

## MINUTES

**NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD**

**JUNE 25, 1998**

A telephone conference call meeting of the Atmospheric Resource Board was called to order by acting Chair James Haaland at 1:00 p.m. CST, Thursday, June 25, 1998. Members participating in the call in addition to the acting Chair were: Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber. Also present were Bruce Boe, Director; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; and Darin Langerud, Chief Meteorologist.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES, APRIL 14, 1998 MEETING**

A motion was made by Jay Sandstrom to approve the minutes of the April 14, 1998, meeting as written. Seconded by Mary Cichos. Motion carried.

### **CONSIDERATION OF REVISION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Mr. Boe informed the board that to this date there has been no additional comments, either verbally or in writing, about the proposed changes in the board's rules and regulations as set forth in North Dakota Administrative Code Section 89-07-02-06 and Section 89-07-02-07. Since there has been no negative feedback from anyone regarding these rules, the Board should act to adopt the revised rules, he said.

A motion was made by David Sprynczynatyk to the adopt the revised rules. Seconded by Hattie Melvin. Members Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

### **CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS TO FLY ON CLOUD SEEDING MISSIONS**

A request to participate on a cloud seeding mission has been received from Daniel Noah, who is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Office in Bismarck. Mr. Noah works closely with the ARB and radar staff in coordinating severe weather warnings, and believes participation in a cloud seeding mission would help him answer questions when he does severe weather spotter training. Mr. Boe recommended that the Board approve Mr. Noah's request.

A motion was made by Mary Cichos to approve Mr. Daniel Noah's request to fly in a 1998 cloud seeding mission. Seconded by Jay Sandstrom. Members Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Gary asked if there are any Risk Management issues with Daniel Noah flying on the project. Mr. Boe stated that there is not, but noted that there has to be paperwork completed prior to the flight. On the waiver, acknowledgment of the risk of going up in the airplane is stated. The pilot completes the waiver and sends it back to Bismarck with the paperwork for the flight.

Another request was received from Andy Kullick, who has been a project flight crew member for the previous two years. The first year he was an intern pilot then a second year, a Pilot In Command. He has already visited the field in Kenmare, and has left. However, he might find time at a later date to go back to Kenmare, and Mr. Boe recommended that the Board approve Andy Kullick's request.

A motion was made by Gary Ness to approve Mr. Andy Kullick's request to fly with Seed 8. Seconded by Hattie Melvin. Members Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

A final request was received from Representative David Drovdal from District 29, who lives in Watford City. Mr. Drovdal is on the Insurance and Health Care Committee and as a legislator, is a part of the funding body of this organization. Mr. Boe recommended to the Board that Mr. Drovdal's letter of request be approved.

A motion by David Sprynczynatyk was made that Mr. David Drovdal's letter be approved. Seconded by Judith DeWitz. Members Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

## **UPDATE ON WEATHER MODIFICATION VOTE IN SLOPE COUNTY**

On June 9 there was an election in Slope County on the issue of whether or not to continue the Weather Modification Authority. It was placed on the ballot by a petition signed by 140 electors. However, previous rulings by the Attorney General hold that if a Weather Modification Authority is created by a petition as was the Slope County Authority, then the authority can only be abolished by petition. ARB staff and Paul Germolus will travel to Amidon on July 7 to meet with the county commissioners and explain any further questions they may have about the vote.

The vote was very close, LeNor Dollinger noted. An effort was made by the state Weather Modification Association to educate the voters shortly before the election, she said.

## **PROJECT UPDATE**

### **Stanley Radar**

Mr. Boe informed the Board that the Stanley Radar was up and running the first day of the project. The TITAN radar data acquisition system has been installed. The data are being imported in real time to the Internet. There was gravel delivered to help with the mud problem. The auxiliary power unit has not yet been connected. The other thing that needs to be worked on is the floor it; is bare concrete. Either installing linoleum or tile might be a solution to control the dust.

Mr. Jay Sandstrom asked if the cost of the building is under the budget. Mr. Boe replied that the cost of the Stanley Radar is running under budget by about \$2,000.

Mr. Langerud mentioned to the Board that the radio communication in Stanley is not as good as we would like to see it. The staff is looking at the possibility of getting a taller antenna pole installed. The problem with the radio occurs primarily when the aircraft are at low altitude.

TITAN radar data acquisition systems have has been installed at Bowman and Stanley. The display at Stanley goes into Montana 10 or 15 miles.

### **Internet Access of Radar Data**

There have been some problems with the Internet in Bowman. The provider is CTC, and they are not equipped to handle LINUX operating systems. When TITAN transmits data, CTC software improperly interprets this as two users and kick them off the Internet. When this happens, Bowman is without Internet. The contractor is working on this problem.

Mr. Langerud received some comments on the Internet data. The meteorologist on KXMC in Minot asked about the availability of the data from Stanley radar, and if it would be possible for him to use it in a broadcast if needed. Mr. Langerud told him if the situation does arise and that he needs information from Stanley then he may use it but Darin asked that he give the Atmospheric Resource Board credit on the air.

### **Activity to Date**

Mr. Boe informed the Board that the aircraft have been very active to this date. As of Friday, June 19, 1998, District I has flown 27 hours for cloud base aircraft and 20.6 hours for cloud top aircraft; for District II cloud base aircraft has flown 71 hours and cloud top aircraft 20.7 hours. Mr. Langerud reported the seeding equipment is working very well this year. The current rate of generator failure is well below 10%, maybe even 5%, he said. There has been some problems with the ejectable flares in District I and staff is working on the problem.

### **BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE**

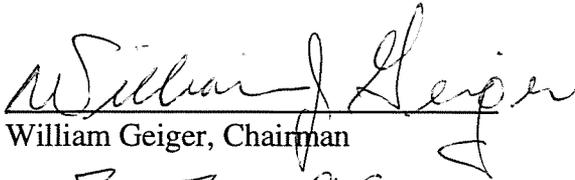
Mr. Boe informed the Board that the governor requested that all agencies submit base budget request that includes 95% of the present general fund budget. The Board must reduce the general fund budget by \$32,427. The only means Mr. Boe has identified to meet this cut would be to discontinue the Cooperative Research cost-share of \$50,000 in general funds. There were no questions.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Boe updated the Board on HCR 3043, the interim study on hail suppression. The Insurance and Health Care committee will meet again July 1. The first item on the agenda is hail suppression, and Mr. Boe has been asked to speak to the committee to explain a couple of things they have questions on. Mr. Boe will also talk about the cost of an additional study for the evaluation of the cloud modification project. Mr. Patrick Sweeney of Weather Modification, Inc. will come to Bismarck and speak to the committee about the importance of the program.

Mr. Langerud informed the Board that the committee has three proposed bills to vote on. Each of the bills are identical and would provide funding for one year set up period and five years of operations in the field. The differences in the bills is the coverage areas of each project. One bill for a is statewide project, another for approximately two-thirds of the state (leaving out the Red River Valley), and the third one is the western two-fifths of the state from the Missouri River basically north from the south border then up through Ward county.

There was no further business and the conference call ended at 1:30 p.m. CST.

  
William Geiger, Chairman

Date 3-3-99

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Hattie Melvin, Secretary

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed by Dawn Feist

