

# SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2017

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, Darrell Smith, Michael Lestingi, Amanda Martin, John Oimoen, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Allan Paul for Paul Worley, Michael Jenkins, Arun Rao, Arun Rao also as proxy for Tim Hoeffner, Brian Beeler II</i> <b>Support Staff:</b> <i>Shayne Gill, Steve Hewitt, Beth Nachreiner, Dave "Emeritus" Warner</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Ray Hessinger, Paul Worley, Tim Hoeffner, Ron Pate, John Rosacker, Steve Keck</i> <b>Support:</b> <i>Jeff Gordon, Momo Tamaoki, Larry Salci, Sal DeAngelo, Patrick Centolanzi, Bryan Hong</i>

## DECISIONS MADE

### 1.

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

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

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

NGEC Chairman Eric Curtit, convened today's meeting.

### 3.

#### **Review of Action Items – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reported that there was one open action item not covered on today's agenda- and that is the formation of the Acquisition and Best Practices Task Force. It is not on the agenda because the Chair is putting its activities on hold until more urgent issues regarding the procurements are completed. It is anticipated that in about a month Chairman Curtit will set a schedule for the task force and request topics and issues for the first meeting.

For the record, a status update of all open action items, as of the start of this meeting, is included below:

#### **Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:**

Work on the lease agreement with Amtrak continues with a series of meetings having taken place. The last meeting work through the final issues was to take place on 4-11-17.

Update: Agenda item 5

#### **Procurement Updates: (Ongoing)**

On 1-17-17, the Chair tabled Bi-Level procurement updates until new information is available and appropriate to share.

Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement update agenda item 6.

#### **Finance and Administrative Subcommittee and New Grant Activities: (ongoing)**

Syncing contracts with the new grant:

Darrell reported that because the current Amtrak/AASHTO contract (and AASHTO's contract with its sub-contractors) is in effect through 9-30-17, there is no need for action now. Once the 9-30-17 date draws near there will be an extension consistent with the new grant period and grant amount between Amtrak and AASHTO and AASHTO and its subcontractors as called for in the SOW and budget.

The subcommittee is developing a strategy and implementation plan for successfully requesting future federal funding beyond the current grant agreement which expires on 9-30-19.

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**Next Finance and Administrative subcommittee update – 5-9-17**

**Standing Subcommittee monthly update schedule:**

Technical subcommittee – agenda item 7a (next 5-23-17)  
514 subcommittee – agenda item 7b (next 5-23-17)  
Finance and Administrative subcommittee – (next - 5-9-17)

**Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Task Force** – The task force has been named, with Eric Curtit serving as Chair. Members have been identified. The Chair will sketch out a DRAFT charge statement and an organizational call will be scheduled. The first call will be held after the completion of the more immediate efforts to complete the lease agreements. An email to all members will go out in advance of the first meeting calling for topics and issues.

The members of the task force are:

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, Chair - [Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Eric.curtit@modot.mo.gov)  
Sal DeAngelo, FRA [Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov](mailto:Salvatore.deangelo@dot.gov)  
Joe Paul – Amtrak – [joseph.paul@amtrak.com](mailto:joseph.paul@amtrak.com)  
Tim Hoeffner - Michigan DOT - [Hoeffnert@michigan.gov](mailto:Hoeffnert@michigan.gov)  
Michael Jenkins – Oregon DOT - [Michael.I.jenkins@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Michael.I.jenkins@odot.state.or.us)  
Illinois Department of Transportation – John Oimoen [john.oimoen@illinois.gov](mailto:john.oimoen@illinois.gov) – alternate -Jennifer Bastian, [jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov](mailto:jennifer.bastian@illinois.gov)  
Washington Department of Transportation – Ron Pate, [Pater@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Pater@wsdot.wa.gov) - alternate -Jason Biggs, [biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:biggsjr@wsdot.wa.gov)  
Steve Hewitt - NGEC Support Services: Steve Hewitt - [Shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:Shewitt109@aol.com)  
Larry Salci – Consultant - [larry@salciconsult.com](mailto:larry@salciconsult.com)  
Paul Jamieson – Industry Member – SNC-Lavalin - [Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com](mailto:Paul.Jamieson@snclavalin.com)  
Dick Bruss – Industry Member – NARP - [rjembruss@gmail.com](mailto:rjembruss@gmail.com)

**4. Approval of the Minutes from the 4-11-17 Conference call meeting – Eric Curtit:**

On a motion made by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and seconded by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, the minutes from the 4-11-17 NGEC conference call meeting were approved without objection.

**5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6 – Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT:**

The Mid-West States have completed the DRAFT Section 6 report for the new locomotives and submitted it to FRA. Section 6 compliance is a requirement before the new locomotives can be put into service. The Section 6 report is meant to be a living document.

Most of the lease agreements with Amtrak are very close to being finalized.

The Mid-West ownership board will be holding its first meeting very soon and will be developing By-Laws and operating procedures.

Arun added that a test run to Milwaukee was met with rave reviews not only on the looks, but also on performance.

Eric Curtit commented that the locomotive is going across Missouri today in a test run and it's an exciting time.

**6. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – John Oimoen, IDOT:**

John Oimoen provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes:

- *IDOT Locomotives 4604 and 4611 are in Chicago.*
  - *Six Caltrans units have been delivered to Oakland*
  - *IDOT and Siemens have signed conditional acceptance on IDOT units: 4603- 4611. These units have all completed the 500 mile burn in.*
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- *Caltrans has signed conditional acceptance on their six units; WSDOT has also conditionally accepted 2 units, and IDOT has conditionally accepted 9.*
- *All Maintenance Demonstrations have been successfully completed.*
- *238.111(b) testing is complete at WSDOT. 238.111(a) testing is complete at Caltrans. 238.111(a) testing has begun at IDOT, all yard tests are complete and corridor road testing began on 4/19.*
- *IDOT and Amtrak have signed agreements for storage, testing and commissioning the locomotives.*
- *WSDOT and IDOT continue to meet with Amtrak to finalize their respective leases. Caltrans is working with Amtrak on updating its agreement.*
- *Amtrak/JPE insurance issues have been resolved and the insurance is progress.*
- *JPE's are working with Amtrak and the FRA on a list of final items that need to be resolved before the locomotives go into revenue service.*
- *WSDOT units 1400-1401 have been delivered to TTCI and 1400 has completed the 500-mile burn in and 1401, 1402 and 1403 finished testing at TTCI this week.*
- *Siemens warranty service locations are now established with the JPE's.*
- *Wi-Tronix application, as required by Amtrak, is being applied by FMI. One Caltrans unit has been equipped and IDOT units at TTCI are being equipped. Siemens projects Wi-Tronix will complete software in June.*
- *All Document Change Requests (DCR) have been processed to conform the technical specification for as-built configuration.*
- *IDOT and its' Fleet Manager Contractor is now functioning in Chicago on a daily basis.*

John added that there has been "lots and lots of progress and lots and lots of effort by all involved" to get to this point. It is anticipated that the locomotives will be in service in the Mid-West in a month or so with a similar time frame for WSDOT and Caltrans.

John added that "it is exciting to see them out running the routes in testing".

Beth Nachreiner, FRA, asked about the potential impacts regarding capital equipment charges with the introduction of the new locomotives into service. Has this been discussed? Is it a 514 discussion – or SAIPRC?

Jason Biggs, WSDOT stated that the impacts are dependent upon the contents of the lease. WSDOT is tracking its impacts, the broader discussion is a next step.

Beth asked if this is a CIP item. Jason responded that it should be acknowledged in the CIP.

Beth asked Eric Curtit if this should be an agenda item for the June SAIPRC meeting.

Eric replied – "good idea".

Brian Beeler II, Chair of the 514 Subcommittee weighed in on the discussion stating that "there will be impacts and we (Brian and Beth) should have a conversation...there will be an impact seen and it will be shown in the CIP." It was agreed that Beth and Brian will have an off-line discussion on this.

Darrell Smith, Amtrak added "We have been quantifying this – it is not new".

Eric Curtit added "that's what I thought."

## **7. Standing Subcommittee Monthly Updates:**

- a. Technical subcommittee - Mario Bergeron:
  - On April 20, 2017, the Technical subcommittee unanimously approved the DCRS for the D-E Locomotive Specification as presented.
  - In approving the DCRs, the Technical subcommittee asked that Steve Hewitt transmit the summary spreadsheet to Chairman Curtit and the Executive Board, and has requested that the Board begin the process for review and approval. Once adopted, the changes will be incorporated into the specification as Revision B.
  - Status: Update of Single Level Car Specification – Tammy Krause is compiling the applicable changes from the Bi-Level specification (Revision C.4) to the Single Level specification, and will be sending them out to subcommittee members in the next few weeks. Tammy will also be revising the Timeline for completion, and will send that out as well.

- Status: Establishment of a technical working group re: Future of Electronics on Trains - following the NGEC Annual Meeting, Dale Engelhardt reprised his presentation on the Future of Electronics on Trains. Establishing a technical working group (within the Technical subcommittee) to address this topic is under consideration. Good response with volunteers have come forward to participate on the working group. More to come...

- b. 514 subcommittee - Brian Beeler II, NNEPRA, for Maine DOT:

The 514 subcommittee is making good progress as it begins its "major update" of the CIP.

Amtrak has provided updates for equipment charges in the number of new locomotive fleets – the numbers could be different along the corridors - reflective of fleet types for each state using them.

The next meeting is 5-8-17 and there will be a discussion and review of the numbers and the equipment for each route.

The subcommittee continues the discussion on the CIP and how it can be improved in how it looks, and how it works.

On the last call, there was a discussion about a potential refresh of Amfleet I. Amtrak has some money to potentially use for a refresh, and raised the possibility to the subcommittee members. More details will be forthcoming. There is no set resolution on this as to when it will happen or what the impacts will be.

#### **8.**

##### **Re-Convene the Locomotive Review Panel to review the DCRs for Revision B - Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit reported that the DCRs for the Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification have been received as approved by the Technical subcommittee. Eric noted that this is a major milestone and he congratulated the subcommittee for progressing them through to this point.

Eric emphasized "this is a big milestone!"

The next steps are to:

- a. Confirm members of the panel (current listing – below):

##### **Locomotive Review Panel:**

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – Chairman  
Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT  
Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
Kevin Kesler, FRA  
Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel  
Tammy Krause, Amtrak – technical support  
Steve Hewitt – NGEC support

##### **Please confirm your status on the panel to Steve Hewitt and Eric Curtit.**

- b. Request Consultant Larry Salci to begin a review of the changes and prepare a Review Panel Report (Larry to provide SOW to AASHTO)

Eric reported that Larry Salci has been contacted and has accepted the request to review the DCRs and prepare the DRAFT report with recommendations for Review Panel consideration, and ultimately, for Executive Board approval. Steve Hewitt has asked Larry to provide AASHTO with a SOW for this effort, and a timeline for completion.

#### **9.**

##### **Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming for today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the call at 11:57AM Eastern.

**The next conference call is May 9, 2017**

### Decisions/Action Items

#### **Procurement Updates: (Ongoing)**

On 1-17-17, the Chair tabled Bi-Level procurement updates until new information is available and appropriate to share.

Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement update was table for today – see agenda item 6 for update.

#### **Mid-West States – Section 6 progress report:**

The Mid-West States have completed the DRAFT Section 6 report for the new locomotives and submitted it to FRA. Section 6 compliance is a requirement before the new locomotives can be put into service. The Section 6 report is meant to be a living document.

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#### **Finance and Administrative Subcommittee and New Grant Activities: (ongoing)**

Syncing contracts with the new grant:

Darrell reported that because the current Amtrak/AASHTO contract (and AASHTO's contract with its sub-contractors) is in effect through 9-30-17, there is no need for action now. Once the 9-30-17 date draws near there will be an extension consistent with the new grant period and grant amount between Amtrak and AASHTO and AASHTO and its subcontractors as called for in the SOW and budget.

The subcommittee is developing a strategy and implementation plan for successfully requesting future federal funding beyond the current grant agreement which expires on 9-30-19.

#### **Next Finance and Administrative subcommittee update – 5-9-17**

#### **Standing Subcommittee monthly update schedule:**

Technical subcommittee – see agenda item 7a for update – next update - 5-23-17

514 subcommittee – see agenda item 7b for update – next update - 5-23-17

Finance and Administrative subcommittee – 5-9-17

#### **Executive Board approval of Diesel-Electric Locomotive Specification Revision B:**

Steps to be taken to begin the process:

- Reconvene the Locomotive Review panel – reaffirm members (members are asked to confirm their continued participation.
- Request Larry Salci provide and SOW to AASHTO for the review and provide the Board with a timeline for completion of the report with recommendations.

**Formation of the Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Task Force** – The task force has been named, with Eric Curtit serving as Chair. Members include: Tim Hoeffner, Michigan DOT and Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT as well as representatives (yet to be named) from Illinois DOT, Washington State DOT and Amtrak and FRA. Larry Salci will also participate and Paul Jamieson, SNC-Lavalin has volunteered as well.

Members have been identified. The Chair will sketch out a DRAFT charge statement and an organizational call will be scheduled. The first call will be held after the completion of the more immediate efforts to complete the lease agreements. An email to all members will go out in advance of the first meeting calling for topics and issues.

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**ATTACHMENTS**



**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call  
April 25, 2017  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern  
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

**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 4-11-17 conference call meeting  | Eric Curtit     |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6  | Tim Hoeffner    |
| 6. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement   | John Oimoen     |
| 7. Standing Subcommittee Monthly Updates   |                 |
| c. Technical subcommittee  | Mario Bergeron  |
| d. 514 subcommittee  | Brian Beeler II |
| 8. Re-Convene the Locomotive Review Panel to review the DCRs for Revision B                          | Eric Curtit     |
| c. Confirm members of the panel (current listing – below):   |                 |
| <b>Locomotive Review Panel:</b>  |                 |
| Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – Chairman   |                 |
| Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT  |                 |
| Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT  |                 |
| Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  |                 |
| Kevin Kesler, FRA  |                 |
| Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel   |                 |
| Tammy Krause, Amtrak – technical support   |                 |
| Steve Hewitt – NGEC support  |                 |
| d. Request Consultant Larry Salci to begin a review of the changes and prepare a Review Panel Report |                 |
| 9. Other   | All             |

**Next Meeting -May 9, 2017**

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