

# SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 23, 2015

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, Eric also as proxy for Ray Hessinger, Mario Bergeron, Mario also as proxy for Darrell Smith, Jeff Gordon for Michael Lestingi, Tammy Nicholson, Momoko Tamaoki, Michael Jenkins, Ron Pate, Brian Beeler II</i> <b>Support Staff:</b> <i>Steve Hewitt, Nico Lindenau, Shayne Gill, Bryan Hong, Larry Salci, Sal DeAngelo, Tammy Krause</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members,</b> <i>Michael Lestingi, Darrell Smith, Ray Hessinger, Paul Worley, John Rosacker, Tim Hoeffner,</i> <b>Support:</b> <i>Allan Paul, Jason Biggs, Strat Cavros, Martin Schroeder, Patrick Centolanzi, Dale Engelhardt, Vincent Brotski,, Beth Nachreiner, Dave "Emeritus" Warner</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.
- 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 – Steve Hewitt:**  
Steve Hewitt reviewed just those items that were not to be covered on today’s agenda. The status of all action items are listed below.

### Action Items Status

**Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report:** The RFP for a fleet manager is now under IDOT legal review. This is the last step in the approval process. The RFP for a fleet maintainer is under development by Michigan DOT. The states are meeting on a monthly basis with task forces working on specific issues as well. (ongoing)

**Agenda item #5.**

**514 Subcommittee update:** 514 is now focusing on the task at hand of getting equipment operating at a state of good repair. (ongoing)

**Agenda Item #10.**

**Industry requests for the CIP:** The CIP is posted on the website, and Steve Hewitt provided it to the industry members who requested it. **Task Complete.**

**Contract Extensions:** Steve Hewitt will research when the SOW and Budget for the no-cost grant agreement was approved by the Board and if/when it was agreed to extend existing contracts as a part of that agreement. Any next steps determined by that research will be taken up through the appropriate processes to follow through with the Board’s initial intent which was to extend existing contracts through to the end of Grant Agreement Amendment #5 – through federal fiscal year 2017 (9-30-17).

Since the last Board call – the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee, on 6-10-15, approved a motion to extend the contract between Amtrak and AASHTO and with AASHTO and Hewitt Consulting/SalciConsult, and others, in accordance with the revised SOW and budget through 9-30-17. On 6-10-15 the motion, with a recommendation for approval, was submitted to Chairman Curtit, who called for an electronic vote of the Board. By 6-11-15 – all votes were cast in the affirmative, and the Chair determined that consensus was achieved, and

the motion carried. The Chair then asked Steve Hewitt to transmit the approved motion to AASHTO and Amtrak (along with all Board members) asking that they take the appropriate steps to carry out the extensions.

**Agenda item #6 will address the status.**

**Urgent DCR - -Bi-Level Car weight:** Technical Subcommittee Chair Mario Bergeron, following the Urgent DCR process, called for an electronic vote of the Technical subcommittee on the proposed DCR. The motion to approve the DCR was adopted by a unanimous vote of all Technical subcommittee voting members. Chairman Bergeron, on 6-5-17 determined that consensus had been achieved and the motion is approved. Mr. Bergeron has asked Chairman Curtit to formally convene the Bi-Level Review Panel and ask that Larry Salci begin preparing a memorandum for the panel's review.

**Under Agenda Item #8 Chairman Curtit will follow the process and formally re-convene the Bi-Level Review Panel.**

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee continues to look at potential funding options and strategies for the future of the NGEC:** FASC Chair Darrell Smith will continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress being made. All Board members are asked to provide their thoughts or views on what the message should be to the Hill, and how would it be delivered. (ongoing)

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 6-9-15 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit:**

On a motion by Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT, and a second by Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT, the minutes from the 6-9-15 Executive Board conference call were approved without exception.

**5.**

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

In the absence of Tim Hoeffner, Chairman Curtit provided a brief update on the status of the Mid-West States Section 6 efforts:

Efforts to finalize the RFPs for Fleet Manager and Fleet Maintainer continue.

Issues of ownership and governance continue to be "wrestled with".

**6.**

**Discussion: Contract extensions – AASHTO/Amtrak, AASHTO/Hewitt, Salci, Kasamar – Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit commented that he understood that the process for extending existing contracts was moving forward and he asked all those involved to "do what has to be done, to get these contracts in place" He reminded those on the call that the existing contracts expire on June 30, 2015, and he wanted the extensions done before that expiration.

He asked Steve Hewitt if he had anything to add on the topic. Steve responded that there had been communication from Strat Cavros, AASHTO, asking Steve to submit a contract proposal that would run until June 30, 2016. Steve pointed out that, in accordance with the Board's motion to authorize contract extensions approved on June 11, 2015, the contract extensions were intended to be for the duration of the Grant Agreement as defined in Amendment #5 through September 30, 2017. Steve noted that he sent an email to NGEC Chairman Curtit and Treasurer Darrell Smith asking for their confirmation on the intent and directive of the Board. Both confirmed that the extensions for existing contracts were to run through the federal fiscal year 2017 (9-30-17).

Steve noted that he submitted a contract proposal to AASHTO (Strat Cavros) this morning with the end date of 9-30-17, and had not gotten a response, but assumes it was received and is making its way through the process.

Steve also reported that Darrell Smith informed him that the AASHTO contract extension with Amtrak (also through 9-30-17) is making its way through the Amtrak Procurement process.

Larry Salci stated that he will send Shayne Gill, AASHTO, a "simple letter, as done in the past, based on past activities" for the work he is being asked to do.

Eric Curtit closed the discussion emphasizing his desire to see these extensions completed prior to the June 30, 2015 expiration of the current agreements, and again asked "that those who are responsible for getting this done – do so".

**7.**

**Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement – Momoko Tamaoki:**

Momoto Tamaoki provided a brief update on the status of the Bi-Level Procurement:

3 FAI's are or have taken place this month

On July 7<sup>th</sup> the car shell FAI will take place in Rochelle, Illinois with Caltrans and IDOT (as well as FRA) present.

Last week testing on car shell weight took place and went well.

As for Design Review – there 20 open "hot list" items yet to be closed, with a target of being closed by the end of June, 2015.

There were no completed RFC's this week – they are reviewing 434/433 and expect to complete them by the end of the week.

**8.**

**Re-Convene Bi-Level Car Review Panel – Eric Curtit:**

With the Bi-level car dry weight Urgent DCR having been approved by the Technical subcommittee, the next step in the process is for the Chair to re-convene the Bi-Level Review Panel and to task Larry Salci with preparing a memorandum with recommendations for Review Panel consideration.

Larry Salci noted that he expected to get the memo completed by Thursday and would contact Steve Hewitt at that time to make arrangements for a Review Panel call for the following week. The intent is to try to get the Panel consideration process complete by the end of next week. (Week of June 29, 2015).

Chairman Curtit formally re-convened the Bi-Level Car Review Panel in preparation for receiving the memo and recommendations.

**The Bi-Level Review Panel Members are:**

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – Chair

Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT

Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT

John Tunna, FRA

Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel

Tammy Krause, Amtrak will provide technical support

Steve Hewitt – support

**9.**

**Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement – Steve Hewitt for John Oimoen:**

John Oimoen was unavailable for today's call, but submitted the following update which was read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

- a) *The payment of invoice for milestone G is being processed by IDOT.*
- b) *FDR follow-up action items are being processed for closure.*
- c) *The list and schedule for First Article Inspections (FAI) is being coordinated with Siemens and the JPEs.*
- d) *Manufacturing for the first locomotive carbody has begun.*
- e) *The last two of the RFCs will be received shortly. Fourteen draft (DCRs) are being prepared*
- f) *The JPEs, FRA and AAR (host RRs and Amtrak) met on 6/4/2015 and 6/5/2015 for guidelines for vehicle qualification testing.*

g) *The next meeting for the diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) review and application team is scheduled for 6/29/2015.*

h) *The locomotive weight has increased slightly to near 271,000 lbs (+/-) but the calculated P2 force is still within specified limits. Weight is being closely monitored.*

**10.**

**Status Update: 514 Subcommittee – Ron Pate:**

Ron Pate reported that progress continues in a positive direction. The subcommittee is currently working on the reconciliation items.

They are also beginning to look at inward cameras as related to capital equipment, and have reached out to Amtrak to see if they are seeking federal funds for these items, and, if so, "can we (the states) help with the ask?" Ron sees this as a good opportunity to work together.

He also reported that Amtrak has taken the 7.6 percent GNA off the table and members are looking at all GNA costs.

Ron called this another good sign of working together and an opportunity to work through the new governance structure and termed it as a chance to be a win-win for all concerned.

Overall, there is "continued positive progress" with Amtrak and the states sharing information and working together as partners and in support of each other.

**11.**

**Other:**

No further business was forthcoming for today's meeting.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the Board today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the meeting at 11:51 AM Eastern.

**The next call is July 7, 2015**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report:** The RFP for a fleet manager is now under IDOT legal review. This is the last step in the approval process. The RFP for a fleet maintainer is under development by Michigan DOT. The states are meeting on a monthly basis with task forces working on specific issues as well. (ongoing)

**514 Subcommittee update:** 514 is now focusing on the task at hand of getting equipment operating at a state of good repair. (ongoing)

**The Finance and Administrative subcommittee continues to look at potential funding options and strategies for the future of the NGECC: (ongoing)**

FASC Chair Darrell Smith will continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress being made. All Board members are asked to provide their thoughts or views on what the message should be to the Hill, and how would it be delivered. (ongoing)

**Contract Extensions:** Steve Hewitt will research when the SOW and Budget for the no-cost grant agreement was approved by the Board and if/when it was agreed to extend existing contracts as a part of that agreement. Any next steps determined by that research will be taken up through the appropriate processes to follow through with the Board's initial intent which was to extend existing contracts through to the end of Grant Agreement Amendment #5 – through federal fiscal year 2017 (9-30-17).

Since the last Board call – the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee, on 6-10-15, approved a motion to extend the contract between Amtrak and AASHTO and with AASHTO and Hewitt Consulting/SalciConsult, and others, in accordance with the revised SOW and budget through 9-30-17. On 6-10-15 the motion, with a recommendation for approval, was submitted to Chairman Curtit, who called for an electronic vote of the Board. By 6-11-15 – all votes were cast in the affirmative, and the Chair determined that consensus was achieved, and the motion carried. The Chair then asked Steve Hewitt to transmit the approved motion to AASHTO and Amtrak

(along with all Board members) asking that they take the appropriate steps to carry out the extensions.

Today, Chairman Curtit called on those responsible for getting the existing contracts extended to please do so in a timely manner – before the June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 expiration of the current contracts.

**Urgent DCR - -dry weight:** Technical Subcommittee Chair Mario Bergeron, following the Urgent DCR process, called for an electronic vote of the Technical subcommittee on the proposed DCR. The motion to approve the DCR was adopted by a unanimous vote of all Technical subcommittee voting members. Chairman Bergeron, on 6-5-17 determined that consensus had been achieved and the motion is approved. Mr. Bergeron has asked Chairman Curtit to formally convene the Bi-Level Review Panel and ask that Larry Salci begin preparing a memorandum for the panel's review.

Larry Salci anticipates completing the memo by Thursday, June 25, 2015. Steve Hewitt will then check calendars and set a date for a Review panel conference call. Expectations are to complete the review process by the end of next week (week of June 29, 2015).

**Chairman Curtit following the NGEN process re-convened the Bi-Level Review Panel.**

**The Bi-Level Review Panel Members are:**

Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT – Chair

Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT

Tammy Nicholson, Iowa DOT

John Tunna, FRA

Larry Salci, Consultant to the Panel

Tammy Krause, Amtrak will provide technical support

Steve Hewitt – support

**ATTACHMENTS**



**S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call**  
**June 23, 2015**  
**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 |

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| 4. Approval of Minutes from the June 9, 2015 Call                             | Eric Curtit    |
| 5. Progress Report: Mid-West States – Section 6                               | Tim Hoeffner   |
| 6. Status: Contract Extensions – AASHTO/Amtrak, AASHTO/Hewitt, Salci, Kasamar | Eric Curtit    |
| 7. Status Update: Bi-Level Car Procurement                                    | Momoko Tamaoki |
| 8. Re-convene Bi-Level Car Review Panel                                       | Eric Curtit    |
| 9. Status Update: Diesel-Electric Locomotive Procurement                      | John Oimoen    |
| 10. Status Update: 514 subcommittee   | Ron Pate       |
| 11. Other   | All            |

**Next Call: July 7 2015**