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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

1-23-24

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| FACILITATOR | <i>Ray Hessinger, Chair S305 NGEC Executive Board</i> |
| ATTENDEES | Board Members: Ray Hessinger, Ray Hessinger also as proxy for Mike Murray FRA , George Hull, Tim Ziethen, Melina Lopez, Mike Jenkins, Mike Jenkins also as proxy for Amanda Martin, Richard Kedzior, Jason Orthner, Kyle Gradinger, Matthew Hensley for Troy Hughes, Jason Biggs, Brian Beeler II, Support Staff and Colleagues: Steve Hewitt, Tammy Krause, Dave "Emeritus" Warner, Kirk Frederickson, Joe Paul, Shayne Gill, Strat Cavros, Barley Fields, Tammy Krause, |
| ABSENTEES | Board Members: Mike Murray, Troy Hughes Support/Colleagues: Larry Salci, 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 remain steady. Currently there are around 200 industry 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: 368 copies have been distributed.

VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2023 NGEC Annual Meeting and will be invited to do the same at the 2024 Meeting.

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

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 10-12-23, Marci Petterson reported to the Technical Subcommittee that the kick-off meeting was held and they have begun pre-design meetings.

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

Multi-state Venture Car Procurement as of 1-4-24:

The remaining Cab Car FDR items are in the final closure stage. The Cab Car MCAT simulation report has been approved by the states and the FRA. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are complete, and the requested Café Car MCAT simulations have also been approved by FRA.

The Cab Car Complete FAI and FRA sample car inspections have occurred with final open items in review and closure.

137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service. The first Caltrans trainset is now in service on the Amtrak San Joaquins.

Next Update: 2-2-24 Annual Meeting

Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement as of 1-4-24:

Metro-North (MNR) has picked up options for 8 additional locomotives (Base is 19), CTDOT picked up options for an additional 6 locomotives.

Metro-North (MNR) and Siemens conducted the FAI for the truck completely assembled (with pre-series Schunk current collector installed) in the Siemens factory in Sacramento on 11-29-23.

On 11-29-23, Siemens and Metro-North performed the data maintenance demonstration of truck and collector assemblies.

MNR Locomotive #301 completed low voltage cable tray installation and is progressing towards machine room complete and ready for install.

MNR Locomotive #302 completed car shell painted and ready for final assembly and is progressing according to schedule in sub-assembly.

MNR, LIRR and Siemens started technical design clarification meetings and agreed on a monthly meeting going forward.

Next Update: 2-2-24 Annual Meeting

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

On the Charger Locomotive:

63 with 59 active of the state units are in active service. 39 ACL 42's are active. George Hull to confirm these numbers and follow-up with Steve Hewitt)

On the Airo Trainset:

There are 24 vehicles in production – 22 railcars and 2 locomotives - and it is on track.

On the Acela:

Waiting on FRA to finish review of Test Plan – expecting to begin re-testing next week.

Next Update: 2-2-24 Annual Meeting

4.

Approval of the Minutes from the 12-19-23 meeting– Ray Hessinger:

On a motion offered by Brian Beeler for Maine DOT, and seconded by Matt Hensley, MODOT, the minutes from the 12-19-23 meeting were approved as submitted.

5.

Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:

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

The Materials WG met yesterday and are continuing their work on car body materials. Yesterday's discussion concerned bolt shear strength and slip resistant connections.

The Weight WG has submitted a document for review and approval by the TSC. Several last-minute comments on the Vehicle Weight specification were received at last Thursday's Technical subcommittee meeting. Technical subcommittee voted to have the Vehicle Weight Working Group take additional time to evaluate the comments. The additional work will begin after the Annual Meeting. We have no estimate of a completion date because this is such a weighty matter.

6.

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

Tim Ziethen provided the following update:

Balance/Spend Rate Through November 2023

Total Initial Grant Amount : \$1,510,000 (using the current budgeted amount along with the prior grant funds)

Expenses incurred through November 2023: \$1,281,798.13

Balance remaining: \$228,187.

Current Spend Rate per month \$14,904.

Status – Contract Modifications Amtrak/AASHTO and AASHTO/Sub-Contractors:

Tim reported that he had sent Strat Cavros, AASHTO, a notice of what to use for authorization on what is a valid and open purchase order and that he has asked Amtrak Procurement to re-issue the Purchase Order using the budgeted amount. (Strat confirmed receipt of the notice).

Tim noted that this should enable AASHTO to officially extend the contract with all of the sub-contractors as previously approved in the budget.

Seeking Long-Term Funding – discuss next steps/options:

The intent is to continue to seek long-term funding for the NGEF. The interim funding being provided by Amtrak for FY 2024 is not intended to be long-term, but rather a stop-gap to keep the NGEF going while it explores funding options. Amtrak intends to apply again in the next round of CRISI Grant funding and will look into other potential options.

7.

NGEF Two-pager for 2024:

Steve Hewitt reported that he had distributed the updated two-pager prepared by MODOT Graphic Arts and had received one set of comments (also distributed to Board members) from Dave Warner. These were primarily grammar improvements to wording that has been used previously. Steve believes the minor edits do improve the document.

Ray Hessinger agreed with the proposed edits and noted that he was pleased with the way the interior photo came out (back page). He noted that it looked better in the document than he had anticipated.

Jason Orthner, NCDOT added that he would like to see a better photo of the Locomotive than that which is on the front page. He believes there should be a better, cleaner photo that could be used. One that would better convey what the NGEF is all about. He asked if Caltrans would have something that could be used.

Ray Hessinger agreed with changing the photo but noted that it has to be by COB today (1-23-24) because the turnaround window is very tight if the document is to be available by the Annual Meeting.

Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, said he could get a photo to Steve Hewitt later today. Jason Biggs, WSDOT, said that he could provide one as well, but would defer to Caltrans if they can meet the deadline.

8

Finalizing preparations for the Annual Meeting:

Steve Hewitt walked through the DRAFT agenda and focused on confirming speakers where there were question marks.

Caltrans provided the names of its speakers just prior to today's meeting and Steve has inserted them into the Draft agenda.

Tim Ziethen reported that Amtrak Government Affairs will give a presentation in-person – but he is not yet sure who that individual will be.

Jason Biggs, WSDOT, confirmed that he will attend the meeting in-person and will give the WSDOT presentation on its experience with the NGEC equipment.

Joe Paul, Amtrak, will be representing George Hull, who is unavailable, and he will give the Technical subcommittee update. Joe has informed Steve Hewitt that Michael Kraft and Michael Walsh will give the acquisition updates for Amtrak and that he will let Steve Hewitt know later today which presentation each will give.

Steve Hewitt reminded speakers that the deadline for submitting presentations was 1-29-24.

Steve will send a revised DRAFT agenda along with the draft minutes from this meeting and will send a reminder about confirming attendance (in-person or virtual) and about the 1-29-24 deadline for presentations.

Nominating the state Board members and officers:

Steve Hewitt reported that all states are expected to return for new two-year terms as members of the NGEC Executive Board.

The nominating committee met on 1-9-24 and coming out of the meeting, Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT has agreed to be nominated for Secretary of the NGEC Executive Board and second vice chair of the FASC.

Process:

The nominating committee will first nominate the states to be re-elected to the Executive Board.

After that, per NGEC By-Laws, the elected Board members elect the officers. A representative of the nominating committee will offer a slate of officers for nomination. The slate will include the Amtrak Reps appointed by the CMO – George Hull - to serve as vice chair of the NGEC Executive Board and chair of the Technical subcommittee (Dan Ruppert) and the reappointment of Tim Ziethen as Treasurer of the NGEC and chair of the FASC.

States, and the representatives to be nominated for new two-year terms as members of the NGEC Executive Board are:

New York State Department of Transportation
Representative: **Ray Hessinger**
raymond.hessinger@dot.ny.gov – 518 457-8075

Iowa Department of Transportation
Representative: **Amanda Martin**
amanda.martin@iowadot.us 515 239-1653

Illinois Department of Transportation
Representative: **Melina Lopez**
Melina.lopez@illinois.gov

Missouri Department of Transportation
Representative: **Troy Hughes**
troy.hughes@modot.mo.gov

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Representative: **Jason Orthner**
jorthner@ncdot.gov –

Washington Department of Transportation
Representative: **Jason Biggs**
BiqqsJr@wsdot.wa.gov

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Representative: **Richard Kedzior**

Richard.kedzior@dot.wi.gov

California Department of Transportation
Representative: **Kyle Gradinger**
kyle.gradinger@dot.ca.gov

Oregon Department of Transportation
Representative: **Michael Jenkins**
Michael.I.jenkins@odot.state.or.us

Maine Department of Transportation
Representative: **NNEPRA - Brian Beeler II**
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The full slate of officers to be nominated is:

Chair: Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT
Vice Chair: Dan Ruppert, Amtrak
Treasurer: Tim Ziethen, Amtrak
Secretary: Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT

Nominating committee:

Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT
Mike Jenkins, Oregon DOT
Troy Hughes, MODOT

**9.
Next Executive Board Meeting:**

It was agreed that following the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board will not meet in February, rather it will next meet as scheduled on 3-19-24. This will give the FASC and Technical Subcommittees time to meet in advance of the next Board meeting.

**10.
Adjourn – Ray Hessinger:**

Dave Warner reminded everyone of the importance of getting the presentations in on time – especially in light of the fact that many are being give virtually.

Steve Hewitt agreed and noted that Dave volunteers his time to organize the presentations and run them during the Annual Meeting.

Thank you, Dave!

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned the 1-23-24 meeting of the Executive Board at 12:08 PM Eastern.

Annual Meeting – 2-2-24

Next Executive Board Meeting 3-19-24

Decisions/Action Items

Treasurer’s Report and status update on NGEC Funding:

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Tim Ziethen will provide Steve Hewitt with the Balance/Spend Rate information on the FFY 2024 NGEC funding.

NGEC Two-pager for 2024:

ON 1-23-24, Steve Hewitt reported that he had distributed the updated two-pager prepared by MODOT Graphic Arts and had received one set of comments (also distributed to Board members) from Dave Warner. These were primarily grammar improvements to wording that has been used previously. Steve believes the minor edits do improve the document.

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Kyle Gradinger, Caltrans, said he could get a photo to Steve Hewitt later today. Jason Biggs, WSDOT, said that he could provide one as well, but would defer to Caltrans if they can meet the deadline.

Steve Hewitt will provide the word-smithing edits to Laura Seabaugh and will send the new photo as soon as it is received.

2023 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:

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.

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

Detailed Updates were provided during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Next Update: 2-2-24 NGEC Annual Meeting

Filling Vacancies on the Review Panels as of 1-23-24:

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.

Changing web/conference service provider from WebEx to Teams:

The NGEC will change to Teams as its service provider beginning in January 2024.

Task complete – all future NGEC meetings will use Teams as the service provider through Steve Hewitt’s account.

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.

AASHTO has provided the hotel link for the rail meetings to be held during that week. As always, the NGEC is a part of several meetings held in conjunction with AASHTO’s Council on Rail Transportation.

On 1-23-24, most speakers were confirmed with a few yet to be resolved.

All presentations are to be sent to Steve Hewitt by 1-29-24 and should utilize the new NGEC PowerPoint Template as sent around recently by Steve Hewitt.

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Next Meeting -3-19-24

NGEC Executive Board Meeting

1-23-24

11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon Eastern

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 218 969 011 071

Passcode: r7bGDN

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

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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- | | |
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| 4. Approval of Minutes from 12-19-23 Exec Board Meeting | Ray Hessinger |
| 5. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 6. Treasurer's Update | Tim Ziethen |
| - Balance/Spend Rate/Forecast | |
| - Status: Contract Modifications/extensions Amtrak /AASHTO – AASHTO/ Subcontractors | |
| - Seeking Long-Term Funding – discuss options/next steps. | |
| 7. Review/Comment DRAFT NGEC two-pager for 2024 | Ray/Steve |
| 8. Finalizing preparations for the NGEC Annual Meeting | Ray/Steve |
| Confirm Attendance – in-person/virtual. | |
| Review Final DRAFT Agenda/confirm speakers - in-person/virtual. | |
| Discussion: Officers & State Exec Board member elections – report from Nominating Committee | |
| Other: | |
| 9. Next Board Meeting | Steve/Ray |
| Hessinger | |
| 10. Adjourn | Ray Hessinger |

Next Meeting: -Annual Meeting - 2-2-24