

MINUTES - NORTH DAKOTA ATMOSPHERIC RESOURCE BOARD

JUNE 30, 2014

Chairman Henry Bodmer called a telephone conference call meeting of the Atmospheric Resource Board to order at 9:03 a.m., June 30, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Members present were Henry Bodmer, Paul Myrdal, Matthew Leitner, Tom Tupa, Todd Sando and Rob White. Monte Hininger and Kyle Wanner joined the call after roll was taken.

Others present were Darin Langerud, Director; Kelli Schroeder, Business Manager; Mark Schneider, Chief Meteorologist; Daniel Brothers, Meteorologist; Hans Ahlness, Weather Modification, Inc. (WMI) and Jennifer Verleger, ND Attorney General's Office.

MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TUPA, SECONDED BY MR. LEITNER, AND CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2014 MEETING AS DISTRIBUTED.

CHANGES TO ND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TITLE 89-07-02

Mr. Langerud reviewed the proposed changes to the ND Administrative Code. Most changes were for the purposes of grammar and clarification. Under 89-07-02-17, we removed the specific reference to the NDCMP manual "Operations Manual for Hail Decrease and Precipitation Increase" as a permit condition. However, permit applicants still "must submit an operations plan" that provides detail on seeding agents, methods, equipment, emergency shutdown procedures and other operating conditions.

Under 89-07-02-24, the requirement for monthly reporting of operations was removed. We receive daily information that can be easily rolled into monthly and seasonal information as needed.

Under 89-07-02-25, bidding requirements were removed in regard to selecting a cloud seeding contractor. We are required to follow State Procurement Office rules and therefore this section was redundant.

Under 89-07-02-26, the point scoring system and North Dakota bidder preference rules were eliminated relating to bid procedure. As above, state procurement rules already have procedures for bidding which we are required to follow.

Mr. Langerud noted that we need the board to approve these changes so that they can go into effect July 1, 2014.

Mr. Langerud reported that the Legislative Rules Committee considered these changes. One senator had a question regarding how we refer to contractors, permittees and licensees. We agreed that we would revisit that and make any necessary changes in the State Water Commission's next round of administrative rule changes in a few months.

In response to a question from Mr. Tupa, Ms. Verleger answered that the definition of the board was removed from the administrative code because it is redundant. It is already defined in North Dakota Century Code.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. HININGER, SECONDED BY MR. LEITNER TO APPROVE THE ND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHANGES AS DISTRIBUTED. VOTING YEA – MR. HININGER, MR. MYRDAL, MR. LEITNER, MR. TUPA, MR. SANDO, MR. WANNER AND MR. WHITE. THERE WERE NO NAY VOTES. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

NORTH DAKOTA CLOUD MODIFICATION PROJECT OPERATIONS UPDATE

In response to a question from Mr. Bodmer, Mr. Langerud noted that there is one county commissioner and weather modification authority member per county on our District Operations Advisory Committee. We are in contact with them weekly in deciding whether to suspend for rain enhancement activities. The project started June 1 with all counties suspended for rain enhancement activities. Mountrail and McKenzie Counties asked for rain enhancement activities to begin the week of June 16th. Mr. Langerud expects Mountrail County to return to rain enhancement suspension due to recent heavy rainfall.

Mr. Langerud reviewed flight operations information through June 22nd and maintenance and weather issues.

In response to a question from Mr. Bodmer, Mr. Langerud noted that the Bowman area had a pretty wet spring, which is why they have also been on rain enhancement suspension.

In response to a question from Mr. Bodmer, Mr. Langerud noted that one of the main ingredients you need for convective storms is moisture near the surface, in the boundary layer. If you have that in abundance, you've got one of the things you need to make thunderstorms. That's why wet and dry go in cycles. There are feedback mechanisms in the process.

Mr. Langerud also reviewed district visits that Mr. Schneider and Ms. Schroeder made last week. They found everything was working well. Mr. Langerud noted that our radar meteorologists would be leaving project early. One will be leaving July 22nd for a full-time National Weather Service (NWS) job in Michigan. Another is leaving on August 22nd for a full-time NWS position in Las Vegas. The other is leaving mid-August for graduate school. Mr. Langerud, Mr. Schneider and Mr. Brothers will be covering the vacant positions through the end of the project.

BOWMAN RADAR RELOCATION

Mr. Langerud reported that we've been working with the Bowman Airport Authority on the relocation of the radar. The Authority built in an alternative bid, which included adding 2nd and 3rd story space for our radome and pedestal. That difference would then be our obligation. The bids came back 60% above what they were hoping for. Our cost would have been about \$200,000, which is a lot higher than originally anticipated. We have decided to move the existing tower and move or reconstruct a transmitter building at the base of the tower and then run cables to the office area in the new terminal building. That will save us some money. We've already hired a contractor to put electrical conduit in the ground and work will be completed any day. In the fall, we are hopeful that the airport construction is far enough along that we can start moving our equipment. It sounds unlikely for this to happen until the fall of 2015.

In response to a question from Mr. Tupa, Mr. Langerud noted that there would be approximately one month that the radar will be inoperable for this move. The move cannot be done during the ND Cloud Modification Project months. It will have to occur in the spring or fall. We prefer fall due to more certainty on the weather in September and October.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:32 a.m.



HENRY BODMER
CHAIRMAN

Transcribed by Kelli Schroeder