

MINUTES
NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD MARCH 29, 2005

Chairman Jay Sandstrom called the telephone conference call to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday March 29, 2005.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and members present were Jay Sandstrom, Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Hattie Melvin, Judith DeWitz, Dale Frink, Roger Pfeiffer (representing ND Aeronautics Commission), and Steven Weber. Staff members present were Darin Langerud, Director; LeNor Dollinger, Business Manager; Dawn Moen, Administrative Assistant; Aaron Gilstad, Chief Meteorologist; and Tracy Depue, Temporary Meteorologist. Hans Ahlness, WMI was also present for the conference call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hank Bodmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2004 meeting as distributed. Seconded by Ms. Judith DeWitz. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Hattie Melvin, Judith DeWitz, Dale Frink, Roger Pfeiffer, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Ms. LeNor Dollinger reviewed the financial status report for February 2005.

WEATHER MODIFICATION LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Mr. Darin Langerud informed the board that Weather Modification, Inc. (WMI) and Atmospherics, Inc. submitted applications and paid the fee for license renewal for 2005. Mr. Langerud recommended approval of both license renewals.

Mr. Dale Frink made the motion to approve the 2005 license renewal for Weather Modification, Inc. and Atmospherics, Inc. Seconded by Ms. Hattie Melvin. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Hattie Melvin, Judith DeWitz, Dale Frink, Roger Pfeiffer, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

WEATHER MODIFICATION, INC. 2005 NDCMP PERMIT APPLICATION

Mr. Langerud informed the board that there are two permit applications submitted by WMI. The applications are differentiated by district. WMI is under contract to provide services to the board for the project. Mr. Langerud informed the board the fees have been paid for the permit applications. Mr. Langerud's

recommendation is that the board approves the permits contingent upon public response.

Mr. John Bollingberg made the motion to approve permits for Weather Modification, Inc. for District I & II contingent upon public response. Seconded by Mr. Hank Bodmer. Members Hank Bodmer, John Bollingberg, Hattie Melvin, Judith DeWitz, Dale Frink, Roger Pfeiffer, and Steven Weber voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried.

Mr. Langerud informed the board that in the past, they have required the contractor to pay a \$10,000 performance bond. Mr. Langerud asked if the board would wish to continue the amount of \$10,000 for the performance bond.

Mr. Sandstrom asked if there is a recommendation from Mr. Langerud. Mr. Langerud recommended that the board continue business as they have in the past.

The board agreed that they would continue to require a \$10,000 performance bond from Weather Modification, Inc.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Langerud informed the board that during committee hearings there has not been many questions pertaining to the board, within the Water Commission's bill. The concern has been with the bonding the Water Commission performs. There also has been discussion on how the agency will be funded. The legislators are considering taking the tobacco fund money and transferring it to the general fund.

Mr. Sandstrom informed the board that Mr. Dave Schmidt, Mr. Gary Ness, Mr. Langerud, and himself met and discussed the intern pilot program. Mr. Langerud mentioned that the legislators have not asked him any questions about the intern pilot program. Ms. Dollinger also mentioned that the interns would now be temporary employees of the boards' and they will be covered under Workforce Safety and Insurance.

WEATHER DAMAGE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

Mr. Langerud informed the board that the expenditures in the grants have been exhausted and there have been no-cost extensions on both contracts granted by the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Langerud mentioned to the board that the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council (NAIWMC) and the Weather Modification Association are working to regain federal funding for research.

2005 NDCMP PREPARATIONS

Mr. Aaron Gilstad informed the board that chemical bids have been received. The bids were opened on March 18 and Mr. Gilstad has awarded the bidders the contacts. The chemicals have been purchased for the 2005 NDCMP. The bids were a little higher than what had been budgeted.

Mr. Gilstad mentioned to the board that there has been a significant number of applications received for field meteorologist and intern meteorologists.

MONTANA BUFFER ZONE UPDATE

Mr. Langerud informed the board that the Montana legislature is considering a bill (HB 399) this session pertaining to weather modification. The bill restricts weather modification activity beginning November 1st and ending March 15th allowing only wintertime operations. The bill has passed the house and had its hearing in the Senate.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

JAY SANDSTROM, CHAIRMAN

HATTIE MELVIN, SECRETARY

Transcribe by Dawn Moen