

MINUTES

NORTH ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD

MARCH 6, 2000

A telephone conference call meeting of the North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board was called to order by Chairman James Haaland at 8:30 a.m. CST, Monday March 6, 2000. Members present were Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber. Staff members present were Bruce Boe, Director; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; Darin Langerud, Chief Meteorologist; and Paul Moen, Research/Field Meteorologist.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by David Sprynczynatyk to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Hattie Melvin. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF 2000 WEATHER MODIFICATION LICENSE RENEWALS

Weather Modification, Inc.

Mr. Boe informed the board that Weather Modification, Inc. (WMI) of Fargo has sent the application for renewal of license. The names submitted are Mr. Hans Ahlness, Mr. Patrick Sweeney, Mr. James Sweeney, and Mr. Timothy Sedlock. Mr. Timothy Sedlock is a new name added to the license. Mr. Sedlock worked on the project for one year, and since that time has worked for Atmospherics, Inc. and is currently employed at WMI. Mr. Sedlock is also certified by the national Weather Modification Association as an operator. Mr. Boe recommended that the license application from Weather Modification, Inc. in the name of Patrick Sweeney, Hans Ahlness, and Timothy Sedlock be approved. Mr. Boe recommended that Mr. James Sweeney not be licensed because he does not meet the board's requirements for field experiences.

David Sprynczynatyk made the motion to approve the license for Hans Ahlness, Patrick Sweeney, and Timothy Sedlock from Weather Modification, Inc. The motion was seconded by Judith DeWitz. Members Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Atmospherics, Inc.

Mr. Boe informed the board that Mr. Thomas Henderson has been licensed by the board in the past and his name is the only one on the license application. Mr. Boe recommended that the license application from Atmospherics, Inc., in the name of Thomas Henderson, be approved.

Hattie Melvin made the motion to approve the license for Atmospherics, Inc. The motion was seconded by Mary Cichos. Members Mary Cichos, Judith DeWitz, Hattie Melvin, David Sprynczynatyk, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Mr. Boe reviewed the financial status report that the board members had received. Mr. Boe pointed out that 73% of the budget in information technology has been spent. There were no questions.

SLOPE SEVERE WEATHER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Boe informed the board that Mr. Robb Narum from Slope County has taken it upon himself to organize a block of eleven townships in southeast Slope County that would conduct operations along with Bowman county. Mr. Narum is in the process of raising funds from each township. The budget work done in the office shows that he will need about \$1,250.00 from each township.

CONSIDERATION OF 2000 WEATHER MODIFICATION PERMITS

Mr. Boe reported that permit applications for District I (Bowman County, and some portions of Slope County, still to be defined) and District II (McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, and Williams Counties) had been received from Weather Modification, Inc., of Fargo. The applications were complete and in order, and the fee for each also received. Mr. Boe recommended that the board approve the permit applications, contingent upon public response. The legal “notices of intent to modify precipitation” must be published in the official newspaper of each county in and adjacent to each target area for two consecutive weeks, and an additional 20 days be allowed for public comment after the last date of publication, he added. Only after the period for comment had elapsed would permits be issued.

The board should be aware that there may be responses received from the citizens in Slope County regarding the expanded target area, and the board will have to deal with such concerns. Mr. Boe mentioned to the board that he sought the advise of legal counsel and was advised that if there is a significant number of responses received from the public, the board may want to have a hearing. Mr. Paul Germolus felt that it would be a good idea for the board to address by hearing any concerns of those that might be opposed to the program.

Mr. David Sprynczynatyk commented that the office that conducts hearings is called the State’s Office of Administrative Hearings. Mr. Sprynczynatyk has found that they do an excellent job of conducting the hearings, gathering all the information, and presenting a recommendation. The board itself need not be present, he said.

UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL WEATHER DAMAGE MITIGATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

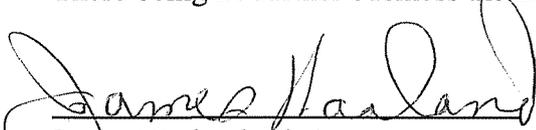
Mr. Boe reminded the board that in the past, the board was engaged in cooperative research with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In combination with North American Interstate Weather Modification Council (NAIWMC), an effort was made to renew that funding. This year, again with the help of the NAIWMC, we will try again. In addition, the staff is working with NOAA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Boe informed the board that the staff held a staff retreat for two days in January. The staff reviewed and discussed what each of the staff does, including all daily tasks, and requirements of law based on the board's programs. Mr. Boe is in the process of categorizing them, which will help frame a strategic plan for the board. This draft plan will be distributed as soon as it is completed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.



James Haaland, Chairman

Mary Cichos, Secretary

Date _____

Transcribed by Dawn Feist