

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JULY 22, 2014

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

Chairman Curtit opened today's meeting and, prior to asking Steve Hewitt to take the roll, he noted the recent passing of Ken Uznanski. Eric commented on the fact that Ken was an original member of the NGEC serving as Amtrak's NGEC project manager for the first two plus years. He also cited Ken's long and successful career as a leader in the passenger rail industry having served as the Director of the Washington State DOT Rail Division and as vice chair of AASHTO's SCORT and the S4PRC. Following his years of state service, Ken joined Amtrak and took on the NGEC project manager's role in January, 2010 when the NGEC was first formed. Ken drafted the first NGEC work plan which was approved at the organizational meeting of the NGEC.

Ken will be greatly missed. Eric then called for a moment of silence for Ken and asked that everyone in the NGEC family keep Ken and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

2.

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

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

3. Action Items Status Review – Steve Hewitt

Steve deferred the review of the status update of action items review to the agenda where each would be addressed.

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.

Status: Under agenda item 5 – a status report will be provided.

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

Status: Under agenda item 10 – a status report will be provided.

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.

Status: Under agenda item 6 – a status report will be provided.

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.

Status: Under agenda items 7 and 8 – status reports will be provided.

NGEC Future discussion: **Eric Curtit established the membership of the working group on the last call (6-24-14) and will provide an update as a part of agenda item 11.**

Fall face to face meeting of the Executive Board – on the last call it was agreed that the Fall meeting of the Board would take place in Wilmington, DE in October, 2014. AASHTO will look into logistics and come back with proposed dates and meeting and hotel accommodations

Status: To be discussed 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 August 1st call and will keep the Board informed. (ongoing)

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.

Status: An outline proposal (see attachment-below) for a Host Railroad NGEC Coordination sub-committee was prepared by Tim Hoeffner – with input from Steve Hewitt - and sent to all Board Members prior to the June 24 call.

4.

Approval of Minutes from the June 24, 2014 Executive Board conference calls – Eric Curtit:

On a motion by NCDOT, and a second by IDOT, the Minutes from the June 24, 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 of the Mid-West States Section 6 efforts, noting that progress is being made with regular meetings taking place. John noted that one of the more significant issues under discussion is that of governance. John expects that the group will have a resolution to this issue in the near future.

6.

Status: Review of Bi-Level Car and D-E Locomotive Change Requests - Eric Curtit:

- a. Bi-Level Review timeline – EricCurtit/Larry Salci

Eric reported that he had submitted the change requests for the bi-level cars to Larry Salci. Larry confirmed that he has received the changes (there are 106 DCRs in total – 22 minor and 84 major changes) and has spoken about them with Dave Warner. Larry expects to begin work on the review later today and is looking at mid-August for completion. Around the end of July, Larry will inform Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt of his timeframe for getting the draft report out to the bi-level review panel. Steve will then schedule a review panel conference call accordingly.

Stan Hunter, Caltrans, expressed his availability to offer any explanations of rationale if Larry has any questions or concerns.

- b. D-E Locomotive Change requests – Status - John Oimoen/Dave Warner:

John Oimoen, IDOT, reported that the procurement team is pulling together the list of changes for the D-E locomotive and they hope to have it ready to be sent to Dave Warner for his review by the end of July, 2014.

Patrick Centolanzi asked if the commuter railroads had had input into the locomotive specification.

Dave Warner, Amtrak, responded that they had not had formal input, because commuter railroads are not a part of the NGEC charter. He did note, however, that Metrolink saw that the NGEC Diesel-Electric locomotive specification was very close to what they were looking for and had ordered locomotives using the NGEC specification as a basis.

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, reminded those on the call that the change requests for the D-E Locomotive specification are in the critical path for the development of an NGEC Dual Mode specification. The Dual Mode spec cannot move forward until that (the D-E DCRs) process is wrapped up.

**7.
Status update: Diesel Electric Locomotive –John Oimoen:**

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

Good progress is being made. The team is doing follow ups on the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) action items. A Quality Assurance alignment meeting was held at the Siemens factory. There will be a mock-up of cabs and trucks at Siemens from August 19-21st, 2014. Intermediate Design Review (IDR) items will be addressed beginning in late September in Chicago.

**8.
Status Update: Bi-Level car procurement - Stan Hunter:**

Stan Hunter provided a brief update on the Bi-Level car procurement:

Last week there was a meeting in Rochelle Illinois to fine tune the production schedule. Getting to a primavera schedule is a key to determining option assignments for additional orders.

They are working on open items for the IDR and moving on to completing the Final Design Review (FDR) open items.

A major issue still being resolved has to do with weight reduction. There have been a number of re-engineering proposals put forth to reduce weight. Stan will have more to report on this on the next call.

Larry Salci (consultant to the FRA) confirmed Stan's summary and added that Nippon Sharyo is completing Phase 3 at the plant to make the car shells in the U S – they should be fully operational by September, 2014. Larry also noted that he "is confident that they will meet their schedule and the options will be favorable".

**9.
Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment – Next Steps -Tim Hoeffner:**

Tim Hoeffner was unavailable today so Eric Curtit tabled the discussion and review of Tim's proposal.

Jeff Gordon, FRA, however, reported that, as a result of a conversation at the DTL meeting two weeks ago, he (for FRA) is working with Jim Grady, AAR, to identify a list of what issues the freight railroads have and what they would like to learn. Once the list has been developed Jeff will report back to the Board.

**10.
Status Update: 514 Working Group – Eric Curtit for Ron Pate:**

In Ron Pate's absence, Eric Curtit reported that the 514 group is working on completing the capital plan. Darrell Smith, Amtrak, is going to go to Washington State to finalize the draft plan. The intent is to have the working group approve the plan and bring it to the NGEC Executive Board for its input/approval by mid-September, 2014.

**11.
NGEC Future working group Scope and Next steps - Eric Curtit:**

Eric reported that he has not completed the Scope for the NGEC Future Working Group as his time has been taken up dealing with a Missouri Constitution Amendment. He does, however, intend to get the scope out this week and he continues to target the Fall face to face Board meeting as the timeline for getting a plan approved for moving the NGEC forward.

**12.
Setting logistics for the Fall Executive Board face to face meeting in Wilmington, DE – Steve**

Hewitt/AASHTO:

Shayne reported that Andrea Ryan has been working with Amtrak staff on plans/logistics for a Fall meeting in Wilmington, DE. Steve Hewitt will follow up with Andrea and report back to the Board.

**13.
Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the Board today, Chairman Curtit adjourned the call at approximately 11:56 AM Eastern.

The next call is: August 5, 2014, 11:30am Eastern

Decisions/Action Items – 7-22-14 Executive Board Conference Call

Mid-west States – Section 6 progress report: This remains as an ongoing agenda item. Progress is being made – governance is a key issue yet to be resolved.

514 Working Group updates: The Capital Plan is being developed – the goal is for it to come to the NGEC Executive Board for approval in mid-September, 2014.

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.

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.

NGEC Future discussion: Eric Curtit will provide a DRAFT scope to the working group members by the end of this week (7-25-14)

Steve Hewitt will work with Andrea Ryan on logistics for the Wilmington, DE meeting of the NGEC Executive Board. Steve will give a status update on the next Board call.

Host Railroad Blessing of NGEC equipment: Jeff Gordon is working with Jim Grady, AAR on a list of issues the freight railroads have and on what they need to learn about with regard to the new passenger rail equipment.

Bi-Level Review timeline: Larry Salci is beginning his review of the 106 DCRs. He expects to complete the process by mid-August. Larry will provide Eric Curtit and Steve Hewitt with a timeline as he nears completion so a bi-level review panel call can be scheduled.

D-E Locomotive DCRs: IDOT anticipates having the DCRs completed by the end of July and submitted to Dave Warner for his review.

Next Call: August 5, 2014

NGEC Host Freight Railroad Coordination Sub-Committee

Draft Outline - May 28, 2014

Purpose: Work with the host Freight Railroads (HFRS) to gain their approval/authorization/concurrence to allow the next generation Bi-level equipment fleet to operate throughout the nation's freight rail network.

Background: In addition to the certification/approvals from FRA and Amtrak passenger equipment needs the permission of the owner of the infrastructure before it can be operated throughout the national freight rail network. The question was brought forward as to how best to approach the freight rail industry on this issue. Should we seek permission by individual corridors or work at the network level. The NGEC Executive Board agreed to pursue a network approval as recommended by FRA and Amtrak.

Organization and Structure: Sub-committee appointed by and reporting to the NGEC Executive Board.

Next Steps:

- Obtain Executive Board approval for the concept and structure
- The NGEC Executive Board creates the subcommittee and appoints a chair and vice chair. The sub-committee is to be comprised of no more than 7 members with one representative each from FRA and Amtrak. The Chair and vice chair are state representatives.
- Populate the sub-committee - solicit members.
- Identify relevant information about equipment for presentation to the HFRS
 - Equipment within clearance templates
 - Crash energy management
 - Weight and axles loads
 - Wheel profiles
 - Locomotive P1 & P2 forces
- Identify universe of HFRS
 - All class 1s
 - Conrail
 - Shortlines
- Identify initial contact person at HFRS – start NRPC officer
- Contact industry
 - HFRS
 - AAR
 - ASLRRRA
- Provide information
- Meet, discuss, negotiate