Sacramento, Ca.

Steve Hewitt will send out relevant material from the previous NGEC Future working group to remind board members of “where we left off.” Board members are asked to think about how best to proceed moving forward. This will be an agenda item on the April 1, 2014 conference call.

Brian Beeler II will provide the Executive Board with a letter from Maine DOT designating Brian Beeler/ NNEPRA as its NGEC representative. The letter is expected to be forthcoming in a few days.

Eric Curtit will contact NCDOT about becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel.

ATTACHMENTS



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

March 18, 2014
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern
Call in number: 866 299 7945 passcode: 1601544#

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 March 4, 2014 conference call | Eric Curtit |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 | Eric Curtit |
| 6. Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive procurement | John Oimoen |
| 7. Status Update: Bi-Level Car procurement | Stan Hunter |
| 8. Status Update: 305– 209 Working Group | Ron Pate |
| 9. Next Steps: NGEC Future – re-establishing NGEC Future Working Group | Eric Curtit |
| 10. Other | All |

Next Call: April 1, 2014