

MINUTES

NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD NOVEMBER 18, 1998

A telephone conference call meeting of the Atmospheric Resource Board was called to order by Chairman William Geiger at 9:00 a.m. CST, Wednesday November 18, 1998. Members participating were William Geiger, Mary Cichos, James Haaland, Hattie Melvin, Joe Porten, Jay Sandstrom, Dale Frink representing David Sprynczynatyk, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber. Staff members present were Bruce Boe, Director; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; and Darin Langerud, Chief Meteorologist. Also participating was Hans Ahlness, Weather Modification, Inc.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jim Haaland nominated William Geiger for Chairman. Joe Porten seconded. No other nominations were presented. William Geiger was elected Chairman by unanimous vote.

Mary Cichos nominated James Haaland as Vice Chairman. Jay Sandstrom seconded. No other nominations were presented. James Haaland was elected Vice Chairman by unanimous vote.

Jay Sandstrom nominated Hattie Melvin as Secretary. Mary Cichos seconded. No other nominations were presented. Hattie Melvin was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JUNE 25, 1998

A motion was made by Jim Haaland to approve the minutes of the June 25, 1998 telephone conference call. Seconded by Mary Cichos. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE 1998 NORTH DAKOTA CLOUD MODIFICATION PROJECT.

Contractor's Final Project Report

Mr. Boe informed that Board that the contractor's final reports have been received, and mentioned some errors. Mr. Frink asked if the contractor should reprint the final report. Mr. Sandstrom suggested that the contractor provide a list of all the corrections for insertion in the final report.

A motion was made by Jay Sandstrom to accept the report and errata sheet provided by the contractor. The motion was seconded by Hattie Melvin. Members Mary Cichos, James Haaland, Hattie Melvin, Joe Porten, Jay Sandstrom, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Aircraft Performance Report

Mr. Boe informed the Board that 18 flights were missed last year, but this year only 6 were missed. The contract does include a clause for penalties in the amount of \$514 per cloud-base aircraft for

each day in which a cloud seeding aircraft was not operational. For the six days that aircraft were down (which were all cloud base aircraft) this totals \$3,084. Mr. Boe mentioned that Monte Hininger's comments urging penalty assessment in Dickinson really got his attention. Mr. Haaland feels the same way Mr. Boe does. Mr. Geiger now feels there is a reason to continue with the penalties. Mr. Geiger feels this amount will be passed on to the project another way.

Mr. Hans Ahlness said the way that District II runs the operations is that they launch all five planes on basically every storm. Mr. Ahlness is worried that WMI will be fined for the way the meteorologists run the operations.

Mr. Langerud mentioned that he looked through radar data on the days that the aircraft missed and found that they were indeed needed. He reminded Mr. Ahlness that the meteorologist in charge of operations was Paul Moen, who has four years experience and now has been hired by WMI to run their Argentina program. Mr. Langerud doesn't believe that the meteorologist launching aircraft in error or on the side of caution is a valid argument.

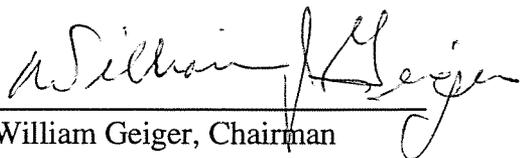
Mr. Sandstrom said we have a policy and need to stand by what is in the contract. Everyone knew at the beginning that the penalty clause was in the contract. If we need to change the policy then do it at the beginning not in the middle, Mr. Sandstrom stated.

A motion was made by Jay Sandstrom to authorize final payment less aircraft penalty assessments. Seconded by Mary Cichos. Members Mary Cichos, James Haaland, Hattie Melvin, Joe Porten, Jay Sandstrom, Dale Frink, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

UPDATE STUDY OF NDCMP ECONOMIC IMPACT

Mr. Boe mentioned again the plans for an updated economic impact study. The six participating counties each will contribute \$1,000, and the State Weather Modification Association an additional \$1,500. The study will look at the crop yields acreage statewide from 1988 thru 1997. The crops will include wheat, barley, flax, corn, oats, sunflowers, soybeans, and dry edible beans. This will be done on a county-by-county basis. The rough draft should be available to the Board by December and the final draft in January.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. CST.



William Geiger, Chairman

Hattie Melvin, Secretary

Date 3-3-99

Date _____

Transcribed by Dawn Feist

