

MINUTES

NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD

MARCH 3, 1999

A telephone conference call meeting of the North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board was called to order by Chairman William Geiger at 3:00 p.m. CST, Wednesday March 3, 1999. Members participating in the call were William Geiger, Mary Cichos, James Haaland, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber. Staff members present were Bruce Boe, Director; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; Darin Langerud, Chief Meteorologist. Other present were Assistant Attorney General Paul Germolus, board legal counsel, and Jennifer Clark of the Legislative Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mary Cichos and seconded by Jim Haaland. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jay Sandstrom to approve the minutes of December 29, 1998 telephone conference call. Seconded by Jim Haaland. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF 1999 WEATHER MODIFICATION LICENSE RENEWALS

WEATHER MODIFICATION, INC.

Mr. Boe informed the Board that Weather Modification, Inc., had submitted an application for weather modification license renewal. The four individuals listed by WMI for consideration as licensees are: Mr. Patrick Sweeney, Mr. James Sweeney, Mr. Hans Ahlness, and Mr. Fred Remer. Of the four individuals, three of them, all except Mr. James Sweeney, were licensed by the board last year. Mr. Sweeney was not licensed because criteria require the individuals being licensed to have at least one year of operational field experience. Mr. Boe indicated that James Sweeney still does not have a year of field experience.

Jim Haaland made the motion to approve the license for Patrick Sweeney, Hans Ahlness, and Fred Remer from Weather Modification, Inc. Members Mary Cichos, James Haaland, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Seconded by Mary Cichos. Motion carried.

ATMOSPHERICS, INC.

Mr. Boe stated that an application for license renewal has been received from Atmospherics, Inc. with Mr. Thomas Henderson being the named licensee. Mr. Henderson has been licensed in the state of North Dakota for many years. The fee has been paid and the document is in order.

Jay Sandstrom made the motion to approve Atmospherics, Inc. with licensee Thomas Henderson. Seconded by Hattie Melvin. Members Mary Cichos, James Haaland, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD LAW, AS SET FORTH IN ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1040

The changes of proposed amendments to House Bill 1040 (see attached bill).

Mr. Germolus and Ms. Clark reviewed for the board the significance of each proposed change to engrossed House Bill 1040.

Mr. Boe summarized the proposed changes, stating that their adoption would, in his opinion, clarify the board's law regarding weather modification operations sponsored by entities other than counties.

Mary Cichos made the motion to support the proposed amendments to House Bill 1040. David Sprynczynatyk seconded the motion. Members Mary Cichos, James Haaland, Hattie Melvin, Jay Sandstrom, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON NOAA WEATHER DAMAGE MITIGATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

Mr. Boe reported on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with the congressional delegation and also with various subcommittee staff for appropriations. He stated that the meeting had gone well, and that he is encouraged that a weather damage mitigation research program may be created within the NOAA fiscal year 2000 budget. Such a program would require states to submit to NOAA scientific proposals for peer review, he said.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:40p.m. CST.

William Geiger, Chairman

Hattie Melvin, Secretary

Date _____

Transcribed by Dawn Feist

