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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

3-19-24

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

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 remain steady. Currently there are around 200 industry participants.

2024 NGEC two-pager Handout Flyer:

The 2024 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: 460 copies have been distributed.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2024 NGEC Annual Meeting and will be invited to do the same at the 2025 Meeting.

Next Update 2025 – NGEC Annual Meeting

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 2-2-24, at the NGEN Annual Meeting, Marci Petterson, CtDOT provided an update presentation (available on the website at www.ngec.org)

Next Update – As Appropriate

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 2-2-24 Annual Meeting– Ray Hessinger:

On a motion offered by Richard Kedzior, Wisconsin DOT, and seconded by Melina Lopez, Illinois DOT, the minutes from the 2-2-24 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

5. Annual Meeting Debrief – Ray/Steve/All:

Ray Hessinger commented that while was no easy task chairing the meeting remotely, he felt that, overall, the Annual Meeting went well and was successful. He asked Steve Hewitt what feedback he had received.

Steve Hewitt reported that the feedback has been positive. Steve added that he would like to compliment Ray Hessinger for doing such a great job chairing remotely – Steve acknowledged that it is difficult to do it, but Ray did it incredibly well.

Steve gave an overview of the meeting:

There were around 50 in-person attendees and 40-45 virtual attendees. This number is down somewhat from the last Annual Meeting, but still a significant number showing strong interest continues in the work of the NGEN after 14 years.

Steve noted that the presentations were some of the best and most informative that he has seen since the start of the NGEN. As more work is getting done and vehicles are being produced and in service, there is more to say and the presentations attest to that.

All presentations have been posted to the NGEN website.

Steve added that elections were held and the State members of the Executive Board were elected to new two-year terms. All ten of the states that have been on the Board remained. Officers were also elected with Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, re-elected as NGEN Executive Board Chair and Dan Ruppert, Amtrak, being named Vice Chair of the Executive Board and Chair of the Tech subcommittee. Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, remains on as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC). Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, was elected to serve as Secretary of the Executive Board and Second Vice Chair of the FASC.

The full roster including the Board, subcommittees and industry members has been posted to the NGEN website. Steve noted that there still remain some vacancies on the various Review Panels.

6. Update: Multi-State Venture Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt for Caltrans

Caltrans was not represented on the call today. Steve Hewitt provided the report that had been given by Caltrans to the Technical subcommittee on 2-29-24:

The Cab Car FDR is now approved, and all FDR stages are complete. The Cab Car and Café Car MCAT simulation reports have been approved by the states and the FRA.

The Cab Car Complete FAI and FRA sample car inspections have occurred with final open items in review and closure. The Cab Car 238.111(b) test plan is being revised based on recent comments for return to Amtrak and subsequent submittal to FRA. The first cab car and café car are being prepared for shipment.

All 137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches and Caltrans trainsets are currently in revenue service and additional cars are being added as they are commissioned and accepted.

7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger:

Ray Hessinger provided a brief summary of the February report he had received from Metro-North:

Locomotive 301 factory tests are complete. 302 has the engine and roof installed. Siemens is talking with Long Island

Railroad (LIRR) about their options for additional locomotives. There has been lots of back and forth over the 3rd rail shoe with various testing and evaluation on accommodating over and under rail shoe.

8.

Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Joe Paul, Amtrak:

Joe Paul provided a “partial” update on Amtrak vehicle procurements:

On the new Acela: the first baseline testing stage one has been completed on 140 cars. Stage two began on 2-7-24 and is expected to be completed this week (week of 3-18-24).

There have been test candidate slowdowns with the 1-10-24 to 3-29-24 window extended to 6-28-24 to complete.

On the GP 38 3 locomotives: They are expecting delivery of 30 locomotives . To date 17 have shipped – 16 have been received and 13 have been conditionally accepted.

On the ALC42's: Progress continues with over 50 having been accepted through the Wilmington facility. Overall, this project has gone well.

9.

Technical subcommittee – upcoming agenda topics/presentations -Joe/Steve:

Steve Hewitt reported that following the Annual Meeting, Dan Ruppert mentioned to the Technical subcommittee that he enjoyed hearing some of the new technologies that are emerging and would like to see presentations periodically throughout the year.

Steve and Dan have since discussed this idea via email and agreed to add it for discussion on the next Tech subcommittee agenda and to solicit ideas for presentations on new or emerging technologies.

Steve also noted that he and Dan had agreed to include on the next tech subcommittee agenda a discussion on lessons learned through the procurement/acquisition process.

Steve noted that these presentations could be included on future Executive Board meeting agendas as well at the pleasure of the Chair.

Ray Hessinger noted that, since the new or emerging technology presentations would likely come from members of the industry, he would prefer that Board members not on the technical subcommittee be informed of a coming presentation and have the opportunity to attend that particular meeting if interested rather than ask an industry member to give the same presentation twice.

Steve agreed that Ray's suggestion made sense and he and Ray agreed that the lessons learned presentations would likely be given by the states or Amtrak and would be something that the Board would want on its agenda.

10.

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

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's meeting minutes – read into the record by Steve Hewitt:

- *The Materials Working Group (WG) continues to meet regularly, their last meeting was 3/4 and their next meeting is 4/1.*
- *The Weight WG had a meeting on 3/11 to review the DCRs that were received on their spec. Here is Dave Warner's update:*
 - *"The Vehicle Weight Working Group met on Monday, March 10. There were three DCRs to be discussed, covering four topics. We came to an agreement on three of the four topics. The fourth, dealing with the amount of lateral and longitudinal imbalance to be allowed on a PRIIA vehicle is going to take a bit of time to resolve. What is in the current proposed document is definitely not correct, and finding the correct language is more complicated than simply changing one number. We had good carbuilder and technical expertise present in the meeting, and we've a plan in place with a goal of developing the correct language by the beginning of the summer."*
- *I am working with the Technical Writer to create the DCRs for the single level document that are based upon previously submitted and approved DCRs for other specs that may apply to the single level.*

11.

Treasurer’s Report and status update on NGEN Funding – Tim Ziethen:

Tim Ziethen provided the following update:

Balance/Spend Rate Through January 2024

New Report based on funding via Amtrak AOP FY 10-1-23 thru 9-30-24:

Amtrak AOP Funding - \$260,000
Invoiced through January – 57,343.07
Forecast/Accrual Amount to Reflect Billing Lag 60 days - \$30,000.
Remaining funds (including 60 day forecast for billing) - \$202,656.93.
Estimated full year (YTD + FC + remaining months at Avg Spend TD) - \$202,029.21.
Current Average Monthly Spend - \$14,335.77

Seeking Long-Term Funding – next steps:

Amtrak expects to get the details regarding the CRISI grant process (NOFO) and Tim is in communication with the Amtrak grants office to coordinate that application process.

Status – Contract Extensions:

Steve Hewitt’s contract extension was executed with AASHTO for the period beginning 10-1-23 through 9-30-24.

The extension of the TLK contract (Tammy Krause) is in process.

Tammy Krause reported (via email) that she “met with the technical writer yesterday about the 10 hours that need to be invoiced correctly” and “she gave me the information and I will work with Mary at Casamar to get this resolved”.

As for the Casamar contract extension, Tammy noted that she “received a proposed contract from Casamar to review so that it can be submitted to AASHTO.” Steve Hewitt reminded Tammy to make sure the proposed contract extension was for no more than the budgeted amount already approved by the Executive Board in October (2023).

12.

Adjourn – Ray Hessinger:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned the 3-19-24 meeting of the Executive Board at 11:58 am Eastern.

Next Executive Board Meeting 4-16-24

Decisions/Action Items

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Next Update – 2025 NGEN Annual Meeting

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

Detailed Updates were provided during the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Next Update: As Appropriate

Filling Vacancies on the Review Panels as of 3-19-24:

Kyle Gradinger is still working on determining who will be Caltrans representative on the various Review Panels but agreed that Caltrans does want to remain on those panels. John Oimoen had previously stated that IDOT was filling vacancies internally and would not have a name for filling the Review Panel seat until the internal vacancies are filled. The seat will be held for IDOT.

No change from 1-4-24 report.

Next Meeting -4-16-24

**NGEC Executive Board Meeting
3-19-24**

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device.

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Open the Meeting

Ray Hessinger

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- | | |
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| 2. Roll call | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Action Items Status Review | Steve Hewitt |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 2-2-24 Annual Meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Annual Meeting Debrief | Ray/Steve/All |
| 6. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 7. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 8. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Dan Ruppert |
| 9. Technical subcommittee – upcoming agenda topics/presentations | Dan/Steve |
| 1. Technological advances/new technology | |
| 2. Lessons Learned | |
| 10. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 11. Treasurer’s Update | Tim Ziethen |
| - Balance/Spend Rate/Forecast | |
| - Status: Contract extensions | |
| - Prior Grant Close out steps | |
| - Long-Term Funding – next steps. | |
| 12. Other: | All |
| 13. Adjourn | Ray Hessinger |

Next Meeting: - 4-16-24