



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2021

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: <i>George Hull, John Oimoen, Tim Ziethen, Jeff Gordon, Arun Rao, Amanda Martin, Troy Hughes, Jon Dees for Jason Orthner, Momo Tamaoki for Kyle Gradinger, Jason Biggs for Ron Pate, Mike Jenkins, Support Staff and Colleagues:</i> <i>Mike Murray, Joe Paul, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Oscar Bermudez, Tammy Krause, Larry Salci, Patrick Centolanzi</i>
ABSENTEES	Board Members: <i>Ray Hessinger, Ron Pate, Jason Orthner, Brian Beeler II, Support:</i> <i>Mike Kraft, Strat Cavros</i>

DECISIONS MADE

1.

Welcome – George Hull, Vice Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board:

In the absence of Chairman Hessinger, Vice Chair George Hull 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 briefly reviewed the status of open action items not covered under the agenda this week and noted they will be included on the next call agenda, and the status of each is included in today's minutes (3-23-21).

2021 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2021 version of the NGEC two-page backgrounder/educational document has been released and is available electronically or in hard copy by request - contact Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com. If you would like to receive hard copies, contact Steve with the quantity and where to mail them.

Adoption of the PRIIA 305-200 Recommended Practices Document:

The 305-200 document was adopted at the Annual Meeting and is in the process of being finalized with signature cover page, etc. Once complete it will be provided to Steve Hewitt for distribution upon request and will be added to the NGEC website's document list.

It is a living document and will be updated periodically through the NGEC process.

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the 2020 Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes (2-23-21).

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: As appropriate

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

This item was tabled until John Oimoen receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

Next Update: As appropriate

Technical subcommittee review of the Access Board Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding accessibility guidelines for Rail vehicles:

The intent of this effort is for states to submit their comments to the Access Board Docket on the Accessibility Requirement Guidelines Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Amtrak has submitted its comments already and will share them with the Executive Board. Once the comments have come back from the Access Board and there is a Final Rule, the Technical subcommittee (through its technical working groups) will compare them with the NGEC specifications to ensure compliance and make any necessary changes by utilizing the NGEC DCR process.

On 8-20-20, Melissa Shurland reported to the Technical subcommittee, that the comment period ended on 7-14-20 (after having been extended to that date) and the Access Board is now processing those comments received. Melissa stated, "we are in a holding pattern to see what the comments were and what the Access Board's disposition of them will be." Melissa will keep the NGEC technical subcommittee informed as the process is completed.

As of 2-1-21 – the Access Board continues in its holding pattern, there will be no update during the Annual Meeting.

Next Update: As appropriate

NGEC Technical subcommittee development of a TSSSA Primer/Template:

As of 3-18-21, the DRAFT developed by Amtrak Mechanical is under review by George Hull and will next be submitted to Tammy Krause to take it through the process for Technical subcommittee approval and on to the Exec Board.

Next Update: As appropriate

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

On 2-23-21 – during the NGEC Annual Meeting, VIA Rail provided a comprehensive update on its vehicle procurement.

The PowerPoint presentation was distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: As appropriate (possibly a 6-month update – 8-2021)

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting – George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by Arun Rao, Wisconsin DOT, the minutes from the 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

5.

Overview/Summary/Reactions – 2-23-21 NGEC Annual Meeting – George Hull/Steve Hewitt:

George Hull asked Steve Hewitt to provide an overview/summary of the Annual Meeting:

Steve Hewitt reported on what was the NGEC's 11th Annual Meeting held "virtually" on 2-23-21. The meeting attendance was approximately 104. This is the second largest attendance for an NGEC Annual meeting – with the largest attendance being over 200 at the first official Annual meeting held at the FRA in 2011.

Steve noted that he has received quite a bit of feedback, mostly from members of the industry, all comments were positive other than the desire to have the next one in-person as is usually the case. For a virtual meeting, those commenting were very pleased with the information provided and pleased with all of the presentations given.

Along with the NGEC Chairman's Report, there were also updates provided from Amtrak Government Affairs, FRA, The FASC and Treasurer's Report, the Technical subcommittee, the Technical working group on vehicle weights, Document Control, and on the five ongoing procurements and deployments.

All PowerPoint Presentations that were provided on these reports will be posted to the NGEC website www.NGEC305.org and will also be distributed along with these minutes to NGEC members.

Key Decisions/actions taken included:

Acceptance of the NGEC Treasurer's Report provided by Tim Ziethen, Amtrak

Adoption by the Executive Board of PRIIA 305-200 Recommended Practices as previously approved and submitted by the NGEC Equipment and Acquisition and Ownership working group. This will be a living document which will be periodically revised/updated as appropriate.

Filling Vacancies:

Chairman Hessinger appointed Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, to fill vacancies that occurred due to the retirement of Phil Meraz from Iowa DOT. Ed is hereby appointed to serve on the Technical subcommittee and on the Trainset and Single Level Rail Car Specification Review Panels.

The Chair also noted that Brent Thompson, WSDOT, was retiring from state service and had resigned as first Vice Chair of the NGEC FASC. It will be up to FASC Chair Tim Ziethen to appoint a first Vice Chair.

WSDOT expressed its intention to remain on the subcommittee and at present Jason Biggs will serve as its voting member.

At the meeting it was announced that Michael Lestingi, FRA, has been moved to the front office to serve as Acting Executive Director of the FRA, and in that capacity will not serve on the NGEC. FRA appointed Jeff Gordon to serve as its voting member of the Executive Board and Jeff will also retain his current positions within the NGEC.

The NGEC thanks Michael Lestingi for his efforts and wishes him well in his new position, and we thank Jeff Gordon for stepping in to serve on the Board while also representing FRA on the Technical subcommittee, the FASC, the Review Panels, and as team leader for the Mechanical working group and the weight issues working group.

6.

Update: Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) 3-23-21 – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Tim Ziethen provided the following Treasurer's Report Invoices through December 2020:

Balance and Spend Rate:

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.

Amount Spent through December 2020: \$707,119.75.

Balance remaining: \$ 542,880.25.

Estimated spend at current rate for the remaining grant period (through 9-30-23): \$457,548.07.

Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$13,865.09.

Estimated Balance at the end of the Extension Period (Contingency): \$85,332.18

Tim noted that he has reached out to AASHTO (Strat Cavros) and expects to receive the January invoices shortly. It is anticipated that the January and February spend totals will be around \$28,000 which keeps us in line with the current spend rate of around \$14,000 per month.

7.

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 3-23-21 – Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans:

Kyle Gradinger provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes (3-23-21):

Design review for the standard coach is complete. The Cab Car structure FDR is complete and the structural test plans are being coordinated with Caltrans, Siemens and FRA with compression testing planned for April. The Cab Car IDR phase is complete and FDR meetings are scheduled to resume in April. IDOT Café Car reviews are complete and open items are being addressed.

IDOT Business Class table testing occurred February 16th in Spain. NEC testing for standard coach is complete and the report is accepted by FRA. Caltrans 238.111 testing is complete, and the report has been submitted to Amtrak and FRA. IDOT 238.11 testing and the report is in the submittal stage.

75 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. There are currently twelve Caltrans cars at the Stockton Facility and eighteen IDOT cars in Chicago. Additional Caltrans and IDOT cars are

scheduled to ship in March or April.

The initial consists for Caltrans and IDOT are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance and revenue service.

8.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

CAF: Progress continues – with 2 more sleeper cars complete – there are 7 left.

Charger Locomotive – Also continues to progress well. The first unit is in testing and it is going well.

AmFleet replacement – is in the “cone of silence” period with discussions continuing with vendors.

Acela Express 21 (AE21) testing continues – they are addressing some modeling issues and evaluating schedule impacts.

9.

Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Ray Hessinger:

Steve Hewitt provided a brief update as submitted by Ray Hessinger for inclusion in the minutes (3-23-21):

Metro-North has awarded the Dual Mode Locomotive contract to Siemens. A get-start meeting was held on March 8th and design activities are now underway.

10.

Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Marci Petterson:

As of 3-18-21, Marci Petterson reported that this procurement is in the “cone of silence” period.

Steve Hewitt recommended that “we will wait a month or so before asking Marci for an update – and see then where it stands”.

11.

Update: Document Control Management – as of 3-23-21 - Tammy Krause:

I have three items to update on Document Control:

- *The Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Document has been signed and will be added to the website as soon as I get the final version back from Camren.*
- *I have been creating the DMU specification DCRs proposed by Stadler Rail. I have sent out the Electrical, Interiors and Mechanical DCRs to the WG leaders. I hope to finish the rest by the end of this week.*
- *I have been working on the Trainset specification updates and the first 3 chapters are now complete. I will be resuming my weekly meetings with Camren to keep the trainset progressing.*

12.

Other:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned today’s meeting (3-23-21) at 11:55am.

The next conference call will be held on 4-6-21.

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 3-23-21:

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Update- Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment as of 3-23-21:

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Update: Document Control Management 3-23-21:

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Next Update – 4-20-21

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Next Update: As appropriate (possibly a 6-month update – 8-2021)

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

This item has been tabled until John Oimoen, IDOT, receives an update from his contact at METRA. He will let Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger know when that is, and the item will be included on the following Board agenda.

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Next Update: as appropriate

Developing a template – TSSSA:

The DRAFT primer has been developed by Amtrak Mechanical and is currently being reviewed by George Hull. Once he has reviewed it, it will be sent as DRAFT to Tammy Krause to begin the NGEC process for consideration.

Next Update: 4-6-21

Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience:

In-depth updates were provided during the Annual Meeting and were included in the minutes.

The presentations were distributed and posted to the website.

Next Update: as appropriate

Status Update – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

As of 3-18-21, Marci Petterson reported to the Technical subcommittee that this procurement is in the "cone of silence" phase.

Next Update – as appropriate

S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call

3-23-21

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM 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 | George Hull |
| 2. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 2-23-21 Annual Meeting | George Hull |
| 5. Overview/Summary/Reactions – NGEC Annual Meeting | George/Steve |

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 6. Treasurer's Report – Balance/Spend Rate | Tim Ziethen |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | George Hull |
| 9. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Steve Hewitt |
| 10. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement | Steve Hewitt |
| 11. Update: Document Control Management | Tammy Krause |
| 12. Other | All |

Next call/meeting - 4-6-21