

NORTH AMERICAN INTERSTATE  
WEATHER MODIFICATION COUNCIL  
San Antonio, Texas  
April 18, 2006

The meeting of the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council was called to order by Chairman Arlen Huggins, on April 18, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Roll call confirmed the following members present: Arlen Huggins, State of Nevada; Joe Busto, State of Colorado; Ed Walker, Texas Weather Modification Association; Darin Langerud, State of North Dakota; LeNor Dollinger, North Dakota Weather Modification Association; Barry Lawrence, State of Wyoming; George Bomar, State of Texas; Dave Cole, State of Utah; and Tom Ryan, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Others present were Steve Hunter, Sigmund Silber, and Todd Adams.

MINUTES

Barry Lawrence moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2005 meeting as distributed. Second by George Bomar. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Arlen Huggins presented and reviewed the financial status report as of 4/18/06. The report showed a balance of \$30,226.03.

George Bomar moved to accept the 4/18/06 financial status report. Second by Darin Langerud. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the records of the Council. Arlen Huggins will compare what records reside in Nevada with the records North Dakota has kept for the Council to determine completeness of information.

Discussion was held related to records of the Council. Arlen Huggins and LeNor Dollinger will compare records they have on file and determine proper records retention schedule.

Darin Langerud volunteered to place brochures and informational material (since approx. 1998) on the web site.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

LeNor Dollinger presented a list of membership statements and invitations for prospective new members sent November, 2005 for 2006 Council membership.

Discussion was held on unpaid memberships. It was felt emphasis should be placed on urging universities to join the Council. Alternative dues structures were discussed.

Barry Lawrence made a motion to change the dues to \$2000 per year for full and associate voting memberships and a special assessment of \$2500 per membership; with affiliate memberships at \$1000 per year (non-voting) with a special assessment of \$2500 per year. Second by Joe Busto. The vote was 6 members voting yea, and 1 member abstained. Motion carried.

## STATE REPORTS

**New Mexico** – Sigmund Silber commented on efforts to start a cloud seeding program in New Mexico. At this time a three-year demonstration project with 8 target areas is being considered. Included in the project are funds for evaluation. At this time educational efforts are being planned to increase support in the state for the program.

Discussion was held regarding the Council assisting states by providing information regarding laws, policies, procedures, etc. There is no formal policy regarding this issue.

Darin Langerud volunteered to place facts sheets and other informational material on the Council's web page.

**Texas** – Ed Walker and George Bomar reported the program is unchanged this year. There are currently 8 projects in operation across West and South Texas covering parts of the High Plains, the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau, and the Winter Garden and coastal prairies of South Texas. Of the 8 projects two are dual purpose with an added emphasis on hail suppression. Also, as in previous years, multiple projects are sharing radar facilities and meteorological services. The Doppler data feed from the National Weather Service has become the primary diagnostic tool used by meteorologists at all but one project site.

No new state funding for weather modification materialized during the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature and no changes were made to the current weather modification law.

**Colorado** - Joe Busto distributed copies of a report outlining weather modification activities in the state. Mr. Busto also reported on a meeting to be held June 19-21 hosted by the Colorado Education Foundation and funded by the California DWR and California Six Agency Committee.

**Wyoming** – Barry Lawrence distributed a report regarding recent activities of the Wyoming weather modification 5-year pilot program in the Medicine Bow/Sierra

Madre and Wind River Ranges. The report reviews weather modification project permitting and compliance, seeding suspension criteria, aircraft operations, ground-based generator and radiometer deployment, upper air soundings, and collaborative efforts.

The report also outlined the preliminary results of the Weather Modification Feasibility Study on the Salt River and Wyoming Ranges. The completion date for the study is June, 2006.

**North Dakota** – Darin Langerud reported seeding operations for the North Dakota Cloud Modification Project will begin June 1, 2006 and continue through at least August 31, 2006. Project extension may continue operations through September, if needed. The project areas will incorporate five counties and a part of a sixth amounting to 10,354 square miles.

Weather Damage Mitigation Program activities wound down at the end of 2005 with the final report submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation in December. Additional evaluation of the CCN data has continued and plans are to submit a manuscript to the Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology by year's end.

**METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SO. CALIF** – Tom Ryan distributed a report regarding the 2005-2006 Trial Extension of San Juan Mountains Weather Modification Program. The California Six Agency Committee, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Central Arizona Water Conservation District will contribute \$15,000 each to this trial extension. \$35,000 will be spent for seeding, while \$10,000 will be spent for an evaluation component. Seeding will be extended in five basins: The Dolores, LaPlata, Animas, Florida, and Pine. The five basins are the closest to Lake Powell of the ongoing seeding programs, and have fewer diversions before runoff reaches Lake Powell.

Mr. Ryan commented that the white paper, *Weather Modification for Precipitation Augmentation and its Potential Usefulness to the Colorado River Basin States*, is available on the Council web site.

**Utah** – Dave Cole distributed and reviewed a summary report regarding the 2005-2006 winter cloud seeding season in Utah. The report showed a total of 142 ground generators used during the 2005-2006 season.

Mr. Cole also distributed a report entitled, *Utah Cloud Seeding Program Increased Runoff/Cost Analyses- May 2005*. The report states the cost for the 2003-2004 cloud seeding project was \$377,862. With the estimated increased runoff being 222,965 acre-feet, the cost per acre-foot equals \$1.69. It was noted this cost will fluctuate year-to-year as a longer record of data is collected.

**Nevada** – Arlen Huggins distributed copies of the April 2006 update regarding the Nevada State Cloud Seeding Program. It was noted very warm storms in

late fall and early winter lessened ground seeding opportunities. Flood on the Truckee River also reduced seeding in Tahoe-Truckee region in early January.

Seeding hours were lost because of an early season suspension of seeding due to abnormally high snowpack in the Walker and Carson Basins. Also, a late season snowfall pushed snowpacks in all basins above suspension limits and ended the Nevada seeding program in all area on about April 1.

Nevada declared an end to their drought in April 2006. Lake Tahoe is nearly at capacity and will spill over its 6-foot dam sometime this summer. All downstream reservoirs will fill and water master is releasing as fast as law allows to make room for snow melt.

### Congressional Activities

Arlen Huggins reported Josh McClintock is no longer affiliated with Capitol Decisions. He is moving to Oklahoma and would like to continue work for the Council. The Council's contract with Capitol Decisions will end June 15.

Following discussion on a new legislative consultant, Joe Busto made the motion that the Chair should negotiate a new contract with Josh McClintock. Second by George Bomar. Motion carried.

Mr. Huggins also reported on activities and meetings when Council representatives met with congressional and committee staffers. He thought the most productive meetings were those with Chandler Morse, the legislative assistant for Arizona Congressman Flake, who currently heads the Western Caucus, and Chad English, a House Science Committee staffer who was briefed concerning the WDMP model for federal/state cooperative research programs.

Steve Hunter, US Bureau of Reclamation stated that all WDMP final reports have been received except Texas and part of Nevada's.

Council members also made comments regarding the March 2006 meeting of the Western States Water Council (WSWC) that was attended by Arlen Huggins and Darin Langerud. Huggins and Langerud attended a workshop session on increasing water supplies on the Colorado River. Comments regarding snowfall augmentation to increase water supply will be incorporated into the WSWC report to the Western Governor's Association.

Following further discussion, Darin Langerud made the motion that Chairman Huggins continue to discuss with the Western States Water Council the involvement they would like with the Council on weather modification activities. Second by George Bomar. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

A report from the Bylaws Committee was given by George Bomar, committee chair. Several minor changes were suggested in a draft distributed by Mr. Bomar prior to the meeting. The main suggested change was the addition of language to specify that at least 30 days advance notice be given concerning Council meeting times, places, and agenda. Additional wording changes were suggested by Darin Langerud, but these changes will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

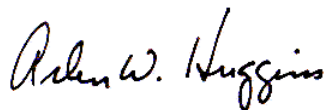
Following discussion of the proposed changes, Darin Langerud made the motion that the changes recommended by the Bylaws Committee be accepted. Second by Barry Lawrence. Motion carried and the revised bylaws became effective April 18, 2006.

The Nominating Committee report was given by Darin Langerud, the committee chair. The committee recommended Arlen Huggins and Joe Busto be elected to second terms as Chair and Vice Chair. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Barry Lawrence made a motion to reelect Arlen Huggins and Joe Busto by unanimous ballot. Second by Dave Cole. Motion carried.

With no nominations for a new Secretary-Treasurer, Arlen Huggins agreed to continue as acting Secretary-Treasurer for an additional year.

The location of the fall meeting was discussed. Sigmund Silber volunteered to make arrangements for the Council to meet in Santa Fe, NM. Dale Cole also indicated the Utah DWR would be happy to host the meeting. The location was not resolved, but Mr. Silber agreed to look further into the Santa Fe Option.



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ARLEN HUGGINS, CHAIRMAN  
& ACTING SEC-TREASURER

Transcribed by LeNor Dollinger