

Weather Modification Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 18, 2008

E.O. Thompson Building – 7th Floor Public Meeting Room
920 Colorado Street, Austin, Texas

Summary of Minutes

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item B., Roll Call and Certification of Quorum. Committee members Frank Reilly, Everett Deschner, William Dillard, James Nance and Gary Foster were present. A quorum was present.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item C., Approval of Minutes – Meeting of March 6, 2008. Committee member, Everett Deschner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Committee member, Gary Foster seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item D., Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.2.a., Staff Reports, Compliance Division – Status of 2008 weather modification operations in Texas. George Bomar, Program Specialist presented a general overview of the rain enhancement and hail suppression projects, one of which has slightly decreased in areal coverage due to the loss of Gonzales County. Craig Funke and Tommy Shearrer reported on weather modification operations under their respective permits. Mr. Bomar answered questions from the Board regarding a lawsuit involving Gonzales County and the San Antonio Water System. Jennifer Wright reported on White Deer's Cloud seeding operations which included 13 days of seeding during the 2008 season as well as installation of new GPS tracking and radar systems. Stephanie Beall of Southwest Texas Weather Modification Association reported 22 days of seeding and upgrades to the Titan computer system which has Doppler Radar in high definition.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.2.b., Staff Reports, Compliance Division - Status of Texas rain enhancement permits. George Bomar, Program Specialist updated the Board on the Panhandle Groundwater Association's permit which was awarded with out a buffer zone.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.2.c., Staff Reports, Compliance Division –Status of weather modification research and evaluation activities. George Bomar, Program Specialist reported on TDLR's cooperative agreement with Oklahoma entered into in the spring of 2002 which allows Texas to use Oklahoma airspace for cloud seeding operations in the neighboring panhandle counties; recent unfavorable press regarding cloud seeding; updates on the policy from the World Meteorological Organization; Nature International Weekly Journal of Science comments on cloud seeding research; cloud seeding efforts in China and associated press releases; and media reports regarding contrails and chemtrails having a detrimental effect on the environment and populations below.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.3., Staff Reports, General Counsel. Jonathan Steinberg presented an overview of the open meetings act and the

requirements for public meetings including posting meetings with the Texas Register as it relates to Advisory Board meetings and quorums.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item F., Consideration of application for Texas weather modification licenses and license renewals: For State Fiscal Year 2009(beginning September 1, 2008). George Bomar, Program Specialist presented an overview of the requests for renewal of weather modification licenses of Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, South Texas Weather Modification Association, Seeding Operations and Atmospheric Research, Southwest Texas Rain-Enhancement Association, TransPecos Weather Modification Association, West Texas Weather Modification Association, Belding Farms, Inc., and Powell Plant Farms, Inc.

Committee member, William Dillard made a motion to recommend approval of Seeding Operations and Atmospheric Research's license renewal. Committee member, Gary Foster seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Committee member, Everett Deschner made a motion to recommend approval of Southwest Texas Rain-Enhancement Association's license renewal. Committee member, James Nance seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Committee member, James Nance made a motion to recommend approval of TransPecos Weather Modification Association's license renewal. Committee member, Gary Foster seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Committee member, Everett Deschner made a motion to recommend approval of Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, South Texas Weather Modification Association, and West Texas Weather Modification Association's license renewals. Committee member, Gary Foster seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Committee member, Gary Foster made a motion to recommend approval of the license renewal requests from Belding Farms, Inc. and Powell Plant, Inc. Committee member, William Dillard seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Board member Everett Deschner opposed.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item G., Recommendations for agenda items for the next meeting. The Committee recommended a discussion on permit requirements.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item H., Discussion of date, time, and location of next Committee meeting. The Committee decided to meet on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Austin, Texas.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item I., Adjournment. Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

Frank Reilly, Presiding Officer
Weather Modification Advisory Committee