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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

4-16-24

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

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

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.

Steve noted that he had exchanged emails with Kyle Gradinger regarding Caltrans’ participation. Kyle informed Steve that he has a conflict with another meeting on his schedule at the same time as these meetings. Steve asked him if he would name a designated alternate – no response yet. Kyle asked if the procurement update was being sent from Caltrans – Steve responded that it had been, but the last one received was for the 2-29-24 Technical Subcommittee. Kyle also asked about qualifications or expertise needed for serving on the Review Panels. Steve explained which panels Caltrans had served on and, as an example, let him know who the Caltrans representative (Momo Tamaoki) had previously been. No response yet. Steve will continue to follow-up.

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 – NGEN Annual Meeting

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 3-19-24 Meeting– Ray Hessinger:

On a motion offered by Richard Kedzior, Wisconsin DOT, and seconded by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 3-19-24 meeting were approved as submitted.

5. Update: Multi-State Venture Car Procurement – Caltrans

This item was tabled as there was no update provided by Caltrans.

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

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

Locomotive 301 completed factory testing and completed FAIs on March 20th.

The procurement is moving along well and they should have the Dual Mode Locomotive out of Siemens for testing in the near future.

7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:

Dan Ruppert provided the following update on Amtrak vehicle procurements:

On the new Acela: QTP2 testing to FRA. Finished Stage 1 with Alstom and are working with FRA to finish QTP2.

Working with Alstom to complete FAIs.

On the Airo Trainsets: 38 are in production – 36 coaches and 2 locomotives – 3 are in final assembly.

Currently planning head count needs for facilities and maintenance. There is an open RFP for several level 1 facilities.

Established Digital tech Teams for security - DTV for trains to maintain security for level of access and for control of data once obtained.

On the ALC42's: Progress continues with over 50 having been accepted into service. 8 more are in transit, 19 are in Sacramento, with 50 more remaining in the initial order. They are averaging about 2 per month being accepted. Performance is continuing to improve and is on a positive slope.

Long Distance Equipment: This is under active procurement for RFP. Amtrak continues to answer questions and is doing some one-on-one reviews with various car builders.

Discussion:

Ray Hessinger asked if in the long-distance procurement the states have been involved in the process as they were with the Airo Trainsets. Ray believes the states brought value and ideas even through FAI and Design Review process with the Airo.

Will the states be similarly involved in the long-distance procurement?

Dan responded not yet that he is aware of, but that Ray made valid points which he will bring back to the team. Dan will respond back on this on the next NGEN Executive Board meeting.

Ray noted that he understands these are quite different procurements including the involvement of some different states.

8. Update: CtDOT Rail Car Procurement – Steve Hewitt for CtDOT:

On 3-28-24, Marci Petterson, CtDOT, reported to the Technical Subcommittee that they have started Preliminary Design Review (PDR). Steve Hewitt will include Marci on future subcommittee agendas for monthly updates.

9.

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

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's meeting minutes:

The Materials Working Group continues to meet regularly, their last meeting was 4/1.

The Communications Working Group held a meeting on 4/15.

I am working with the Technical Writer to create the DCRs for the single level document and we will then be submitting them to the Working Groups.

10.

Filling Vacancies on Review Panels: -Ray/Steve

NGEC Executive Board – Specification Review Panels/Members: 2024

Consultants/ Technical Support to the Review Panels:

Review Panel Consultant – Larry Salci

NGEC Support – Steve Hewitt

Technical Support – Tammy Krause

Amtrak Technical Support – Mike Kraft for all except the Locomotive Review Panel

Amtrak Technical Support – Devon Parsons – Locomotive Review Panel

Bi-Level Car Review Panel:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair

vacancy, Caltrans

Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT

Melissa Shurland, FRA

Locomotive Review Panel:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair

vacancy, Caltrans

vacancy, IDOT

Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT

Melissa Shurland, FRA

Trainset Review Panel:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair

Ed Engle, Iowa DOT

Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT

vacancy, Caltrans

Melissa Shurland, FRA

Single Level Rail Car Review Panel:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair

Ed Engle, Iowa DOT

Jason Biggs, WSDOT

vacancy, Caltrans

Melissa Shurland, FRA

DMU Review Panel Members:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair

Melissa Shurland, FRA

Brian Beeler, for Maine DOT

vacancy, Caltrans

Ray Hessinger noted that Caltrans is the "elephant in the room" as the vacancies are primarily seats that have always been held by Caltrans and it is important that they remain on those panels. There is no urgency at the moment as none of the panels are expected to be convened in the near term, but they should be fully staffed to be ready when a product comes out of the Technical Subcommittee.

Steve Hewitt noted that IDOT has one seat that was vacated when John Oimoen retired and that John had intended to have IDOT keep. He was going to try to fill that vacancy before he retired but was unable to do so. Melina Lopez, IDOT, appreciated the information and will come back to the Board next month with an answer regarding IDOT representation on the panel (Locomotive).

11.

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

Tim Ziethen provided the following update:

Balance/Spend Rate Through February 2024

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

Forecast/Accrual Amount to Reflect Billing Lag 60 days - \$30,000.
Invoiced + Accrual Expenses to date (through February – 103,831.34
Amtrak AOP Funding - \$260,000
Remaining funds (total available less Invoiced + Accrual) - \$156,168.66.
Estimated full year (YTD Incl. Carry Over + FC + Remaining Months @ Avg Spend TD) - \$170,132.02.
Current Average Monthly Spend - \$13,260.14

Status – Contract Extensions:

All sub-contractor contract extensions have been executed.

Status – Completing Prior Grant Close Out documents:

Tim is working with Steve Hewitt on these documents. Tim has also had a discussion with FRA. Due by the end of the month with QPR (Quarterly Progress Report) as per usual.

Steve noted he had sent Tim a lot of information in response to the questions to be answered on the close out documents. He asked Tim to let him know if there was anything further that he needed from him or any questions he may have.

New CRISI Grant Application – steps/timeline:

The CRISI Grant NOFO has been released. Tim is working with Amtrak Grants on filing a new application. He will update the NGEN Exec Board on the application and timeline on the next call.

Other potential funding opportunities:

Tim commented that there was some discussion with the FRA, (while meeting about the close out of the prior grant), on possible other ways to align a federal grant with the current budget process.

First Quarterly Report under current funding source – due (internally) 4-30-24:

Likely to be the same or similar to the previous reports provided during prior grant. Tim will look at the milestone information that Steve Hewitt provided in the March Monthly Activities Report and let him know if he needs anything more.

Discussion:

Dan Ruppert asked Tim Ziethen what the ramifications would be if they are unsuccessful in securing a CRISI Grant.

Tim responded that he is having discussions on other options with FRA - possibly pointing funding in a different direction. He noted that there is no obvious answer and that he will pull Dan into the ongoing conversation with FRA. Tim added that it was not the quality of the last CRISI grant application that caused it to not be awarded. It seems that there was simply too little funding for too many projects as well as prioritization. This will likely still be the challenge.

Dan added that there is some question and concern (internally) about Amtrak's appetite to continue this (funding) going forward.

Tim agreed and noted that the Amtrak funding through its AOP this fiscal year was not meant to be incremental – it was considered bridge funding until more long-term funding could be secured. It basically bought time but

was not seen as a long-term solution. If the next CRISI Grant is not successful or another funding option is not found the NGEC would cease to exist once these funds are exhausted.

Steve Hewitt added, and Tim agreed, that this would result in the specification's created by the NGEC becoming obsolete.

Ray Hessinger added that another potential option – longer shot than CRISI - is through the FY25 appropriations process. He added that States for Passenger Rail and AASHTO both have funding the NGEC in their policy principles. "We" need to press that route as well. This group as a whole cannot lobby, but individually states and industry members can.

12.

Adjourn – Ray Hessinger:

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned the 4-16-24 meeting of the Executive Board at 12:05pm Eastern.

Next Executive Board Meeting 5-14-24

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer's Report and status update on NGEC Funding:

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more.

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Multi-state Venture Car Procurement as of 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.

Nothing new reported for 4-16-24

Next Update: 5-14-24

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 3-28-24:

On 3-28-24, Marci Petterson, CtDOT, reported to the Technical Subcommittee that they have started Preliminary Design Review (PDR). Steve Hewitt will include Marci on future subcommittee agendas for monthly updates.

Next Update – 4-25-24

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 4-16-24:

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Next Update – 5-14-24

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Dan Ruppert agreed to bring this question/issue back to the team. Dan will respond back on this on the next NGECE Executive Board meeting.

Next Update: 5-14-24

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Next Update – 5-14-24

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Next Update – 2025 NGECE 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 4-16-24:

Kyle Grading is still working on determining who will be Caltrans representative on the various Review Panels IDOT, has one seat that is vacant. Melina Lopez, IDOT, appreciated the information and will come back to the Board next month with an answer regarding IDOT representation on the panel (Locomotive).

Next Meeting -5-14-24

NGECE Executive Board Meeting

4-16-24

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern

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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 |

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| 4. Approval of Minutes from 3-19-24 Annual Meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Dan Ruppert |
| 8. Update: CTDOT Rail Car Procurement | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 10. Filling Vacancies on Review Panels | Ray Hessinger |
| 11. Treasurer's Update | Tim Ziethen |
| - Balance/Spend Rate/Forecast | |
| - Status: Contract extensions | |
| - Status – Completing Prior Grant Close Out documents | |
| - New CRISI Grant Application – steps/timeline | |
| - Other potential funding opportunities | |
| - First Quarterly Report under current funding source – due 4-30-24 | |
| 12. Other: | All |
| 13. Adjourn | Ray Hessinger |

Next Meeting: - 5-14-24