

MINUTES

NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD OCTOBER 20, 2004

Chairman Jay Sandstrom called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday October 20, 2004, in the Lower Level Conference Room, State Office Building, Bismarck, ND.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and members present were Jay Sandstrom, Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber. Staff members present were Darin Langerud, Director; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; Dawn Moen, Administrative Assistant; Aaron Gilstad, Chief Meteorologist. Other present were Hans Ahlness and Bruce Boe representing Weather Modification, Inc. (WMI) also present was Mike Dwyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bobb Brewer made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2004 telephone conference call as distributed. Seconded by Dave Schmidt. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE

Mr. Darin Langerud introduced Tracy Depue to the board members. Ms. Depue worked in the Bowman radar for the 2004 project as the field meteorologist. Ms. Depue will be working on evaluations with current data such as TITAN, seeding, rain gauge, and the new electronic recordkeeping system that was implemented in the 2004 project.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Ms. LeNor Dollinger distributed the financial status report for September, 2004. Ms. Dollinger reviewed the August and September 2004 financial status report for the board.

2005-07 BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Langerud informed the board that the budget was submitted to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) this summer. The most noticeable change to the budget would be the special funds added for the possibility of a Burleigh and Morton county project in 2006. The agency put in five optional adjustments, which are not currently in the budget. The optional adjustment that ARB requested was to fund the intern pilots program.

REVIEW OF 2004 NORTH DAKOTA CLOUD MODIFICATION PROJECT

COST SUMMARY

Ms. Dawn Moen reviewed the project cost summary report with the board, which was previously mailed.

SEEDING AGENT USAGE/INVENTORY

Mr. Aaron Gilstad reviewed chemical usage and the inventory at the end of the season with the board.

GENERATOR PERFORMANCE

Mr. Gilstad reviewed the generator performance with the board the 2004 NDCMP. Mr. Gilstad mentioned that a majority of the problems with the burners was maintenance by the pilot-in-command (PIC).

INTERN PROGRAM

Mr. Langerud informed the board that with the intern program implemented into the budget as an optional, the plan will be to pay the interns hourly instead of a stipend. When the board was paying the interns a stipend there were some legal issues with the Fair Labor Standards Act and Workers Compensation. The optional adjustment in the budget will make the interns temporary employees of the board. The Governor has been supportive of intern programs within the state of North Dakota. This may mean there is a good chance for our optional adjustment to be included in the Governor's budget.

Through the Governor's office, they have started a program that focuses on North Dakota internships. The staff has registered the board with ND Intern as an agency that currently has an internship program and to offer any information to other organizations. The board can offer information to the Governor's program because this internship program has been in place for a significant amount of time. Ms. Dollinger is the primary contact for the board.

As employees of the board the interns will be paid a hourly wage. The interns will have to keep track of their time and if they work more than 40 hours in a week, they will have to be paid time and a half. This will involve more staff time because nine people will be filling out time sheets, which the staff will have to quality check and calculate hours.

Mr. Sandstrom suggested that the board form a subcommittee to address the intern program in more detail. The subcommittee should involve some board members, staff, and WMI.

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Mr. Langerud mentioned that there were six incidents this summer that he reviewed to see if they met the qualifications for a penalty. Mr. Langerud made a recommendation to take penalty on one of those incidents. The flight occurred in District I by Seed 1.

Mr. John Bollingberg moved to approve the director's recommendation for taking a penalty of \$770.74 for the July 12th flight in District I. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hank Bodmer. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

CONTRACTOR'S FINAL REPORT

Mr. Langerud mentioned to the board that there was a minor error in the contractor's final report, which was that the township Chalky Butte did not participate in the program this year. Mr. Langerud recommended that the board approve the final report as presented.

Mr. Dave Schmidt moved to approve the 2004 Contractor's Final Report by Weather Modification, Inc. as recommended by the director. Mr. Bobb Brewer seconded the motion. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber. There were no nay votes. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINAL CONTRACT PAYMENT

Ms. Dollinger informed the board that the final contract payment minus the penalty is \$64,127.26.

Mr. Dale Frink made the motion to approve the final contract payment of \$64,127.26. Mr. Hank Bodmer seconded the motion. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

PLANNING FOR 2005 NDCMP OPERATIONS

Mr. Langerud informed the board that the staff would be meeting with the county weather modification authority members in January 2005 to discuss the upcoming program. The 2005 NDCMP will require an increase in county funding. The increase in cost will need to be discussed with the county authorities and factor into the budget.

REPORT FROM THE ND WEATHER MODIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. Mike Dwyer informed the board that Morton County will have a straw vote concerning weather modification. The decision was made not to make any efforts in public relations because the public meetings that were held were lightly attended by the public.

PROGRESS ON OPERATIONS & SAFEGUARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Langerud informed the board that staff has been working on the different recommendations that the Operations & Safeguards Committee had proposed to the board. Most of the changes were implemented in this year's project. All the manuals have been updated for the 2004 NDCMP.

Mr. Gilstad mentioned to the board that the procedures with forecasting have been updated also as recommended by the committee.

WMI FOG CLEARING R&D EXEMPTION REQUEST

Mr. Langerud reminded the board that last year Weather Modification, Inc. (WMI) had made a request for fog clearing research and development exemption but it was too late in the year to collect any data. Mr. Langerud informed the board that WMI has submitted another request for fog clearing for 2005. Mr. Langerud recommended that the board approve the fog clearing research and development exemption that WMI has requested through May 2005.

Mr. Bobb Brewer moved to approve the request Weather Modification, Inc. has submitted for fog clearing research and development. Mr. Dave Schmidt seconded the motion. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

ARB RESEARCH & EVALUATION EFFORTS

Mr. Langerud updated the board on the research that the staff has been working on. Some of the research that is being conducted will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society.

BURLEIGH & MORTON COUNTY INTEREST WEATHER MODIFICATION

Mr. Langerud informed the board that Burleigh County set up two public meetings, one in Sterling and the other in Bismarck. The Water Board asked Mr. Langerud to put together a presentation on cloud seeding in North Dakota and the potential cost of a program. In addition to the meetings in Burleigh County,

Morton County also held two public meetings, one in Glen Ullin and the other in Mandan and Mr. Langerud presented the same information.

2004 ARBCON REPORT

Ms. Moen distributed and discussed the rainfall maps for May – September 2004. The data from April 2004 was not included because of the events of snow that occurred during the month.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Sandstrom called for nominations for the Chairman.

Mr. Bollingberg nominated Jay Sandstrom.

Mr. John Bollingberg moved that nominations cease and Jay Sandstrom be declared Chairman. Mr. Dave Schmidt seconded the motion. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Chairman Sandstrom called for nominations for the Vice Chairman.

Mr. Bodmer nominated Dave Schmidt.

Mr. Hank Bodmer moved that nominations cease and Dave Schmidt be declared Vice Chairman. Mr. Bobb Brewer seconded the motion. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Chairman Sandstrom called for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Bodmer nominated Hattie Melvin.

Mr. Hank Bodmer moved that nominations cease and Hattie Melvin be declared Secretary. Mr. John Bollingberg seconded the motion. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Bobb Brewer, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

JAY SANDSTROM, CHAIRMAN

HATTIE MELVIN, SECRETARY

Transcribe by Dawn Moen