

MINUTES

NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD

MARCH 24, 1997

A telephone conference call meeting of the Atmospheric Resource Board was called to order by Acting Chair and Vice Chair James Haaland at 8:32 a.m. CST, Monday, March 24, 1997. Members participating in the call in addition to the Acting Chair were: Mary Cichos, Hattie Melvin, Joseph Porten, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber. Also present were Bruce Boe, Director; Darin Langerud, Chief Meteorologist, and Paul Moen, all of the ARB staff; and Michael Dwyer of the North Dakota Water Users Association.

*Correction
9:32 a.m.
Ed.*

After a call of the roll indicated a quorum to be present, the meeting was called to order.

MINUTES, DECEMBER 18, 1996, TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL

The Chair noted that the minutes from the December 18, 1996, telephone conference call had been distributed for review. Joseph Porten moved that the minutes be approved as distributed; the motion was seconded by David Sprynczynatyk. Members Cichos, Melvin, Porten, Sandstrom, Sprynczynatyk, and Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

REVISION OF BID-SCORING PROCEDURE

A new bid-scoring system developed by a subcommittee comprised of members Geiger, Sandstrom, and Sprynczynatyk and the Director had been previously distributed. Mr. Sprynczynatyk noted that although time constraints had not allowed him to participate in the revision, he was pleased with the results, and encouraged its adoption. Mr. Porten also voiced approval. A motion to adopt the revised bid-scoring procedure was made by Mr. Sprynczynatyk, and seconded by Ms. Cichos. Members Cichos, Melvin, Porten, Sandstrom, Sprynczynatyk, and Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

NEW CLOUD SEEDING SOLUTION FORMULATION

Bruce Boe summarized the results of testing done with a new cloud seeding formulation. The new solution, he indicated, contains slightly less silver iodide, about 80% less sodium perchlorate, no ammonium perchlorate, about the same amount of ammonium iodide, and a small amount of a new ingredient: paradichlorobenzene. The end result is a solution which produces slightly fewer nuclei active at temperatures of -12 and -16 degrees Celsius, but more nuclei active at warmer temperatures (-6°C). In addition, because it contains about 75% less dissolved salts, the solution ignites and burns more readily, and leaves much less residue in the tail cone. In reply to a question, Boe indicated that the net cost of the solution should be slightly less, though bids have not yet been solicited.

Mr. Sandstrom inquired as to whether or not the new solution had been tested in a Carley-type generator, in addition to the tests of the Lohse generator. Boe replied that it had not, largely due to time constraints. Mr. Langerud indicated that the older solution had been used in Carley generators

by one District I aircraft during the previous season, with problems similar to those encountered with the Lohse generator.

Mr. Sandstrom moved that the new seeding solution be adopted for use in the 1997 program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porten. Members Cichos, Melvin, Porten, Sandstrom, Sprynczynatyk, and Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF DUES

Annual dues for membership in the North Dakota Water Coalition (\$1,000) and the North Dakota Weather Modification Association (\$1,800) were considered. In addition, the board's annual payment to the North Dakota Water Education Foundation in the amount of \$3,000, made in part for publication of the monthly *Atmospheric Reservoir* page in the *North Dakota Water* magazine, was discussed. Mr. Dwyer explained the board's role in each organization, and what each does with respect to atmospheric resource issues.

Mr. Sandstrom asked Mr. Dwyer if he would look into the legality of a county weather modification authority belonging to a promotional organization such as the North Dakota Weather Modification Association. Mr. Dwyer responded that he would do so, though analogous relationships between water resource districts and the state water users association have been found to be proper.

Mr. Sprynczynatyk cautioned the board that there has been a recent inquiry by a citizen regarding the sponsorship by the State Water Commission of the *North Dakota Water* magazine. Though the Commission is not concerned that anything about such a relationship is improper, he said the board might expect some publicity about its involvement should a similar inquiry be made of the board.

A motion to pay all three annual fees was made by Ms. Cichos, and seconded by Mr. Sandstrom. Members Cichos, Melvin, Porten, Sandstrom, Sprynczynatyk, and Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

CLOUD SEEDING GENERATOR PENALTY CLAUSE

Bruce Boe noted that the requests for bid (RFB's) for the 1997 cloud modification project had been changed to reflect the requirement that both cloud seeding generators be operable in order for a seeding aircraft to be considered fully operational. This change was met without comment by the bidder, Weather Modification, Inc., of Fargo. He added that the counties were unreceptive to the concept of a bonus clause which would reward good generator performance.

Mr. Sandstrom expressed concern that in some cases, contractor pilots might land their aircraft if one generator malfunctions, since penalties would be assessed in those conditions and continued flight would incur additional expense (when added to the penalty). Mr. Boe responded that he thought this unlikely, as the contract also allows for some discretion in such matters. Mr. Langerud suggested that a "cleaner" way to handle potential penalties would be for the board to examine the failure rate at the end of the program, and invoke any penalties at that time, rather than on a case-by-case basis.

After some additional discussion, the board requested the staff to draft and distribute to the board a concise penalty policy prior to the next meeting. No action was taken on the item.

NEXT MEETING

After inquiries from the Chair, it was decided that the board would next meet in Bismarck on April 9, 1997, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

FUNDING FOR OPERATIONS

David Sprynczynatyk reported that he had learned just moments previously that the subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee working on the Atmospheric Resource Board and State Water Commission budget had agreed to move forward with his request to include an additional \$125,000 in cost-sharing funds for the next biennium. This would be done through a funding source change; the funds would come through the Resources Trust Fund grants line item.

WILLISTON AND WILLIAMS COUNTY INTEREST

Darin Langerud reported that he and Paul Moen had attended a trade show in Williston the previous week, and that there was much interest in the program. He added that considerable concern remains about not being able to seed clouds in Montana, and he wished to convey those concerns to the Board. Mr. Sprynczynatyk inquired if the counties had any flexibility to cost-share a Montana environmental impact statement. Mr. Sandstrom suggested that this would be possible to some degree for his county (Mountrail), but that he didn't know about the others. It was also suggested that water resource districts within counties considering the program might also assist with the funding.

Mr. Boe indicated that the costs of such and EIS were most recently estimated to be about \$138,000.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sprynczynatyk. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m. by voice vote.


HATTIE MELVIN, SECRETARY


WILLIAM GEIGER, CHAIRMAN

Transcribed from notes taken by Bruce Boe.