

MINUTES
NORTH AMERICAN INTERSTATE
WEATHER MODIFICATION COUNCIL
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
September 18, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Mathis, at 8:30 a.m., at the Wingate Inn, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Members present were: Tina Rajala, Kansas; Arlen Huggins, Nevada; Darin Langerud, North Dakota; LeNor Dollinger, North Dakota Weather Modification Association; George Bomar, Texas; Dave Cole, Utah; Dr. Joseph Warburton, Walker River Irrigation District (NV).

Others present were Joe Busto, Colorado; and Nathan Kuhnert, Oklahoma.

MINUTES

Darin Langerud moved the minutes of the April 23, 2003, meeting be approved as distributed. Second by George Bomar. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

None to report at this time. George Bomar reported the Texas Department of Agriculture will no longer be a member as they are no longer involved with the weather modification programs in Texas.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Dr. Joseph Warburton presented a financial status report for the period ended 9-15-03 showing a balance of \$28,675.68 in the Council's checking account.

Discussion was held regarding the dues for 2004. It was noted there may need to be a slight increase in dues in order to maintain Rick Spees services. It was noted that only three members paid the special assessment in 2003. The Chairman urged more members to try to pay the special assessment in 2004.

George Bomar moved the full and associate member dues be set at \$1500 for 2004 and a special assessment of \$2500 for 2004. Second by Darin Langerud.

Following further discussion, Dr. Warburton amended the motion to change the special assessment from \$2500 to \$3000. Second by George Bomar. Motion carried with all member voting aye (8-0).

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

Chairman Mathis asked for a volunteer to assist Arlen Huggins in further review of the Constitution and By-Laws for possible update or change prior to the next annual meeting. Darin Langerud volunteered.

WEB SITE

Darin Langerud noted the Council web site could use more information. He asked members to forward information to him that they may wish to include on the web site.

STATE REPORTS

Colorado – Joe Busto distributed copies of a 9-16-2003 report outlining activities in the weather modification permitting and flood protection program; a report on the wintertime weather modification operations for 2002-2003; and the executive summary of a proposal in response to the Weather Damage Modification Program for the State of Colorado.

Nevada - Arlen Huggins reported a busy season in 2002-2003 with a lot of seeding in April and May. The program has been increasing the number of generators each year and plans to have a full season of aircraft seeding for the next project.

Utah – Dave Cole reported the Utah 2002-2003 project had five active project areas. A total of 129 ground generators were used on the project. The project normally ends on or before March 31. However, two projects seeded into April until their funds ran out.

Kansas – Tina Rajala reported one project was carried out in Kansas during the summer of 2003. The state of Kansas has no funding for this project for 2004 or 2005. If the project is to continue, it will be funded wholly at the local level.

North Dakota – Darin Langerud distributed copies of a report on the 2003 ND Cloud Modification Project conducted from June 1 through August 31. Equipment used were two radars and 8 aircraft covering a 6.6 million acre target area. The NDCMP has developed a digital format recordkeeping system for aircraft using a Palm Pilot personal digital assistant wirelessly interfaced with a GPS. The system was field tested in two aircraft during the 2003 project. In addition, a new meteorological recordkeeping system was developed and deployed for the 2003 project.

Texas – George Bomar reported there were 9 operational projects in Texas this year. Most projects end September, but two projects will continue over winter.

Mr. Bomar also stated he was informed the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission will be handling weather modification licensing and permitting for that state along with other weather modification matters.

Oklahoma – Mike Mathis reported Oklahoma has no funding available for programs and for now will focus on the Weather Damage Modification Program efforts with Texas.

Walker River Irrigation District – Dr. Warburton reported their FY02 work was a joint effort with the Desert Research Institute on data analysis.

WEATHER DAMAGE MODIFICATION PROGRAM (WDMP)

George Bomar reported Texas and Oklahoma are planning a spring-summer 2004 research program (\$522,000) to 1) collect cloud water and cloud-condensation nuclei (CCN) data to support a subsequent study on convective storm evolution using mobile Doppler weather radar system; statistical analysis of 2001-02 cloud seeding events (both rain and hail) using a combination of rain gage and radar observations for areas having a dense “meso-net” of surface-observing station; and, development of a storm climatology for the southern US plains using detailed meso-net surface weather data in conjunction with NEXRAD radar data.

Dave Cole reported Utah will be experimenting with propane seeding only. They will use 3 dispensers high on the Wasatch Plateau near Fairview, Utah. They plan to operate a line of ETI digitized gages along the expected seeding plume trajectory from the seeding area to the target and about 1.4 miles beyond on the east side of Fairview Lakes. They will also operate a couple of crosswind control gages. Seeding will be automated and randomized, providing for both exploratory statistical evaluation and physical case study analyses of the more interesting experiment, and 24/7 experimentation. The experimental period will last for 3 months beginning about December 1, 2003.

Darin Langerud reported work on NDARB’s research items continued through the summer. Delays have impacted progress on two of the tasks. Lack of a few years of level II NEXRAD data is responsible in one case, and a delay in the refurbishment of a CCN counter in the other case. A no-cost extension will be necessary with the latter case. Data will be collected in June of 2004.

Discussion was held on the progress of the FY2004 request. It was noted the funds have not been included in the bill at this time.

FUTURE WDMP STRATEGIES

Discussion was held on the effort that members need to make in order to get more states to join the NAIWMC.

Discussion was also held on the efforts that will be needed in the future with members of the House of Representatives as it pertains to the Weather Damage Modification Program.

Members requested that list of committee and subcommittee members of Congress that will be dealing with the WDMP funding be sent to members so they can plan their efforts and where their focus needs to be.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the possibility of having only one signatory on the checks for the Council.

George Bomar moved that unless the bank disapproves, that the Council treasurer be the lone signatory on the checking account. Seconded by Darin Langerud. Motion carried with all members present voting aye (8-0).

The tentative date for the next meeting is April 28, 2004, in Fresno, CA.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MIKE MATHIS, CHAIRMAN

DR. JOSEPH WARBURTON
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Transcribed by LeNor Dollinger