

MINUTES

NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD OCTOBER 26, 2006

The meeting of the North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board was called to order by Chairman Jay Sandstrom at 1:30 p.m., October 26, 2006 in the Lower Level Conference Room, State Office Building, Bismarck, ND.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and members present were Jay Sandstrom, Henry Bodmer, Judith DeWitz, Dale Frink, and Roger Pfeiffer, representing Gary Ness, ND Aeronautics Commission. Member Bobb Brewer participated via telephone conference.

Others present were Darin Langerud, Director; Mark Schneider, Chief Meteorologist; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; Dan Brothers, Environmental Scientist; Hans Ahless and Bruce Boe, Weather Modification, Inc.

MINUTES

Judy DeWitz made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2005 meeting as distributed. Second by Henry Bodmer. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

LeNor Dollinger distributed and reviewed the financial status report for the period ended 9-30-2006. There were no questions.

BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2007-2009

Darin Langerud briefly reviewed the budget request that has been submitted for the 2007-2009 biennium. The guidelines for submitting the budget was for a 100% request based on the 2005-2007 biennium budget. The budget submitted contained all the base funding for the board's operations for cost sharing with counties for the cloud modification project; and for the intern programs. The Water Commission budget request also included \$400,000 for salary equity issues among its classified employees, and an additional \$101,000 for travel costs largely due to fuel costs.

2006 ND Cloud Modification Project

ARB staff reviewed the cost report, chemical usage, generator performance, and intern programs for the 2006 ND Cloud Modification Project.

Darin Langerud reviewed aircraft operations and noted he was not recommending any contract penalties.

CONTRACTOR'S FINAL REPORT

Hans Ahlness, Vice President of Operations, Weather Modification, Inc., reviewed and noted specific areas of the contractor's final report with the Board.

Henry Bodmer made a motion to accept the contractor's final report and authorize final contract payment. Second by Roger Pfeifer. There were 5 votes aye, 0 nay. Motion carried.

FOG CLEARING R&D EXEMPTION REQUEST

Mr. Langerud reviewed a request for a weather modification permit exemption for fog-clearing trials by Weather Modification, Inc., a current licensee. It was noted specific information was provided regarding the target area for the trials (Hector Airport in Fargo and rural Burleigh County). The objective of the trials is to clear the atmosphere of fog, which limits visibility, hampering (or even halting) airport operations, and decreasing roadway safety. In accordance with North Dakota Administrative Code 89-07-02-04 specific information is on file at the NDARB office regarding the trials. Mr. Langerud recommended granting the exemption. It was noted activities will not extend past April 30, 2007.

Judith Dewitz made a motion to grant Weather Modification, Inc., a current licensee, a permit exemption for fog clearing trials as stated in the proposal. Second by Henry Bodmer. There were 5 votes aye, 0 nay. Motion carried.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Mr. Langerud reported the Polarimetric Cloud Analysis and Seeding Test (POLCAST) was carried out this summer in and around the area of the Grand Forks research radar at UND. The operations ran from July 10 through August 5th. The operations area was defined as being within 100 kilometer radius of the UND radar on the North Dakota side of the Red River. There were a total of eight operations flights flown on seven operational days. Seven of those 8 flights did involve seeding of clouds at base with hygroscopic flares. This is a new type of seeding that has not been done operationally in North Dakota. The flares were manufactured and donated by Ice Crystal Engineering, Davenport, ND. Final results of this work is expected in the spring of 2007.

WEATHER DAMAGE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

All of the activities associated with these grants has been completed and final financial and technical reports have been submitted. Our goal, when final analysis of this work is completed, is to publish a paper either in the Journal of Weather Modification or the Journal of Applied Meteorology. Plans are to complete this in the next 6 months.

WEATHER MODIFICATION LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 517 as introduced by Sen. Hutchison did not have any further action after the hearing. It is hoped the bill will be introduced again in the next session of the Congress.

ARBCON UPDATE

Dan Brothers distributed copies of precipitation maps and reported on the efforts of the Atmospheric Resource Board Cooperative Observer's Network.

Mr. Brothers noted this is the 30th year of the ARB Cooperative Observer's Network. It was also noted that 70 people have reported for all of the 30 years. Service certificates will be sent to those who have been reporting for 10 or more.

Mr. Brothers reported that as the ARBCON is being set up for 2007, efforts will be made to get as many observers as possible to report via online reporting.

POTENTIAL CHANGES TO RADARS

Darin Langerud reported that the Bowman Airport will be moved in the next year or so. It may be necessary to move the Bowman Radar at that time also. Mr. Langerud will keep in touch with the Bowman Airport Authority regarding this issue.

Mr. Langerud also reported on meetings and discussion with local National Weather Service (NWS) personnel regarding collaboration with the NWS on the upgrade of the NDCMP radars.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Secretary – Henry Bodmer nominated Judith Dewitz as Secretary. Roger Pfeifer moved nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Judith Dewitz as Secretary. Second by Jay Sandstrom. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman – Jay Sandstrom nominated Bob Brewer as Vice Chairman. Henry Bodmer moved nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Bob Brewer as Vice Chairman. Second by Jay Sandstrom. Motion carried.

Chairman – Jay Sandstrom nominated Henry Bodmer as Chairman. Roger Pfeifer moved nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Henry Bodmer as Chairman. Second by Judith Dewitz. Motion carried.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.

JAY SANDSTROM, CHAIRMAN
Transcribed by LeNor Dollinger