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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

JUNE 27 2023

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Ray Hessinger, Chair S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Ray Hessinger, Tim Ziethen, Amanda Martin, Amanda Martin also as proxy for John Oimoen and for Troy Hughes, Jeff Gordon, Kyle Gradinger, Jon Dees for Jason Orthner, Richard Kedzior, Mike Jenkins Support Staff and Colleagues: Steve Hewitt, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Strat Cavros, Barley Fields, Dave "Kirkwall" Warner
ABSENTEES	Board Members: George Hull, John Oimoen, Jason Biggs, Jason Orthner, Brian Beeler II, Troy Hughes Support: Shayne Gill, Joe Paul, Tammy Krause, Patrick Centolanzi

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, Chair, NGEC Executive Board:

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, opened the meeting, and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

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 provided a brief review of action/ongoing tracking items not on today's agenda.

Industry Participation:

Industry involvement continues to be consistent at just over two hundred participants.

2023 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:

The 2023 version of the two-page educational flyer is now available electronically or in hard copy by request from Steve Hewitt. It is also posted on the NGEC website www.ngec.org.

To date: 334 copies have been distributed.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on the NGEC website or by request from Steve Hewitt.

Next Update – 2-2-2024 – NGEC Annual Meeting

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 6-8-23, Marci Petterson reported to the NGEC Technical subcommittee that negotiations were under way and the "cone of silence" continues.

Next Update – As appropriate

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 6-13-23:

- *Metro North confirmed finalization of the Final Design Review (FDR) Phase on May 8th.*
- *Production for Metro-North Charger #301 and #302 is progressing ahead of DCS schedule. Carshells for both locomotives have completed Q14 (ready for blast) and have been put into storage until finishing begins.*
- *Sub-assembly has started in May as the DCS and Final Assembly is on track to start in July 2023.*
- *First Article Inspection (FAI) for the MNR carshell has been successfully completed with zero open items.*
- *FAI for truck frame welding has been successfully completed.*

Next Update – 7-11-23

NGEC CRISI Grant Application Status:

On 12-13-22, Tim Ziethen reported that the CRISI Grant for funding for the NGEC was submitted on time (early). He thanked the Board for its feedback – especially in light of the short turnaround time.

Tim has requested a count on the number of support letters received and included with the application package.

Tim added that the Amtrak grants office was impressed with the number of support letters and the enthusiasm for this application.

The grants office also noted that the application was a strong and well put together document.

The timeframe for announcing which CRISI Grant applications are approved has been pushed back from May-June to August-September 2023.

Next Update: As available

NGEC 2024 Annual Meeting:

The NGEC 2024 Annual meeting will be held on 2-2-24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. It will, once again, be held in conjunction with other rail-related meetings being held that week including SPRC, SAIPRC and AASHTO CORT.

Details to follow.

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 6-13-23 meeting– Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – NGEC Chair:

On a motion offered by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and seconded by Jon Dees for NCDOT, the minutes from the 6-13-23 meeting were approved as submitted.

5.

Update: Multi-state Venture Car Procurement – Kyle Grading, Caltrans:

Kyle Grading provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (6-27-23):

- *The remaining Cab Car FDR submittals are in the final closure stage with nearly all subsystems approved. The Cab Car MCAT simulation report has been submitted to Amtrak for review and transfer to FRA with clarifications made. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed.*
- *The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F test reports are approved. The Cab Car Complete FAI is scheduled for July 18, to be followed by the FRA Sample Car Inspection on July 27.*
- *129 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is targeting revenue start in 2023. Progress on agreements has been made with signatures expected in July.*

Following his update, Kyle added "we are getting close to revenue service in California."

6.

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Steve Hewitt for George Hull, Amtrak:

In the absence of George Hull, Steve Hewitt read into the record of today's meeting (6-27-23) the report provided on 6-22-23 to the Technical subcommittee by Joe Paul):

On the new Acela:

Work continues on the qualification requirements.

On the Airo Trainsets:

Final Design Review continues.

On the Charger Locomotives:

29 are in-house, 28 and 29 will be commissioned this week. Service on the Capital between Washington and Chicago has begun. Silver Service in Washington is scheduled to begin on 6-29-23 as the ATC hurdle was passed.

7.

Update: Document Control Management – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause:

Tammy Krause provided the following update to the Technical subcommittee on 6-22-23. On 6-27-23, she was not available and asked Steve Hewitt to read the 6-22-23 update into the record on 6-27-23:

I have received ten comments on the PRIIA sub specs and I will be creating DCRs from them and submitting them to the entire Technical Subcommittee (TSC) for review. The next group of documents to be reviewed are the APTA Standards and Recommended Practices.

The Materials Working Group has not completed their review of the EN Welding Standards yet but will give a report/summary to the TSC when they do.

8.

Treasurer's Report and status update on NGEF Funding – Tim Ziethen:

On 6-27-23, Tim Ziethen reported on the following:

Treasurer's Update:

Balance/Spend Rate Through April 2023

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.
Expenses Incurred through April 2023: \$1,173,648.37
Balance remaining: \$76,351.67.
Estimated spend at current rate for balance of the Grant: \$74,281.54
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,856.31.
Estimated Balance at the end of the Grant Period: 2,070.13

Tim added that there are a couple of outstanding invoices which "might push it over a bit...but should not be a problem."

Status – 6-month no-cost current grant agreement extension:

Amtrak has submitted a 6 month no-cost GARF to FRA which is now under review. The GARF extends the period of performance and "allows us to draw down expenses in the grant until exhausted."

Update: NGEF 12-month Interim funding Proposal:

In regard to funding, Tim reported that he had met with Mike Murray and Jeff Gordon, FRA, and he has "great news!" FRA reviewed the Amtrak proposal to fund the ongoing work of the Committee out of its Annual Grant that it receives through Appropriations. He noted "we have the green light to move forward with what we have proposed." Tim added that they are still looking at whether it will be identified as a Capital Project or an operating expense. He termed this as "more of an accounting question."

He added that the is "super news!"

Tim further reported that he is still putting together the Excel spreadsheet "to lay out for all of you to see" that would include the AASHTO expenses, Casamar TLK, etc. He noted that he will be contacting Steve Hewitt to discuss the spreadsheet as he still has a few questions.

Tim also noted that there "is a placeholder for this in the AOP (Amtrak Operating Plan) with George Hull and Amtrak's support.

Ray Hessinger asked if there were any questions or comments.

Steve Hewitt commented that Tim should be thanked for all his work in putting the proposal together and getting the FRA green light to move forward.

Ray Hessinger agreed and expressed his appreciation for Tim's efforts and that this is great news for the NGEC.

Tim appreciated the comments, but attributed the effort to more than just himself and that it was well worth the effort to see the work of the NGEC continue.

**9.
Other – all:**

With no other business forthcoming, Ray Hessinger adjourned the meeting at 11:46 am Eastern.

Next Executive Board Meeting 7-11-23

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer's Report – 6-27-23:

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Path Forward for the NGEC (Interim):

6-month no-cost current grant agreement extension:

Amtrak has submitted a 6 month no-cost GARF to FRA which is now under review. The GARF extends the period of performance and "allows us to draw down expenses in the grant until exhausted."

NGEC Funding Issues/potential interim solutions/path forward:

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Tim further reported that he is still putting together the Excel spreadsheet "to lay out for all of you to see" that would include the AASHTO expenses, Casamar TLK, etc. He noted that he will be contacting Steve Hewitt to discuss the spreadsheet as he still has a few questions.

Tim also noted that there "is a placeholder for this in the AOP (Amtrak Operating Plan) with George Hull and Amtrak's support.

Status: Amtrak Legal re: Potential By-Laws Changes needed if any:

On 6-13-23, Tim Ziethen also reported that he has talked to Amtrak Legal and they are of the opinion that the By-Laws do not need to be changed – at least as far as the NGENC structure as an entity even if it is funded from another source.

If a CRISI Grant is awarded, it will require an obligation to submit certain reports, etc., but for the short term – if Amtrak funds it in some way beginning on 10-1-23 no structural changes will need to be made.

Status - Quarterly Progress Report to FRA:

The report was for the quarter ending 3-31-23 and was due to FRA on 4-30-23. Steve Hewitt transmitted the report to the Executive Board members (and support) along with the 5-16-23 meeting draft minutes.

Next Report Due to FRA – 7-31-23

2023 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

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Next Update – as appropriate

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Next Update – 7-25-23

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Tim added that the Amtrak grants office was impressed with the number of support letters and the enthusiasm for this application.

The grants office also noted that the application was a strong and well put together document.

It is now anticipated that the timeline for announcing which CRISI Grant applications are approved is August-September 2023.

Next Update: As appropriate.

Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive and Venture Cars Experience:

Detailed Updates were provided during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Next Update: As appropriate

2024 NGEC Annual Meeting:

The 2024 NGEC Annual Meeting is planned for 2-2-24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

Next Meeting -7-11-23

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern

By computer:

<https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

By phone:

1-415-655-0001

Access code:

126-073-1531

Agenda

- | | |
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| 1. Welcome and Open the Meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 2. Roll call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 6-13-23 Exec Board Meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 8. Treasurer's Update | Tim Ziethen |
| - Balance/Spend Rate/Forecast | |
| - Status – 6 month no-cost current grant agreement extension | |
| - Update: NGECC 12-month interim funding proposal | |
| 9. Other | All |
| 10. Adjourn | Ray Hessinger |

Next Meeting: 7-11-23