

# SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2014

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Eric Curtit, Mario Bergeron, Ray Hessinger, John Tunna as proxy for Paul Nissenbaum, Darrell Smith, John Oimoen, Tim Hoeffner, Jeff Mann for Paul Worley, Ron Pate, Arun Rao for Donna Brown-Martin, Michael Jenkins, Brian Beeler II, <b>Support Staff:</b> Shayne Gill, Steve Hewitt, David Ewing, Kevin Kesler, Jeff Gordon, Vincent Brotski, Dave Warner, Patrick Centolanzl, Nico Lindenau, Sara Sarkhill, Ashok Sundararajan, Larry Salci,</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Paul Nissenbaum, Paul Worley, Craig Moody, John Oimoen, Donna Brown-Martin, Tammy Nicholson <b>Support:</b> Jason Biggs, Kerri Woehler, Allan Paul, Melissa Shurland, Dale Engelhardt, Martin Schroeder, Strat Cavros, Andy House,</i>

## DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

### **Welcome – Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:**

Chairman Curtit opened today's meeting and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

Before calling the roll -Eric announced that Darrell Smith has been named by Amtrak CFO as his designated representative on the Executive Board and as Treasurer and Finance subcommittee chair. Eric thanked Darrell for his willingness to formally take on these responsibilities and welcomed Darrell to the Board.

**2.**

### **Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, Manager, S305 NGEC Support Services:**

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

**3.**

### **Review of Action Items Status – 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.

### **A general update will be provided under agenda item # 5.**

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

### **A general update will be provided under agenda item # 10.**

Bi-Level Review Panel Membership: Eric Curtit will continue to follow up with NCDOT about possibly becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel. Wisconsin has named Arun Rao as its member to the Bi-Level car and the d-e locomotive Review Panels.

**Status: Eric has a call in to Allan Paul – he asked Jeff Mann (representing NCDOT today) to convey the message to Allan that the Review Panel would love to add Allan's expertise to the panel if he is available.**

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.

### **A general update will be provided under agenda items # 7 and 8.**

NGEC Future discussion: Eric Curtit has reached out to some Board members and support staff asking for their participation on a re-constituted NGEC Future Working Group. Eric will follow up with additional scope and scale and anticipates announcing the members of the group and its next steps on the June 10, 2014 call of the

Executive Board. Eric will also reach out to Mario Bergeron to discuss the scope.

**An update will be provided under agenda item # 11.**

Three potential locations have been submitted for consideration for the next Board face to face meeting. The proposed locations are: Detroit, Michigan; Wilmington, DE; and Washington, DC. Discussion about the location and a date will take place on the June 10<sup>th</sup> call.

**An update will be provided under agenda item # 12.**

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 June 6<sup>th</sup> call and will keep the Board informed.

**Status: The ATF met last Friday 6-6-14. The straw man proposal for evaluating RR 202 webinar topics was not yet ready for presentation to the ATF members. It was agreed that it will be taken up for consideration on the next ATF call now scheduled for Friday 8-1-14.**

It was agreed that the NGEC should be involved on a national level in working with the host Railroads in regard to new equipment. Tim Hoeffner and Steve Hewitt will have a call to discuss potential next steps for the NGEC's involvement in working with the host Railroads on implementation of the next generation equipment.

**Status: To date, a call has not occurred. Tim reported that he has sent Steve Hewitt an outline proposal for his review and input. (Steve had not received it yet – so Tim resent it) On the next call, the proposal will be presented for Board consideration.**

Status of the consultant contract for the Review Panels and the status of change requests – Eric Curtit:

**Status: As of late May, the contract had been drafted – Darrell Smith had confirmed that the funding is available and is in the current grant agreement. No further action is needed by the Board on this. Eric Curtit will provide a status update under agenda item #6 on the Bi-Level and locomotive change requests.**

**4.**

**Approval of Minutes from the May 27, 2014 Executive Board conference calls – Eric Curtit:**

On a motion by John Oimoen, IDOT, and a second by Darrell Smith, Amtrak, the Minutes from the May 27, 2014 Executive Board conference call were approved without objection.

**5.**

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

Eric Curtit and John Oimoen provided a brief update on the progress being made in the Mid-West Section 6 effort. John and Tim have been working with their respective states on the two RFI's mentioned on the last call (for a fleet manager and a fleet maintainer).

Overall the states are working very well together on the key issues of fleet ownership and fleet management. There is a meeting of the group next week in Chicago, and decisions are anticipated to be made on some of the matters under discussion.

**6.**

**Status: Review of Bi-Level Car and D-E Locomotive Change Requests – anticipated timeline – consultant contract - Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit has received (from Dave Warner) the Bi-Level car DCRs and is ready to convene the Bi-Level Review Panel. The Panel as currently comprised includes:

Eric Curtit, MODOT, Chair  
Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT  
Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT  
John Tunna, FRA  
Steve Hewitt, NGEC Support  
Larry Salci, Review Panel Consultant

Dave Warner, Technical support

Eric will reach out again to contact Allan Paul, NCDOT, to see if he would be willing to serve as well.

Larry Salci reported that he had signed the contract with AASHTO last week to conduct a review of both the bi-level car DCRs and the (yet to be completed D-E Locomotive DCRs). Once he has received the Bi-Level change, he will begin the review and anticipates about two weeks to complete

Eric will provide Larry with the information he received from Dave Warner, and the process can begin. Larry will then work with Steve Hewitt to schedule a Review Panel call once he has a draft report with recommendations.

**7.**

**Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive –John Oimoen:**

John Oimoen provided a brief update on the D-E Locomotive procurement:

The locomotive procurement has been undergoing Preliminary Design Review – with no troubling issues surfacing. Intermediate Design Review is scheduled to begin at the end of September or early October into November, 2014.

**8.**

**Status Update: Bi-Level car procurement – John Oimoen for Stan Hunter:**

In the absence of Stan Hunter, John Oimoen provided a brief update on the Bi-Level car procurement:

The Bi-Level procurement has been going through Final Design Review throughout the month of May and is progressing towards conclusion of that process. High level discussions in regard to a revised management schedule have been taking place. By later this fall it is anticipated that they will enter “freeze days”. A revised delivery schedule is being established and will include the baseline order plus optional car orders.

**9.**

**Host Railroad Blessing of NGENC equipment – Next Steps -Tim Hoeffner:**

See action item update.

**10.**

**Status Update: 514 Working Group - Ron Pate:**

Ron Pate reported that great progress has been made, although there remains a lot of work yet to be done. He is in the process of reviewing the working group’s action items and the charge – to ascertain a status of what has been completed to date.

The reconciliation process proposed by Ray Hessinger has been well received and is close to complete.

During this week’s meeting (Wednesday) Ron will review “where we are at.” While there remain challenges ahead, the focus needs to be on the working group’s charge and looking at the next steps to complete that work.

**11.**

**Establishing an NGENC Future working group – Next steps - Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit reported that he has had a number of Board members who have agreed to serve on the NGENC Future Working Group. He still needs to hear from FRA and Amtrak. He has a call into Mario to discuss the scope of the group so that Mario can make a determination as to who from Amtrak should be named to the group.

John Tunna, FRA, said that they have a name in mind. Following today’s call, Eric will formally request (via email) an FRA rep be named to the group, and John will submit the name to Eric.

Those who have agreed to serve on the working group thus far are:

Eric Curtit  
Tim Hoeffner  
Ray Hessinger  
Shayne Gill  
Steve Hewitt

Eric hopes to "get this nailed down by the next Board call" (June 24, 2014).

**12.**

**Setting a date and Location for the Fall Executive Board face to face meeting - Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit reported that here locations had been submitted as potential sites for a fall meeting of the Executive Board.

The locations under consideration:

Detroit, Michigan  
Wilmington, DE  
Washington, DC

Eric emphasized that he believed that for the convenience of FRA and AASHTO support, Washington, DC was most ideally suited for the meeting.

Others on the call were more inclined to have the meeting outside of DC.

After some discussion about the particular merits of Wilmington, DE, and its proximity to Amtrak facilities and the potential for a site visit incorporated into the meeting, general consensus seemed to lean towards this being the best location if logistics can be worked out.

Eric will contact Mario Bergeron and discuss his thoughts on a facility tour and get a contact name for AASHTO to work with on logistics.

By the next call of the Board, it is Eric's intent to get the site nailed down and ask AASHTO to work on some dates that are available as well as the other logistical issues.

Eric anticipates that two nights and two days will be needed.

**13.**

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the Board today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the call at approximately 12:05PM Eastern.

**The next call is: June 10, 2014, 11:30am Eastern**

**Decisions/Action Items – 5-27-14 Executive Board Conference Call**

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.

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

Bi-Level Review Panel Membership: Eric Curtit will continue to follow up with NCDOT about possibly becoming a member of the Bi-Level Review Panel. Jeff Mann will convey the request to Allan Paul.

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.

NGEC Future discussion: Most members have been named to the working group. Amtrak and FRA still need to provide a name to Eric. John Tunna, FRA, will convey the name of FRA's representative to Eric following this call. Eric will contact Mario Bergeron to describe the scope so an appropriate representative from Amtrak can be named.

Three potential locations have been submitted for consideration for the next Board face to face meeting. The proposed locations are: Detroit, Michigan; Wilmington, DE; and Washington, DC. At this point general consensus leans towards Wilmington, Delaware as the location. Eric will contact Mario to discuss further. By the next call it is hoped that the location can be confirmed and AASHTO can begin to nail down a date and other logistics.

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.

It was agreed that the NGEC should be involved on a national level in working with the host Railroads in regard to new equipment. Tim Hoeffner has sent Steve Hewitt an Outline for review and input. A further discussion will take place and the outline will be presented for consideration on the next Board call.

Eric Curtit will send the Bi-level DCR list to Larry Salci and he will begin his review. Once a draft report has been prepared the Review Panel will be convened to discuss and consider the report and recommendations.


**ATTACHMENTS**



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

**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call**  
**June 10, 2014**  
**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern**  
**Call in number: 866 299 7945 passcode: 1601544#**

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## **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 May 27, 2014 conference calls                     | Eric Curtit  |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6                                   | Eric Curtit  |
| 6. Status: Review of Bi-Level Car and D-E Locomotive Change Requests              | Eric Curtit  |
| 7. Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive procurement                          | John Oimoen  |
| 8. Status Update: Bi-Level Car procurement  | Stan Hunter  |
| 9. Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment – next steps                          | Tim Hoeffner |
| 10. Status Update: 514 Working Group  | Ron Pate     |
| 11. Establishing an NGEC Future working group and Next steps                      | Eric Curtit  |
| 12. Setting a date and Location for the Fall Executive Board face to face meeting | Eric Curtit  |
| 13. Other   | All          |

**Next Call: June 24, 2014**