



***Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.***

## SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2019

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, Charlie King, Tim Ziethen, Ray Hessinger, Michael Lestingi, John Oimoen, Arun Rao, Arun Rao also as proxy for Amanda Martin, Allan Paul, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II,</i> <b>Support Staff:</b> <i>Steve Hewitt, Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Tammy Krause, Michael Burshtin, George Hull, Larry Salci,</i> <b>Guests:</b> <i>Robert Becker, Ronald Bartels – VIA Rail</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> <i>Ron Pate, Kyle Gradinger, John Rosacker, Amanda Martin, Tim Hoeffner,</i> <b>Support:</b> <i>John Bell, Momo Tamaoki, Jon Dees, Beth Nachreiner, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Patrick Centolanzi</i>

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

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

Chairman Curtit opened the call and welcomed “our guests from the north – Robert Becker and Ronald Bartels, VIA Rail” who have agreed to join us and provide periodic updates on their equipment procurement.

**2. Roll Call –Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:**

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

**3.**

**Action items Review – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reported that open action items not covered under the agenda this week will be included on the next call agenda and the current status of each is included in today’s minutes (6-4-19)

**Distribution of the NGEC two-pager – educational document 6-4-19:**

The new educational (two-pager) document was released at the Annual Meeting on 2-22-19 and is available in hard copy or electronically.

To date, (6-4-19) 240 hard copies and 353 electronic copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com). If hard copy, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort as of 4-9-19:**

John Oimoen, IDOT, provided an overview of the METRA Equipment Procurement effort on 4-9-19:

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties must respond by August 2019.

METRA has the NGEC specification, but John does not know if they plan to use it or if they will be in contact with the NGEC or not.

---

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Amtrak Locomotive Procurement -5-21-19:**

On the Locomotive Procurement:

The process continues – no changes to report.

On the car procurement:

Amtrak has received responses to the RFP from several, 5 or 6, vendors. Amtrak is partnering with the states that are a part of the review process.

There are some suitable candidates in the submissions – with some questions that will need to go back to them for answers.

The intent is to do the best to have a “fair and level battlefield to provide the best possible equipment”.

**Next update 6-18-19**

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 5-21-19:**

The due date for proposals was last Friday (5-10-19). Submittals were received from the short-listed car builders and Metro-North has initiated its review of those submissions.

**Next update – 6-18-19**

**Treasurer’s Update – FASC Activities Update – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:**

Current Balance and Spend Rate as of 5-21-19:

Total Grant: \$1,250,000.00

Spent to date: \$401, 255.35

Balance: \$848,744.65

Based on the current run rate and accounting for a bump up in costs for the annual meeting – the balance should cover another 38-40 months.

Status – Requesting additional no-cost grant agreement extension:

FRA has informed Amtrak that an additional one year no-cost extension can be requested and would be received favorably. It would be approved through the normal approval process.

FRA has suggested that Amtrak wait until the current agreement gets closer to the end date before applying for another extension, but that it will be received favorably.

The current extension expires 9-30-20.

**Next Update – 6-18-19**

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 5-21-19 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MoDOT:**

On a motion offered by Allan Paul, NCDOT, and a second by John Oimoen, IDOT, the minutes from the 5-21-19 conference call meeting were approved as presented.

Eric Curtit congratulated John Oimoen and IDOT for the recent good news regarding the Illinois State budget which increases spending for transportation via an increase in the state gas tax, and the increase includes passenger rail and transit.

John Oimoen responded – “Passenger rail is alive and well in Illinois”.

**5.**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement –Kyle Grading, Caltrans:**

Caltrans did not have representation on this call and no update was provided.

---

This item was tabled until the next call – 6-18-19.

**6.**

**Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement – Robert Becker, and Ronald Bartels, VIA Rail:**

Robert Becker provided the following update as of 6-4-19:

VIA Rail is advancing the concept design review which is about 30% complete and is expected to be finished in July 2019. On schedule.

They are consulting with internal Stakeholders – including locomotive engineers and train crews. Additionally, VIA Rail is working with accessibility customers to review the interior layouts.

Vigilance is needed to control a tendency by technical people to want to correct past issues – when the focus is on the future and the new equipment going forward.

Some challenges: Seats – executives are very involved in seats and their wish list is varied. The VIA Rail team is doing its best to control the scope as best as possible to keep it in line with what was in the bid.

Potential issues: The procurement is for trainsets – bi-directional – similar to those being purchased for California. This is the first time VIA Rail will be operating this type of equipment and there are some concerns being expressed by train crews. The team will be conducting risk assessments to help mitigate any issues they may come up.

A project to deal with maintenance facilities has been initiated to adapt them to the new equipment and modernize them. They are hiring an engineering firm for this effort, and it will take some coordination on the equipment side between the manufacturer and the engineering firm (once it has been hired).

VIA Rail has bought training simulators.

Overall, there have been what Robert called normal challenges, but so far, no major issues.

Ronald Bartels commented that Robert had given a good summary – and agreed – there have been “no major hiccups” thus far.

Robert and Ronald have been invited to join each of the NGEC Executive Board calls as their schedule permits and will be asked to provide an update every 4<sup>th</sup> call or so. We thank VIA Rail for its interest in the NGEC and its willingness to keep us informed as to its progress.

**Next update: 7-30-19**

**7.**

**Update: Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group – Eric Curtit:**

The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group last met on 4-18-19.

Following that call, Eric Curtit reached out to Amtrak and Caltrans to get an ETA for getting the missing sections or parts of sections, completed and out for review.

Last week we received Amtrak's input on the Revenue section of the report (thank you Joe Paul). As of today, we still have not received the DRAFT Implementation section of the report from Caltrans.

Once Caltrans has submitted its section, we will have all 4 sections in DRAFT form and will reconvene the working group to review the sections and make sure there are no duplications and that the report is written in consistent voice.

Eric continues to anticipate the remaining draft material will be submitted soon enough for a working group review in late June or early July and that a full DRAFT will be ready for distribution to the NGEC Executive Board for review.

**10.**

**Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update on 6-4-19:

*Revision B.2 of the single level train set has been received. I have asked AASHTO to update the specification reference on the website. Steve Hewitt does have the newest revision and will be able to fulfill requests for the new revision as*

they are received.

Revision B of the trainset specification is waiting upon approval of the last 13 approved DCRs. We started with 91 DCRs so we are getting close. I have reached out to the relevant group leaders and reminded them of these DCRs.

David Brabb, the leader of the Electronics sub-committee held a meeting of the group two weeks ago. This was the first meeting since he took over. He sent out a survey to the group members to help set out a path forward for the group. They will be having their next meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

I have received all but one group member list.

**11.  
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Eric Curtit adjourned the meeting at 11:47am Eastern.

**The next conference call will be 6-18-19**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 6-4-19:**

See agenda item 5 in the minutes.

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 5-21-19:**

The due date for proposals was last Friday (5-10-19). Submittals were received from the short-listed car builders and Metro-North has initiated its review of those submissions.

**Next update – 6-18-19**

**Document Control Update – 6-4-19:**

Revision B.2 of the single level train set has been received. I have asked AASHTO to update the specification reference on the website. Steve Hewitt does have the newest revision and will be able to fulfill requests for the new revision as they are received.

Revision B of the trainset specification is waiting upon approval of the last 13 approved DCRs. We started with 91 DCRs so we are getting close. I have reached out to the relevant group leaders and reminded them of these DCRs.

David Brabb, the leader of the Electronics sub-committee held a meeting of the group two weeks ago. This was the first meeting since he took over. He sent out a survey to the group members to help set out a path forward for the group. They will be having their next meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

I have received all but one group member list.

**Next update – 6-18-19**

**Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 6-4-19:**

The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group last met on 4-18-19.

Following that call, Eric Curtit reached out to Amtrak and Caltrans to get an ETA for getting the missing sections or parts of sections, completed and out for review.

Last week we received Amtrak's input on the Revenue section of the report (thank you Joe Paul). As of today, we still have not received the DRAFT Implementation Section of the report from Caltrans.

Once Caltrans has submitted its' section, we will have all 4 sections in DRAFT form and will reconvene the working group to review the sections and make sure there are no duplications and that the report is written in consistent voice.

Eric continues to anticipate the remaining draft material will be submitted soon enough for a working group review in late

---

June or early July and that a full DRAFT will be ready for distribution to the NGEC Executive Board for review.

**Next update – 6-18-19**

**Amtrak Locomotive Procurement -5-21-19:**

On the Locomotive Procurement – the process continues – no changes to report.

On the car procurement:

Amtrak has received responses to the RFP from several 5 or 6 vendors. Amtrak is partnering with the states that are a part of the review process.

There are some suitable candidates in the submissions – with some questions that will need to go back to them for answers.

The intent is to do the best to have a “fair and level battlefield to provide the best possible equipment”.

**Next update 6-18-19**

**METRA Equipment Procurement Effort as of 4-9-19:**

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties must respond by August 2019.

METRA has the NGEC specification, but John does not know if the plan to use it or if they will be in contact with the NGEC or not.

**Next update – as appropriate**

**Treasurer’s Update – Current Balance and Spend Rate as of 5-21-19:**

Current Balance and Spend Rate as of 5-21-19:

Total Grant: \$1,250,000.00

Spent to date: \$401, 255.35

Balance: \$848,744.65

Based on the current run rate and accounting for a bump up in costs for the annual meeting – the balance should cover another 38-40 months.

Status – Requesting additional no-cost grant agreement extension:

FRA has informed Amtrak that an additional one year no-cost extension can be requested and would be received favorably. It would be approved through the normal approval process.

FRA has suggested that Amtrak wait until the current agreement gets closer to the end date before applying for another extension, but that it will be received favorably.

The current extension expires 9-30-20.

**Next Update 6-18-19**

**Charger Updates from States and Amtrak:**

On 10-23-18, at Chairman Curtit’s request, States and Amtrak provided summary updates on the Charger Locomotives now that they have been placed in service. The Chairman will be asking for these updates on a periodic basis, with the next update planned for the NGEC 2019 Annual Meeting – 2-22-19.

On 2-22-19 at the Annual Meeting, Charger experience updates were provided and captured in the minutes of that meeting.

**Next update – as appropriate.**

---

**Distribution of the NGENC two-pager – educational document as of 6-4-19:**

The new educational (two-pager) document was released at the Annual Meeting on 2-22-19 and is available in hard copy or electronically.

To date, (6-4-19) 240 hard copies and 353 electronic copies have been distributed.

Contact Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com). If hard copy, let Steve know where to send them and how many.

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement Update as of 6-4-19:**

Please see agenda item 6 in the minutes for a summary overview.

**Next update – 7-30-19**

**S305 NGENC Executive Board Conference Call  
June 4, 2019  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Eastern  
Call in number: 888 585-9008 conference access: 559-120-127**

**Agenda**

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 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 5-21-19 conference call meeting                                | Eric Curtit    |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement   | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: VIA Rail Equipment Procurement  | Robert Becker  |
| 7. Update: Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group                               | Eric Curtit    |
| 8. Update: Document Control  | Tammy Krause   |
| a. Status: Revision B.2 – completing technical writing                                     |                |
| b. Status: Single Level Trainset Specification Revision                                    |                |
| c. Status: Electronics on Trains Working Group - development of DTL software specification |                |
| d. Status: Verifying/updating all Technical working group member lists                     |                |
| 9. Other   | All            |

**Next Call-6-18-19**