

## MINUTES

NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD    OCTOBER 28, 2003

The meeting of the Atmospheric Resource Board was called to order by Chairman Jay Sandstrom at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday October 28, 2003, in the lower level conference room of the State Office Building, Bismarck, North Dakota.

### **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and members present were Jay Sandstrom, Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber. Staff members present were Darin Langerud, Director; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; Aaron Gilstad, Chief Meteorologist; Dawn Feist, Administrative Assistant. Others present were Ken Royse, Chair of the Burleigh County Water Resource Board; Hans Ahlness, Vice President of Operations for WMI; Bruce Boe, Meteorologist for WMI; Monte Hininger, Williams County Authority, and Mike Dwyer, ND Weather Modification Association.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Darin Langerud introduced the new board members that have been recently appointed by the governor. Mr. John Bollingberg is from Bremer and is representing District III. The new member representing District II is Mr. Hank Bodmer from Kenmare. Mr. Bodmer also serves on the Ward County Weather Modification Authority.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dave Schmidt made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2003 meeting as distributed. Seconded by Gary Ness. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

### **FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT**

Ms. LeNor Dollinger reviewed the financial status report for September 30, 2003. A noticeable increase in general funds is from the University of North Dakota (UND). UND requested information that they were charged for because of the staff time and number of copies. Mr. Gary Ness asked if the board was affected by the information technology bill that called for funds of some sort from each agency. The agency, along with the board, was granted an exemption.

### **REVIEW OF 2003 NORTH DAKOTA CLOUD MODIFICATION PROJECT**

## **COST SUMMARY**

Ms. Dollinger reviewed the project cost report with the board. Ms. Dollinger pointed out some noticeable cost items to the board. The first item was the cost for meteorologists were down because of two reasons. There were no returning meteorologists and not much overtime for the intern meteorologists. The budget at the planning meetings had taken into consideration that two meteorologists were going to return. The storage cost for District II is over \$300 because the board received a bill from Richland Aviation for storage of chemicals. This is the first year the board has ever had a charge for the chemical being stored in the hangar at the Sidney Airport. The electronic recordkeeping was not a budgeted item at the planning meetings but staff felt it was something that needed to be carried out.

## **SEEDING AGENT USAGE/INVENTORY**

Mr. Aaron Gilstad distributed the final chemical inventory. The chemical purchases for the 2003 season were up because of the heavy chemical use in 2002. The dud flares from the 2003 NDCMP will be re-worked before the start up of the 2004 project. There is a considerable amount of chemical to start the 2004 project that will help keep the cost of chemicals down for next year.

## **GENERATOR PERFORMANCE**

Mr. Aaron Gilstad distributed the final generator performance for the 2003 NDCMP. The total failure rate for the project was 3.62%.

## **INTERN PROGRAM**

Mr. Langerud mentioned to the board that we currently have two intern programs for the NDCMP. Every year the board hires two intern meteorologists, one is placed in Bowman and one in Stanley. The second program is the intern pilots program, all the intern pilots are from the University of North Dakota. The governor requested last year that agencies cut 5% of general funds. The decision was made to cut the funding for the intern pilot program. There were a couple of reasons for cutting the intern program. The board could not get away from the employee – employer relationship which meant that we should be paying the interns hourly wages and possibly overtime. In addition was a Workers Comp issue of having to pay a premium for the interns. The board now has in place a memorandum of understanding with the University of North Dakota for the intern pilots. The 2003 NDCMP has a full compliment of interns acting on a volunteer basis.

## **AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS**

Mr. Langerud reviewed his recommendations for the penalties with the board. Mr. Langerud recommended that the board take penalties for two instances for a total of \$1,228.00. One event occurred in District I and the other in District II.

Mr. Ness made a motion to approve the recommendations of the director. Seconded by Dale Frink. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

## **CONTRACTOR'S FINAL REPORT**

Mr. Langerud mentioned to the board that staff review the final report and found a few minor errors. An errata sheet was distributed to board members to indicate where and what the errors were.

Dave Schmidt moved to except the contractor's final report along with the errata sheet that was distributed. Seconded by Gary Ness. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF FINAL CONTRACT PAYMENT**

Ms. Dollinger informed the board that the final contract payment is \$52,800 without penalties. Mr. Langerud had recommended that the board take penalties in the amount of \$1,228.00.

Gary Ness moved to asses the penalties of \$1,228.00 and make the final contract payment of \$51,572. Seconded by Dave Schmidt. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

## **UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE MONTANA BUFFER ZONE**

Mr. Langerud informed the new board members the history of efforts the staff has engaged in to acquire a buffer zone in Montana. He mentioned the laws that the Montana legislature passed a few years back regarding the buffer zone. The law has a number of provisions they are requiring the board to have. The one provision that is putting the process at a stand still is the \$10 million liability insurance. Mr. Langerud contacted Mr. Jim Sweeney, Vice President of WMI, about purchasing the \$10 million liability insurance requirements and possibly the project paying for some of that cost. Mr. Sweeney has not received an answer back from his insurance company. The board has met the license requirements for the last two years. Mr. Gilstad and Mr. Langerud have been licensed in

Montana for the last two years. The board needs the permit to acquire the buffer zone.

### **AIRCRAFT AND BASING**

Mr. Ness inquired about the living and fuel cost in Sidney, MT. He proposed that we move the project aircraft out of Sidney and possibly position it in Beach, ND.

Gary Ness made a motion to move the Sidney aircraft into North Dakota for the 2004 project. Seconded by Hank Bodmer. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Mr. Langerud pointed out that where the aircraft are positioned is discussed in the planning meetings with county weather modification authorities in early January.

### **PROGRESS ON OPERATIONS & SAFEGUARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **ELECTRONIC RECORDKEEPING**

Mr. Langerud updated the board on the electronic recordkeeping with PalmPilot and the GPS. He noted that the electronic recordkeeping method was tested during the project in two aircraft, one cloud base and cloud top. There will be some changes made to the electronic recordkeeping system for the 2004 NDCMP. The pilots that tested the system provided feedback to the staff that is being taken into consideration for changes. The plan is to have every aircraft on the 2004 NDCMP equipped with a PalmPilot and GPS.

The meteorologists also used electronic recordkeeping in the 2003 NDCMP. The program was written so the meteorologist would type everything into the State Water Commission's database. The data is now easily searchable in the database instead of searching through written operation logs.

#### **SAFEGUARD PROCEDURES**

Mr. Langerud reviewed with the board the recommendation made by the safeguard committee pertaining to suspending seeding. Before the recommendation, the procedure was if the National Weather Service would issue a tornado warning the pilot seeding the storm would confirm it before seeding operations would stop. The recommendation by the committee was when the Weather Service issued a tornado warning seeding operations would stop and then a pilot would confirm. The criteria for suspending seeding were changed to stop seeding before confirmation.

## **FORECASTING**

Mr. Gilstad informed the board that the forecaster for the 2003 project did some searching on the Internet for programs to use for our forecasting needs. The forecaster recommended the use of FXNET on the Internet. FXNET is similar to the AWIPS program that the Weather Service uses.

The committee also suggested that the forecast information is saved electronically. Currently the forecaster fills out the paperwork and faxes it to both radars and then we have a conference call. The staff is working on a web based forecast. The committee suggested that the board have a separate manual for the forecaster. The forecast manual is in the process of being reviewed and finalized.

## **RESEARCH**

The staff asked the committee to provide some suggestions for research that will maximize the benefit of the program. One of the suggestions was analysis of existing data. Currently the board has agreements in place with University of North Dakota and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to analyze the current data collected.

### **REPORT OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ON THE STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH OPERATIONS**

Mr. Langerud informed the board that the National Academic of Science (NAS) researched weather modification for about two years. The NAS published a report that was released October 13, 2003. The board was involved with activities pertaining to report that NAS released. Mr. Langerud was invited to NAS meetings to make presentations pertaining to the North Dakota project. The NAS report stated that there are issues regarding cloud seeding that are unresolved. The report calls for a coordinated, sustained national program to answer questions about basic atmospheric processes and progress in weather modification.

### **ARB RESEARCH – WEATHER DAMAGE MODIFICATION PROGRAM**

#### **STATUS OF 2002 WDMP ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Langerud informed the board on the research activity. The board received a copy of the quarterly report submitted to the Bureau. The quarterly report included research activity that is being conducted both by South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and University of North Dakota.

#### **2003 WDMP PROPOSAL, AWARD**

Mr. Langerud informed the board that staff submitted a proposal for 2003 and there was a cap of \$100,000 on all proposals. The money was granted to board for numerical cloud modeling. Mr. Langerud received the signed contract back from South Dakota School of Mines for the 2003 money.

### **BURLEIGH AND MORTON COUNTY INTEREST IN HAIL SUPPRESSION**

Mr. Langerud informed the board that there have been three meetings pertaining to the interest for a hail suppression program in Burleigh and Morton County. Ken Royse, Burleigh County Water Resource Chairman, has been setting up the meetings. Mr. Royse mentioned to Mr. Langerud that he would like to get a person from each adjacent county on a working committee.

Mr. Royse and Mr. Dwyer have been working on setting up a meeting with members from each adjacent county. As Mr. Dwyer mentioned it will be later November or early December.

Mr. Langerud will provide the members of the committee a preliminary cost estimate for the program assuming the adjacent counties are interested. Mr. Langerud mentioned that if the Burleigh and Morton County decides this is what they want to do, then they are allowed by law a temporary program for up to four years. The County Commissions can approve the program without any other public involvement other than a hearing. If the counties do a four year program the staff is looking at the possibly of asking the insurance industry to support an ongoing evaluation of that program.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Dollinger informed the board on the activities that she and Ms. Dawn Feist are involved with human resources. Ms. Dollinger mentioned that the most time consuming item is keeping current with case law. Recently the SWC Personnel Manual was updated with changes and updates of laws. An ongoing project is updating the employees Position Information Questionnaires (PIQ) and position descriptions.

Workers Comp and Risk Management is always an ongoing project. Since Ms. Dollinger is the Risk Manager for the SWC she must serve on the Loss Control Committee. The committee is responsible for annual training on workers comp issues, safety, sexual harassment, hostile work environment, and substance abuse.

This spring there was a problem recruiting meteorologists. Mr. Gilstad just had enough meteorologists and intern meteorologists to staff the radars. The 2003 project had no returning meteorologist so the staff was out in the field working with them on operations.

Mr. Frink asked Ms. Dollinger what percentage of her and Ms. Feist's time is spent on human resources. Ms. Dollinger informed Mr. Frink that a good 60% to 65% of her time is spent on human resources. Ms. Dollinger also mentioned that about a quarter of Ms. Feist's time is spent on human resources. Ms. Feist has been trained to help with all aspects of human resources. Ms. Feist is now in the process of studying to take the Professional Human Resource (PHR) exam in December.

### **CONTINUUM OF GOVERNMENT**

Ms. Dollinger mentioned that she has been working on the Continuum of Government (COG) plan for the board and SWC. The Governor has directed each agency to develop a business continuity/disaster recovery plan to recover from a disaster that would impact its ability to function.

The GOG plan will be implemented into LDRPS (Living Disaster Recovery Planning System) software. Risk Management and Division of Emergency Management are heading up this effort. There had been an executive committee established which is comprised of the Governor's chief of staff, Adjutant General, the director of Risk Management, the chief information officer of ITD, and the director of Division of Emergency Management. The group has worked together and put together a steering committee. The steering committee includes a number of representatives from a number of agencies including Ms. Dollinger. The committee met once a week for seven weeks during the summer to give recommendations on the programs weaknesses. Then at the end of July the committee attended a week of training on LDRPS. There have been some problems with security issues with the software so it is taking longer than predicted to upload the software. Ms. Dollinger will also attend training for Business Impact Analysis (BIA) for the LDRPS software.

### **2003 ARBCON REPORT**

#### **GROWING SEASON RAINFALL TOTALS**

Ms. Feist distributed the 2003 growing season rainfall map to the board members. The map was comprised of data collect by the volunteers from May to September. April was not included because of snow events that occurred.

#### **HAIL DATA ANALYSIS**

Mr. Gilstad distributed to the board members statistical data graphics that Mr. Andy Clausen worked on last winter. The graphics represented hail damage data both in and out of the target area of the NDCMP.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Jay Sandstrom called for nominations.

Mr. John Bollingberg nominated Mr. Jay Sandstrom for Chairman.

Gary Ness moved nominations ceased and a unanimous ballot cast for Jay Sandstrom as Chairman. Seconded by Dave Schmidt. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Mr. Gary Ness nominated Dave Schmidt for Vice Chairman.

Gary Ness moved to cast a unanimous vote to elect Dave Schmidt as the Vice Chairman. Seconded by John Bollingberg. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. Dave Schmidt voted nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Ness re-nominated Hattie Melvin as Secretary.

John Bollingberg moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Hattie Melvin as Secretary. Seconded by Dave Schmidt. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Dave Schmidt, Dale Frink, Gary Ness, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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HATTIE MELVIN, SECRETARY

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JAY SANDSTROM, CHAIRMAN

Transcribed by Dawn Feist