



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

SECTION 305 NGEC Executive Board

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>Eric Curtit, Chair, S305 NGEC Executive Board</i>
ATTENDEES	Board Members: Eric Curtit, Eric Curtit also as proxy for Momo Tamaoki/Kyle Gradinger, Charlie King, Tim Ziethen, Michael Lestingi, Amanda Martin, John Oimoen, Ray Hessinger, Mike Jenkins, Brian Beeler II Support Staff and Colleagues: Jeff Gordon, Mike Murray, Michael Burshatin, Patrick Centolanzi, Steve Hewitt, Shayne Gill, Tammy Krause, Dave "Emeritus" Warner
ABSENTEES	Board Members: Kyle Gradinger, Momo Tamaoki, Ron Pate, Arun Rao, Jason Orthner, Support: Strat Cavros, Byron Comati, Jason Biggs, Larry Salci, Jon Dees,

DECISIONS MADE

1.

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

Chairman Curtit 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 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 (2-11-20).

METRA Equipment Procurement Effort:

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

An RFP is on the street for 200-400 bi-level cars. They are going through the process now. Interested parties were to 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

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience – as of 7-30-19:

Mid-West States Experience:

The Charger locomotives have been running for 2-years and are working well with all of the locomotives in service and only the normal "teething" issues occurring and being worked through.

One area that they are striving for improvement and are making improvements on is parts availability and field service. These issues are challenging but being worked out and improving.

John also pointed out the fact that there have been several vehicle strikes, and debris strikes in the Mid-West, but the good news is that the Crash Energy Management (CEM) performed very very well. The engineers were very satisfied with the safety of the cabs.

Overall, John reported that they are very pleased with the performance of the locomotives.

California Experience:

Momo provided the average number of miles and engine hours for the locomotives in the various sections of the state where they are being used and noted that they are performing well.

There have been several debris strikes and Siemens and Amtrak are working on repairs.

Caltrans has exercised its option for continuing technical support with Siemens after the warranty has expired.

There have been some instances of ice buildup on the HVAC and they are working on determining the root cause.

Overall, the locomotives are performing very well.

Washington State Experience:

No report provided

Amtrak Experience:

Charlie King reported that Amtrak has held several meetings with Siemens on parts availability as "we continue to support the states" as our partners.

Amtrak is leasing a state unit to test in Long Distance service. Rolling Stock Engineers are on board to see how the locomotives perform in the hot days and high altitudes. The locomotive is in the trail, not lead, position on this test.

So far it has performed extremely well.

The intent is to also conduct a test in the winter weather to see how it fares. And they are working on resolving the snow ingestion issues that occurred last winter.

Next Update: 2020 NGEC Annual Meeting (February 21, 2020)

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 1-14-28:

The procurement continues to move ahead fully.

NGEC Two-pager Educational Document 2020:

Steve Hewitt reported that the updated NGEC two-pager is available in hard copy and PDF.

Copies will be distributed during the annual meeting and are available in either version by request from Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement as of 10-8-19:

Robert Becker reported that things are going well – with several mock-ups taking place currently and over the next several months. Overall things are moving forward on schedule and in good shape so far.

VIA Rail was not present on 12-17-19, so the update has been tabled until the NGEC Annual Meeting 2-21-20.

Next update: NGEC Annual Meeting 2-21-20

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 1-28-20 conference call meeting – Eric Curtit, MODOT:

On a motion by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, and a second by John Oimoen, IDOT, the minutes from the 1-28-20 Executive Board call were approved as presented.

5. NGENC Leadership Transition – Nominating Committee update – scheduling a call - Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt:

Eric Curtit reported that he has done some outreach to the nominating committee members. He suggested that a call be scheduled among the members and Steve Hewitt this week to discuss the process and finalize preparation for nominating the State Board members and, ultimately, a slate of officers. It was agreed that a brief call would take place on Friday from Noon -12:30PM Eastern (2-14-20).

Eric also announced that Troy Hughes will be Missouri DOT's new Administrator of Railroads and will take Eric's place on the NGENC executive Board and the Technical and Finance and Administrative subcommittees.

No word yet from Michigan as to their inclinations with regard to remaining on the NGENC Executive Board or naming a representative to replace Tim Hoeffner who retired in January.

6. Status Update NGENC 36-month co-cost grant agreement extension request – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Status: Grant Agreement extension request – Tim Ziethen, Amtrak:

Tim Ziethen reported "good news" - the Grant Adjustment Request Form (GARF) that Amtrak Grants had prepared has been signed by Amtrak's Treasurer and has been submitted to FRA Grants. The GARF was sent by email to FRA on 2-10-20. Michael Lestingi, FRA, agreed to follow up to be sure it has been received by Grants Management and will keep the Board informed of any questions or additional information needed and as to its progress. Once approved and executed it would result in a 36-month no cost grant agreement extension beginning 10-1-20 through 9-30-23.

Eric expressed his appreciation to Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, for getting this done in such a timely manner. It is a big step and very good news.

A copy of the Amtrak signed GARF has been sent to Steve Hewitt for the files.

7. Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 2-11-20 – Momo Tamaoki, Caltrans (read into the record by Steve Hewitt):

Momo Tamaoki was unavailable for this call but provided the following update from the 2-6-20 Technical subcommittee call for inclusion in today's minutes (2-11-20):

FDR for the standard coach is complete. Cab Car Brake and Electrical System IDR updates are in review. Cab Car structure FDR is scheduled for February 27 and IDOT Galley FDR design releases are beginning.

The Complete Coach FAI occurred on November 13-14 in Sacramento and production continues work on open items. Car #3 will be shipped to the NEC for FRA 213.345 in late February after climate room testing is completed. Cars 4 and 5 are planned for shipment to TTCI next week to support Amtrak PTC Brake Profile testing. Door cycle and Lighting tests are also occurring during the next two weeks at TTCI.

45 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs for standard coach are nearly complete with remaining action items under final review, including open items for the complete car.

8. Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause:

On 2-11-20, Tammy Krause was not available for this call, but Steve Hewitt provided the following update:

The trainset specification revision B is not available yet. Camren Cordell, the NGENC's Technical Writer, has been making the changes to the specification and realized that some of the proposed changes reference the wrong specification sections. Most of the chapter numbers and sections are the same between the specifications. However, the trainset specification has a few sections that have different numbers and the original section number were listed on the change sheet. Tammy is double checking and correcting the section numbers.

The next PRIIA Specification Update (DMUs) is in progress with proposed DCRs having been distributed to the appropriate technical working groups.

Best Practices technical writing update: Cameron Cordell has made great progress on compiling the 4 DRAFT sections of

this document into an organized/one voice document. Through Tammy Krause, Cameron has asked several follow-up questions regarding the format and also addressing some of the working group comments. Steve Hewitt, Eric Curtit and Jeff Gordon have responded, and all noted that they are pleased with the document as it is coming together and believe it is looking good – is all cleaned up - and is well organized. Once complete as a DRAFT, it will be distributed to the NGECEquipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group for review and comment. Once approved by the working group, it will be submitted to the Executive Board for its review, comment and ultimate consideration.

**9.
NGEC Annual Meeting – Review DRAFT Agenda/Confirm Speakers – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reminded members, once again, that the Annual Meeting will take place on 2-21-20 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. The meeting will begin with coffee and registration at 8:00am and will end at 1:00pm.

The attendee list and all meeting materials to be printed have been sent to AASHTO per their deadline of 2-7-20.

Currently there are **76 registrants** for the meeting.

An updated draft agenda was sent along with the materials for today's call (2-11-200). All speakers/presenters have been confirmed.

All presenters, if possible, should use the NGECE 10 years" PowerPoint template that was developed by Mario Bergeron (thank you Mario!)

Steve also expressed the NGECE's appreciation to Dave "PowerPoint" Warner who has, once again, volunteered to run the presentations during the Annual Meeting – Thank You Dave!

**10.
Chairman's Remarks – Eric Curtit:**

Eric Curtit signed off on what will be his last NGECE Executive Board call. He thanked everyone for their hard work and support all these years. He expressed how much he will miss the NGECE – and noted that he believes it is "in a good place". Getting the GARF submitted and the Best Practices/Lessons Learned document moving forward along with the continued update and maintenance of the NGECE Specifications is a great sign of ongoing and continued progress for the Committee.

He also noted that he has provided Steve Hewitt with "Chairman's Remarks" for the NGECE Annual Meeting which Steve will read at the meeting.

Many on the call thanked Eric for his efforts and wished him well in his new position as Director of Planning at Missouri DOT.

**13.
Other:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Curtit adjourned today's meeting (2-11-20) at 11:48AM Eastern.

The next conference call will be 3-10-20

Decisions/Action Items

Update – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement as of 2-11-20:

Momo Tamaoki was unavailable for this call but provided the following update from 2-6-20 for inclusion in today's minutes (2-11-20):

FDR for the standard coach is complete. Cab Car Brake and Electrical System IDR updates are in review. Cab Car structure FDR is scheduled for February 27 and IDOT Galley FDR design releases are beginning.

The Complete Coach FAI occurred on November 13-14 in Sacramento and production continues work on open items. Car #3 will be shipped to the NEC for FRA 213.345 in late February after climate room testing is completed. Cars 4 and 5 are planned for shipment to TTCI next week to support Amtrak PTC Brake Profile testing. Door cycle and Lighting tests are also occurring during the next two weeks at TTCI.

45 cars total are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. System-level FAIs for standard coach are nearly complete with remaining action items under final review, including open items for the complete car.

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Update as of 1-14-20:

Metro-North continues to move forward on the dual mode locomotive procurement.

Next update – as appropriate.

Document Control Update – 2-11-20:

The trainset specification revision B is not available yet. Camren Cordell, the NGEN's Technical Writer, has been making the changes to the specification and realized that some of the proposed changes reference the wrong specification sections. Most of the chapter numbers and sections are the same between the specifications. However, the trainset specification has a few sections that have different numbers and the original section number were listed on the change sheet. Tammy is double checking and correcting the section numbers.

The next PRIIA Specification Update (DMUs) is in progress with proposed DCRs having been distributed to the appropriate technical working groups.

Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Best Practices Working Group – 2-11-20:

Best Practices technical writing update: Cameron Cordell has made great progress on compiling the 4 DRAFT sections of this document into an organized/one voice document. Through Tammy Krause, Cameron has asked several follow-up questions regarding the format and also addressing some of the working group comments. Steve Hewitt, Eric Curtit and Jeff Gordon have responded, and all noted that they are pleased with the document as it is coming together and believe it is looking good – is all cleaned up - and is well organized. Once complete as a DRAFT, it will be distributed to the NGEN Equipment Acquisition and Ownership Working Group for review and comment. Once approved by the working group, it will be submitted to the Executive Board for its review, comment and ultimate consideration.

Amtrak Equipment Procurement Update – as of 1-28-20:

On the Acela replacement:

Trainset 1 has been undergoing testing and dynamic runs at Hornell with good results and is going to Pueblo.

Trainset 2 has begun dynamic runs at Hornell.

The other trainsets are in various stages of the assembly process.

On the Locomotives:

This procurement continues to progress with a target of next Spring.

On the Trainset (AmFleet replacement):

They continue to be in the bid review phase by the Amtrak technical and finance committees and it is hoped that a decision will be made by March 2020.

Next update to the Executive Board – NGEC Annual Meeting

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 were to 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

FASC update and Treasurer’s Report – as of 1-14-28:

a. Balance-Spend Rate:

Tim Ziethen reported: (Includes Invoices through November 2019).

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

Amount Spent: \$515,042.76

Balance remaining: \$ 734,957.24

Spend Rate per month: \$13,553.76

Projected spend in the remaining months of the current grant: \$155,537.57

Balance anticipated at the end of the grant period (9-30-20): \$579,419.67

Expenditures anticipated in a 36-month no-cost extension: \$540,000.00

Average Monthly expenditure: \$15,000.00

Balance remaining at the end of the 36-month extension: approximately \$39,419.67

Status Update NGEC 36-month co-cost grant agreement extension request as of 2-11-20:

On 2-11-20, Tim Ziethen reported “good news” - the Grant Adjustment Request Form (GARF) that Amtrak Grants had prepared has been signed by Amtrak’s Treasurer and has been submitted to FRA Grants. The GARF was sent by email to FRA on 2-10-20. Michael Lestingi, FRA, agreed to follow up to be sure it has been received by Grants Management and will keep the Board informed of any questions or additional information needed and as to its progress. Once approved and executed it would result in a 36-month no cost grant agreement extension beginning 10-1-20 through 9-30-23.

Eric Curtit expressed his appreciation to Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, for getting this done in such a timely manner. It is a big step and very good news.

A copy of the Amtrak signed GARF has been sent to Steve Hewitt for the files.

Update: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive Experience as of 7-30-19:

Mid-West States Experience:

The Charger locomotives have been running for 2-years and are working well with all of the locomotives in service and only the normal “teething” issues occurring and being worked through.

One area that they are striving for improvement and are making improvements on is parts availability and field service. These issues are challenging but being worked out and improving.

John also pointed out the fact that there have been several vehicle strikes, and debris strikes in the Mid-West, but the good news is that the Crash Energy Management (CEM) performed very well. The engineers were very satisfied with the safety of the cabs.

Overall, John reported that they are very pleased with the performance of the locomotives.

California Experience:

Momo Tamaoki provided the average number of miles and engine hours for the locomotives in the various sections of the state where they are being used and noted that they are performing well.

There have been several debris strikes and Siemens and Amtrak are working on repairs.

Caltrans has exercised its option for continuing technical support with Siemens after the warranty has expired. There have been some instances of ice build-up on the HVAC and they are working on determining the root cause. Overall, the locomotives are performing very well.

Washington State Experience:

No report provided

Amtrak Experience:

Charlie King reported that Amtrak has held several meetings with Siemens on parts availability as "we continue to support the states" as our partners.

Amtrak is leasing a state unit to test in Long Distance service. Rolling Stock Engineers are on board to see how the locomotives perform in the hot days and high altitudes. The locomotive is in the trail, not lead, position on this test.

So far it has performed extremely well.

The intent is to also conduct a test in the winter weather to see how it fares. And they are working on resolving the snow ingestion issues that occurred last winter.

Next Update: 2020 NGEAC Annual Meeting (February 21, 2020)

Distribution of the NGEAC two-pager – educational document as of 1-28-20:

Steve Hewitt reported that the updated NGEAC two-pager is available in hard copy and PDF.

Copies will be distributed during the annual meeting and are available in either version by request from Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement Update as of 10-8-19:

Robert Becker reported that things are going well – with several mock-ups taking place currently and over the next several months. Overall things are moving forward on schedule and in good shape so far.

Next planned update: NGEAC Annual Meeting

NGEAC Annual Meeting – review DRAFT agenda/confirm speakers – Eric/Steve:

Steve Hewitt reminded members, once again, that the Annual Meeting will take place on 2-21-20 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. The meeting will begin with coffee and registration at 8:00am and will end at 1:00pm.

The attendee list and all meeting materials to be printed have been sent to AASHTO per their deadline of 2-7-20.

Currently there are 76 registrants for the meeting.

An updated draft agenda was sent along with the materials for today's call (2-11-20). All speakers/presenters have been confirmed.

All presenters, if possible, should use the NGEAC 10 years" PowerPoint template that was developed by Mario Bergeron (thank you Mario!)

Steve also expressed the NGEAC's appreciation to Dave "PowerPoint" Warner who has, once again, volunteered to run the presentations during the Annual Meeting – Thank You Dave!

NGEAC Leadership Transition – Nominating Committee update as of 2-11-20:

Eric Curtit reported that he has done some outreach to the nominating committee members. He suggested that a call be scheduled among the members and Steve Hewitt this week to discuss the process and finalize preparation for nominating the State Board members and, ultimately, a slate of officers. It was agreed that a brief call would take place on Friday from Noon -12:30PM Eastern (2-14-20).

Eric also announced that Troy Hughes will be Missouri DOT's new Administrator of Railroads and will take Eric's place on the NGEC executive Board and the Technical and Finance and Administrative subcommittees.

No word yet from Michigan as to their inclinations with regard to remaining on the NGEC Executive Board or naming a representative to replace Tim Hoeffner who retired in January.

S305 NGEC Executive Board Conference Call
2-11-20
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 1-28-20 conference call meeting | Eric Curtit |
| 5. NGEC Leadership Transition – Nominating Committee update - scheduling a call | Eric Curtit/Steve Hewitt |
| 6. Status Update – NGEC 36-month no-cost grant agreement extension | Tim Ziethen |
| 7. Update: Multi-State Car Procurement | Momo Tamaoki |
| 8. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| - Status: Compiling Single Level Trainset Specification 305-007 – Revision B | |
| - Next Specification Update – DMUs – next steps/timeline | |
| - Status: Equipment Acquisition Best practices Reference Document | |
| 9. NGEC Annual Meeting – review Final DRAFT agenda | Steve Hewitt |
| 10. Chairman's remarks | Eric Curtit |
| 11. Other | All |

Next Meeting – 2-21-20 NGEC 10th Annual meeting

Next Call 3-10-20