

MINUTES
NORTH AMERICAN INTERSTATE
WEATHER MODIFICATION COUNCIL
Rockville, Maryland
April 27, 2005

The meeting of the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council was called to order by Chairman Mike Mathis, on April 27, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. at the Quality Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Rockville, Maryland. Members present were Mike Mathis, State of Oklahoma; Dave Cole, State of Utah; Dr. Joseph Warburton, Walker River Irrigation District; Tommy Shearer, Texas Weather Modification Association; Arlen Huggins, State of Nevada; Darin Langerud, State of North Dakota; LeNor Dollinger, North Dakota Weather Modification Association; Barry Lawrence, State of Wyoming; and Joe Busto, State of Colorado.

Other present were: Conrad Keyes, Archie Ruiz, Fred Clark, Steve Hunter, George Bomar, Jon Wade, Ed Walker, Josh McClintock, and Todd Flanagan.

Following call to order, introductions of those in attendance was made.

MINUTES

It was noted the minutes of 9-24-2004 require a correction on page 4, paragraph 5, line 3: Change "Eaton" Valley Irrigation District to "Eden" Valley Irrigation District.

Dr. Joseph Warburton moved the September 24, 2004 minutes be approved as corrected. Second by Tommy Shearer. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dr. Warburton reported the latest new member is the State of Wyoming, represented by Barry Lawrence of the Wyoming Water Development Commission. There were no other new members at this time.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Dr. Warburton reviewed the 4-27-05 financial status report showing a balance of \$37,113.25 in the Council's checking account. There were no questions.

Tommy Shearer moved to accept the April 27, 2005 financial status report. Second by Darin Langerud. Motion carried.

CAPITOL DECISIONS – JOSH MCCLINTOCK

Mr. McClintock distributed copies of the April 25, 2005 update and reviewed the current status of NAIWMC 2005 Congressional objectives – Legislative outlook and strategy for the remainder of 2005.

Mr. Steve Hunter commented he feels the Council should pursue the Bureau of Reclamation continued involvement in the Weather Damage Modification Program.

Mr. McClintock noted that Senator Hutchison of Texas has re-introduced the Weather Modification Research and Technology Transfer Authorization Act (S.517). This legislation creates the Weather Modification Operations and Research Board within the Department of Commerce for the purpose of developing and implementing a comprehensive and coordinated national weather modification policy, as well as a cooperative weather modification research and development program. The legislation authorizes \$10 million for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2014 to implement this program. Capitol Decisions have had discussions with some congressional staff in the House about introducing a companion bill to S.517. Rep. Lucas of Oklahoma has agreed to introduce a House version of the bill.

STATE REPORTS

Utah – Dave Cole reported the 2004-2005 winter season had five active project areas. The five large-scale projects are all being seeded using silver iodide ground generators. A total of 138 ground generators were used in the 2004-2005 programs. The runoff this year looks much better than last. All of the major reservoirs except five are expected to fill.

A study by the Division of Water Resources estimated the average annual increase in runoff due to cloud seeding to be about 250,000 acre-feet (13) percent for projects seeded during the 1999-2000 season. The estimated cost of the water developed was about one dollar per acre-foot.

Texas - George Bomar reported eight rain enhancement projects will be in operation during the 2005 cloud seeding season in Texas. The target areas of the projects cover 37.4 million acres and are sponsored by local or regional water conservation districts and alliances of counties (weather modification associations). Two of the eight projects (San Angelo and Carrizo Springs) are dual purpose with an added emphasis on hail suppression.

The 78th Texas Legislature did not appropriate any new state funds to support rain enhancement operations in the state during 2004-2005. Operating costs in 2005 will be assumed exclusively by the water districts and weather modification associations that sponsor the cloud seeding projects. No changes in current weather modification law in Texas are being contemplated.

Oklahoma – Mike Mathis reported the Oklahoma Water Resources Board continues to administer WDMP research activities in partnership with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. The Phase II Experiment is set to commence in early May. The field observational program is small and limited in duration but important towards understanding the cloud microphysics and the assessment of salt seeding agents towards increasing precipitation in Oklahoma. The program results will potentially lead to larger more comprehensive observational research programs toward understanding and quantifying the potential impacts of cloud seeding in Oklahoma.

North Dakota – Darin Langerud stated the 2005 North Dakota Cloud Modification Project (NDCMP) will be held June 1 through August 31 over five counties and part of a sixth in western North Dakota. The target area comprises nearly 10,500 square miles

(6.7 million acres), with an additional 10-mile buffer zone in adjacent North Dakota counties. The project will have eight seeding aircraft with two radar field offices controlling operations.

North Dakota will continue the Pilot Internship Program (PIP) and Meteorology Internship Program (MIP) during the 2005 NDCMP. Two meteorology internships and nine pilot internships will be available during the project to qualified students.

Collection of research data was impacted during 2004 due to equipment problems with the CCN counter. This effort will continue during 2005 with analysis expected to be completed by September 30, 2005.

Numerical modeling efforts continue on track for a June 30, 2005 completion. The primary purpose of the research is to model the potential capability of hygroscopic seeding in North Dakota for rainfall enhancement and hail suppression.

Wyoming – Barry Lawrence distributed copies of *Wyoming Level II Weather Modification Feasibility Study – Executive Summary (revised 3 March 2005)*. Mr. Lawrence reported on the efforts that lead to the successful authorization of the winter snowpack augmentation project beginning in November, 2005.

The Wyoming project will utilize a combination of ground and airborne resources and will operate from November 15 through April 30. The project target area will be the Wind River Range and the Medicine Bow/Sierra Madre Ranges. It is estimated snowpack would be increased by a minimum of 10% yielding at the most conservative rate 130,000 to 260,000 acre-feet of additional runoff per season. The cost per acre-foot is estimated to be a maximum of \$13 per acre-foot, to a minimum of \$6.50 per acre-foot.

Area V of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts has requested the Commission expand the current state sponsored project to the Salt River and Wyoming Ranges in west central Wyoming.

Colorado – Joe Busto distributed and reviewed the Colorado Water Conservation Board *Wintertime Weather Modification Report, Fall 2004 – Spring 2005*. The report gives highlights of weather modification operations in the state. Mr. Busto noted there are fourteen total permits for winter seeding and hail suppression.

Mr. Busto also distributed copies of a draft resolution which will be considered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board at the May 23 meeting in Salida, Colorado. The resolution supports the Weather Modification Research & Technology Transfer Act of 2005 (S.517) introduced by Senator Hutchinson.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mr. Steve Hunter, Bureau of Reclamation stated good results were reported by the states involved in the Weather Damage Modification Program. The reports were presented during the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Mr. Hunter thanked the states for their cooperation with the Bureau in showing that the

working model of cost-share works. Mr. Hunter stated most of the grant work will finish in this calendar year, although the summer states will be later.

INADVERTENT WEATHER MODIFICATION

Discussion was held on reports given at the AMS regarding recent research of inadvertent weather modification. General consensus was to place this item on the agenda for the September meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee consisting of Darin Langerud and George Bomar placed the following names into nomination as officers of the Council:

Chairman – Arlen Huggins
Vice Chairman – Joe Busto
Secretary-Treasurer – Dr. Joseph Warburton

There were no further nominations upon call by the Chairman.

Darin Langerud moved the nominations as presented by the committee be approved and the nominees be declared duly elected. Second by Barry Lawrence. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in early to mid September in Reno.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. (EDT).

MIKE MATHIS, CHAIRMAN

DR. JOSEPH WARBURTON
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Transcribed by LeNor Dollinger