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*Our Vision: The NGENC provides national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.*

## SECTION 305 NGENC Executive Board

MINUTES

AUGUST 8, 2023

11:30 EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>Ray Hessinger, Chair S305 NGENC Executive Board</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Ray Hessinger, George Hull, Tim Ziethen, John Oimoen, Jeff Gordon, Amanda Martin, Jason Orthner, Troy Hughes, Richard Kedzior, Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins <b>Support Staff and Colleagues:</b> Joe Paul, Jon Dees, Steve Hewitt, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, Strat Cavros, Shayne Gill, Barley Fields, Dave "Emeritus" Warner
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<b>Board Members:</b> Kyle Gradinger, Brian Beeeler II <b>Support/Colleagues:</b> Tammy Krause, Patrick Centolanzi

### DECISIONS MADE

**1.**

**Welcome – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, Chair, NGENC Executive Board:**

Chairman Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT, opened the meeting, and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll.

**2.**

**Roll Call – Steve Hewitt, NGENC 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 grow with three new members this past week. This brings the total to 204 industry participants.

**2023 NGENC 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 NGENC website [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org).

To date: 338 copies have been distributed.

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2023 NGENC Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on the NGENC website or by request from Steve Hewitt.

**Next Update – 2-2-2024 – NGENC Annual Meeting**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

On 6-8-23, Marci Petterson reported to the NGENC Technical subcommittee that negotiations were under way and

the “cone of silence” continues.

**Next Update – As appropriate**

**Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:**

As of 7-20-23:

On the Charger Locomotives – Amtrak continues to take delivery of additional units.

On the new Acela – Work continues on qualification items.

On the Airo Trainset – the first car shell is almost complete and Final Design Review (FDR) continues.

**NGEC CRISI Grant Application Status:**

The timeframe for announcing which CRISI Grant applications are approved is expected to be in the August-September 2023 timeframe.

**Next Update: As available**

**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.

Details to follow.

**4.**

**Approval of the Minutes from the 7-25-23 meeting– Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – NGEC Chair:**

On a motion offered by John Oimoen, IDOT, and seconded by Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT, the minutes from the 7-25-23 meeting were approved as submitted.

**5.**

**Update: Multi-state Venture Car Procurement – Kyle Grading, Caltrans:**

This item was tabled until 9-5-23 as Caltrans was not represented on the call and a report was not submitted.

**6.**

**Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

This item was tabled until 9-5-23 as Ray Hessinger had not received an update from Metro-North Railroad.

**7.**

**Update: Document Control Management – Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause was not present due to storm related issues – so this item was tabled until 9-5-23.

**9.**

**Filling Vacancies/ updating representation on the Executive Board, Technical SC, FASC and Review Panels – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger asked Steve Hewitt to review the various vacancies and/or changes to representation.

**NGEC Executive Board – Specification Review Panels/Members: 2023**

**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

**Bi-Level Car Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair  
**Vacancy - Caltrans**  
Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA

**Locomotive Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair  
**Vacancy - Caltrans**  
**Vacancy - IDOT**  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA

**Trainset Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair  
Ed Engle, Iowa DOT  
Jason Biggs, Washington State DOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA

**Single Level Rail Car Review Panel:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair  
Ed Engle, Iowa DOT  
Jason Biggs, WSDOT  
Jeff Gordon, FRA

**DMU Review Panel Members:**

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT -- Chair  
Jeff Gordon, FRA  
Brian Beeler, for Maine DOT  
**Vacancy - Caltrans**

**Other changes/vacancies:**

After going over the Review Panel vacancies, no changes were made as Caltrans was not present and IDOT is still working out staff changes that have taken place.

Steve Hewitt reported that WSDOT has made some changes to its roster of representatives. Jason Biggs is to serve as the voting member of the Executive Board, Curt Massie will serve as the WSDOT rep on the Technical subcommittee and Amanda Villani will be the WSDOT rep on the FASC.

Jennifer Bastian has left IDOT and the rep for now on the Technical subcommittee will be Art Peterson, and John Oimoen will name a permanent representative once he has resolved staffing changes.

Also, Steve Hewitt reported that Minnesota (Greg Mathis) is interested in joining the NGEC and has asked Steve about it. Steve sent information to Greg and he responded that he is taking it up the chain of command and will follow-up once he has an answer.

**9.**

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

On 8-8-23, Tim Ziethen reported no changes to his last report:

**Balance/Spend Rate Through May 2023**

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.  
Expenses Incurred through May 2023: \$1,198,774.76  
Balance remaining: \$51,225.24.  
Estimated spend at current rate for balance of the Grant: \$59,938.74  
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,984.68.  
Estimated Balance at the end of the Grant Period: (8,713.50) over target.

Tim believes this is close to how it will end up and that Amtrak has agreed to pick up the balance if there is minimal overage.

**Status – 6-month no-cost current grant agreement extension:**

Amtrak has submitted a 6 month no-cost GARF to FRA which is now under review. The GARF extends the period of

performance and will allow the NGEC to draw down expenses in the grant until they are exhausted. On 8-8-23, Tim reported that he still has not received a final response from FRA on this.

**Status: NGEC 12-month Interim funding:**

There I nothing new to report on the 12-month funding proposal. The budget was approved (as submitted) during the Executive Session held on 7-25-23.

**Status: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grant Progress Report to FRA:**

The Quarterly Report was submitted to FRA on time.

The next report for the fourth quarter 2023 is due to FRA by October 31, 2023.

Steve Hewitt will distribute the report with the DRAFT minutes of this meeting (8-8-23).

**10. Executive Session follow-ups/actions – Ray Hessinger:**

Ray Hessinger reported that the Executive session resulted in approval of the proposed budget for a 12-month interim funding program, via Amtrak’s Operating Plan (AOP) for 10-1-23 through 9-30-24. The Board also agreed to assess the cadence of the meetings held by the Executive Board and each subcommittee.

Discussion:

After some discussion, and on the recommendation of the FRA, the Executive Board will begin meeting once a month (every 4 weeks) effective immediately.

The FASC will continue to meet every 4 weeks as it currently does.

The Technical subcommittee cadence will be discussed on the 8-17-23 meeting. The preference of the subcommittee Chair is to meet monthly as well. The only concern raised by the Board Chair is that the bulk of the NGEC work is done in the Technical subcommittee and, at times votes on spec revisions or other such items will come up and if not resolved will need to wait a month before being taken up again.

As noted above, the Executive Board approved the budget for a 12-month interim funding which will be provided by Amtrak. On today’s call, George Hull, Amtrak clarified and confirmed that Amtrak will fund the NGEC for the 12-month period as discussed and in accordance with the approved budget. This clarification was needed to confirm that there would not be a need to wait until Congress approves a new appropriation or enacts a CR for FY 2024. The funding for the NGEC is minimal enough that Amtrak will be able to fund it for the 12 months as indicated.

The CRISI Grant, of course, is still the ideal situation – but it is unknown whether the NGEC will be awarded a grant, and, if it is, there is a substantial period of time (around 6 months) before the funds would be available.

With the clarification, as noted, the NGEC will continue to conduct business at least through 9-30-24.

Steve Hewitt will update calendars for the new meeting cadence as agreed, with the Technical subcommittee making a final decision next week.

**Adjourn – Ray Hessinger:**

With no other business forthcoming, Chairman Hessinger adjourned the 8-8-23 meeting of the Executive Board at 12:19pm Eastern.

**Next Executive Board Meeting 9-5-23**

**Decisions/Action Items**

**Treasurer’s Report – 8-8-23:**

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**Balance/Spend Rate Through May 2023**

Total Initial Grant Amount: \$1,250,000.  
Expenses Incurred through May 2023: \$1,198,774.76  
Balance remaining: \$51,225.24.  
Estimated spend at current rate for balance of the Grant: \$59,938.74  
Current Spend Rate per month (as info and used in calculating): \$14,984.68.  
Estimated Balance at the end of the Grant Period: (8,713.50) over target.

**Path Forward for the NGEC (Interim):****6-month no-cost current grant agreement extension:**

Amtrak has submitted a 6 month no-cost GARF to FRA which is now under review. The GARF extends the period of performance and will allow the NGEC to draw down expenses in the grant until they are exhausted. On 8-8-23, Tim reported that he still has not heard from FRA. He assumes it is working its way through the process.

**NGEC Funding Issues/potential interim solutions/path forward:**

Amtrak clarified and confirmed that Amtrak will fund the NGEC for the 12-month period as discussed and in accordance with the approved budget.

The NGEC will continue to conduct business at least through 9-30-24.

**Status: Amtrak Legal re: Potential By-Laws Changes needed if any:**

On 6-13-23, Tim Ziethen also reported that he has talked to Amtrak Legal and they are of the opinion that the By-Laws do not need to be changed – at least as far as the NGEC structure as an entity even if it is funded from another source.

If a CRISI Grant is awarded, it will require an obligation to submit certain reports, etc., but for the short term – if Amtrak funds it in some way beginning on 10-1-23 no structural changes will need to be made.

**Status - Quarterly Progress Report to FRA:**

The report was for the quarter ending 6-30-23, was submitted to FRA on time. Steve Hewitt will transmit the report to the Executive Board members (and support) along with the 8-8-23 meeting draft minutes.

**Next Report Due to FRA – 10-31-23****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](http://www.ngec.org).

To date: 338 copies have been distributed (hard/soft).

**Status – Multi-State Rail Car Procurement:**

On 8-8-23, no update was provided.

On 7-20-23, Ryan Sharpe, Caltrans, provided the following update:

*The remaining Cab Car FDR submittals are in the final closure stage with nearly all subsystems approved. The Cab Car MCAT simulation report has been submitted to Amtrak for review and transfer to FRA with clarifications made. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed and the requested MCAT simulation is in work.*

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F test reports are approved. The Cab Car Complete FAI occurred on July 18, and the FRA Sample Car Inspection is scheduled for July 27.*

*131 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is targeting revenue start in 2023. Progress on agreements has been made with signatures expected in July or August.*

**Next Update – 9-5-23**

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**Status: – Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement as of 6-8-23:**

On 6-8-23, Marci Petterson reported to the NGENC Technical subcommittee that negotiations were under way and the “cone of silence” continues.

**Next Update – as appropriate**

**Status - Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Equipment:**

On 8-8-23, no update was provided – awaiting Metro-North monthly update to NYS DOT.

On 7-25-23, Ray Hessinger reported:

- *Production for Metro-North Charger #301 and #302 is progressing ahead of DCS schedule. Carshell for Metro North Charger #301 completed the finishing process and entered Final Assembly on June 30th.*
- *Sub-assembly started in May and Final Assembly is on track to start in July 2023.*
- *Metro North approved FAI #one carshell as well as FAI #five truck frame welded.*
- *Payment milestone P1 carshell #1 was paid by MNR.*
- *Siemens has notified Metro North via project letters of two potentially Excusable Delays for alternator supplier insolvency as well as supplier Lutze's global supply shortages for semiconductor parts.*

**Next Update – 9-5-23.**

**Status - Amtrak Vehicle Procurement as of the report to the Technical subcommittee on 7-20-23:**

On the Charger Locomotives – Amtrak continues to take delivery of additional units.

On the new Acela – Work continues on qualification items.

On the Airo Trainset – the first car shell is almost complete and Final Design Review (FDR) continues.

**Next Update – 9-5-23**

**Status - Document Control Management:**

On 8-8-23, Tammy Krause was not present due to storm related issues – so this item was tabled until 9-5-23.

On 7-25-23 Tammy reported:

*I am working with the Technical Writer on identifying the Amtrak fleet references in the sub specifications. Mr. Warner reminded me that we also need to remove references to the two specs that we are sunseting, 305-911 "Replacement of Copper Waste Piping" and 305-919 "Digital Trainline Hardware".*

*The APTA PRESS Electrical Working Group has been asked to work with the NGENC on the Digital Trainline spec. I let them know that we were no longer working on that and would not be updating 305-919 in the future. I offered to send them a copy of 305-919. They have been asked about DTL by some Commuter Railroads.*

*There were sixteen changes proposed for the PRIIA sub specifications, four of them were addressed at the last TSC meeting. The remaining twelve are located in the marked-up version of the 305-901 Intercom Systems. This document has been provided to the TSC and will be voted on at the August 3rd meeting.*

**Next Update -9-5-23**

**VIA Rail Equipment Procurement:**

VIA Rail gave a detailed presentation during the 2023 NGENC Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on the NGENC website or at request from Steve Hewitt.

**Next Update: 2-2 -2024 – NGENC Annual Meeting**

**NGENC CRISI Grant Application Status:**

The timeframe for announcing which CRISI Grant applications are approved is expected to be in the August-September 2023 timeframe.

<b>Next Update: As available</b>
<b>Updates: States and Amtrak – Charger Locomotive and Venture Cars Experience:</b> Detailed Updates were provided during the 2023 Annual Meeting. <b>Next Update: As appropriate</b>
<b>2024 NGEC Annual Meeting:</b> The 2024 NGEC Annual Meeting is planned for 2-2-24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.
<b>Filling Vacancies:</b> Due to various staffing changes and/or allocation of resources, there are several vacancies that will need to be filled on the Subcommittees and some of the Review Panels. On 8-8-23, WSDOT changes were reported. Vacancies in the Review Panels and potential changes in representation on several other areas will be discussed on the 9-5-23 meeting.
<b>Next Meeting -9-5-23</b>

**NGEC Executive Board Meeting**

**8-8-23**

**11:30 AM – 12:30 Noon 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  | Ray Hessinger  |
| 2. Roll call   | Steve Hewitt   |
| 3. Action Items Status Review  | Steve Hewitt   |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from 7-25-23 Exec Board Meeting   | Ray Hessinger  |
| 5. Update: Multi State Venture Car Procurement   | Kyle Gradinger |
| 6. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement  | Ray Hessinger  |
| 7. Update: Document Control  | Tammy Krause   |
| 8. Filling Vacancies/updating representation on Exec Board, Tech SC, FASC, Review Panels   | Ray Hessinger  |
| 9. Treasurer's Update  | Tim Ziethen    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Balance/Spend Rate/Forecast</li> <li>- Status – 6 month no-cost current grant agreement extension</li> <li>- Status – 12-month interim funding</li> <li>- Status – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grant Progress Report to FRA</li> </ul> |                |
| 10. Executive Session follow-ups/actions   | Ray Hessinger  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review cadence of Executive Board meetings</li> </ul>   |                |
| 11. Adjourn  | Ray Hessinger  |

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**Next Meeting: 9-5-23**