

NORTH AMERICAN INTERSTATE
WEATHER MODIFICATION COUNCIL
Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada
March 18, 1998

The meeting of state representatives interested in reinstating the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council was held March 18, 1998 in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Desert Research Institute. Persons attending were:

North Dakota - Bruce Boe
 LeNor Dollinger
South Dakota - Harry Orville
Nevada - Arlen Huggins
 - Dick Smith
 - Joe Warburton
Texas - Dale Bates
 George Bomar
Oklahoma - Mike Mathis
Utah - Norm Stauffer
New Mexico - Conrad Keyes
Kansas - Kyle Spencer
Alberta, CA - Jim Renick
Saskatchewan - Stan Shewchuk

Following introductions, Mr. Bruce Boe offered to serve as temporary chairman. Mr. Boe called for reports from each in attendance regarding weather modification activities in their state or province.

Mr. Jim Renick, moved the meeting be accepted as the council's annual meeting seconded by Mr. Harry Orville. Motion carried.

Oklahoma - Mike Mathis - Has a statewide rain enhancement program utilizing 3 aircraft. Feels program is presently undermanned and under-equipped and looking forward to program improvements. The first years evaluation has just been completed although it is too soon for a statistical evaluation. Mr. Mathis feels Oklahoma is headed in the right direction. The program is funded 100% by the state on a year-by-year basis at the present time but looking forward to a funding partnership, possibly a cooperative effort with the insurance industry. The Oklahoma project is patterned after the North Dakota and Texas programs. Has some concerns about inexperience of some contract project personnel.

Texas - George Bomar and Dale Bates - \$5 million appropriation to conduct a rain enhancement program over 19 million acres. Considerable concern was expressed regarding inexperience of contractor personnel and pyrotechnics used on rain enhancement projects.

South Dakota - Harry Orville - No ongoing programs within the state. However, interest remains high at the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences, SD School of Mines & Technology. Dr. Orville briefly referenced the work of the World Meteorological Organization in weather modification. He also spoke of the need to have involvement of the National Science Foundation, UCAR and NCAR.

North Dakota - LeNor Dollinger - 1998 North Dakota Cloud Modification Project will begin June 1. ND project will cover 7.2 million acres for hail suppression and rainfall enhancement and is sponsored by the ND Atmospheric Resource Board (NDARB) and six participating counties. North Dakota has three full-time staff members plus NDARB employs temporary meteorology staff to operate the radars used on the projects in North Dakota.

Kansas - Kyle Spenser - Kansas does not contract for their projects. The work is carried out by employees of the sponsoring agency. Funding is solicited county by county, but the last two years have had some funding from the state on a year-by-year basis. Counties joining and then dropping out of the project is a concern. Education of the public about the project is vital and feels there needs to be much done in adjoining states to alleviate problems of misconception about weather modification programs.

New Mexico - Conrad Keyes, Jr. - Reported 3 counties are joining with the Texas project for rain enhancement purposes. Mr. Keyes recalled it was 1988 or 1989 that he discontinued as the Council's Executive Secretary due to work conflicts. He stated he still has the NAIWMC library of weather modification information.

Alberta - Jim Renick - Current hail suppression program paid for by insurance industry to alleviate property damage. Project will begin June 1, 1998. The project sponsor is beginning to realize they will need to evaluate their program.

Saskatchewan - Stan Shewchuk - Interest in Saskatchewan is being influenced by Alberta project. Insurance industry gathering information to look at the information to see how they are affected. Encourages the Council to work toward keeping quality in all programs. Saskatchewan is interested in both hail suppression and rainfall enhancement. Also feel the issue of permits between bordering states is crucial. Mr. Shewchuk expressed education to the user is paramount and every effort should be made to educate the public about the benefits of cloud modification programs.

Utah - Norm Stauffer - Dr. Stauffer noted the Utah project employs ground-based generators only at this time. Dr. Stauffer noted the State of Utah will fund up to 50% for projects and remainder must come from local entities. Mr. Stauffer stated Utah feels research into cloud modification needs to be reinstated to continue the work done by the State-Federal Cooperative Research Program in Atmospheric Modification. In Utah the state licenses and permits contractors, the local entities contract for the services. Dr. Stauffer also agreed that the states need to closely monitor activities of contractors to

ensure quality programs. Utah feels cloud modification is a non-structural means to develop water.

Nevada - Arlen Huggins - Operations in Nevada have evolved from research for snow pack increase. Nevada has noticed a degradation of service from contractors. Have learned about problems of other states with contractors through conversations with other state regulating agencies.

Joe Warburton - DRI Nevada, Emeritus - Dr. Warburton working on project for Australia to design a research project for a national park. The design document is now complete, which involved a large environmental impact statement. The project, if conducted, will be a six-year experiment. Dr. Warburton envisions the Council as being very responsive to this project.

Dr. Warburton noted the Council has approximately \$5,500 in the treasury. He also stated he has purchased a computer and file cabinets for Council business, but that the Council had not yet paid for it.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Harry Orville nominated Bruce Boe for Chairman. Seconded by Jim Renick.

Mr. Boe asked that his name be removed from consideration because he is unable to accept the position at this time.

Mr. Renick removed his second to the motion.

Arlen Huggins nominated George Bomar for Chairman. Seconded by Norm Stauffer. Harry Orville moved nominations cease and the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. George Bomar. Seconded by Jim Renick. Motion carried.

Harry Orville nominated Bruce Boe for Vice Chairman. Seconded by Jim Renick. Norm Stauffer moved nominations cease and the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Bruce Boe. Seconded by Arlen Huggins. Motion carried.

Jim Renick moved to retain Dr. Joseph Warburton as Secretary-Treasurer. Seconded by Norm Stauffer. Motion carried.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Boe moved the Board of Directors of the NAIWMC consist of representatives of the following states and provinces and this meeting be considered the annual meeting for 1998. Seconded by Harry Orville. Motion carried.

North Dakota	Bruce Boe
South Dakota	Paul Smith

Nevada	Arlen Huggins
Utah	Norm Stauffer
Kansas	Keith Lebbin
Texas	George Bomar
Oklahoma	Mike Mathis
California	Maurice Roos
Alberta	Jim Renick
Saskatchewan	(will advise)

Mr. Conrad Keyes stated he would again be available to serve as the Council's Executive Director when membership in the Council will allow. He feels a determination at this time is premature.

Discussion was held on payment to Dr. Warburton for the computer and filing cabinets. Dr. Warburton stated he will be using this equipment to put all the Council materials on it.

Harry Orville moved to reimburse Dr. Warburton \$2,347.58 for the computer and filing cabinets purchased for the Council if he will place all the Council materials on it. Second by Jim Renick. Motion carried.

Harry Orville moved George Bomar replace Bob Riggio on the Council bank account. Seconded by Bruce Boe. Motion carried.

Bruce Boe expressed his concerns regarding the different levels of membership. Discussion was held on the dues for calendar year 1998.

Bruce Boe moved administrative dues be set at \$1,000/year. Seconded by Harry Orville. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the amount for affiliate/associate member dues. An affiliate/associate member would not have voting rights in the Council with this membership.

Bruce Boe moved affiliate/associate membership dues be set at \$250/year. Seconded by Mike Mathis. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the suggested amendments to the Weather Modification Association statement on standards and ethics. The Weather Modification Association is strongly encouraged to consider suggested amendments to the WMA Statement on Standards and Ethics.

Bruce Boe stated he feels the Council should work vigorously toward getting funds written into the US Weather Research Program for the interested states to continue research on weather damage mitigation.

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Each state was asked to send to George Bomar, as soon as possible, the amount of funds needed to continue their work in the area of weather damage mitigation.

Bruce Boe moved funds be authorized from the Council treasury to assist in this funding effort. Second by Mike Mathis. Motion carried.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

GEORGE BOMAR, CHAIRMAN

DR. JOSEPH WARBURTON
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Transcribed from notes taken by LeNor Dollinger