

Weather Modification Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 20, 2010

North Campus Building – 1st Floor Public Meeting Room

1106 Clayton Lane, Austin, Texas

Summary of Minutes

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

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

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item C., Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 21, 2010. Committee member, Gary Foster made a motion to approve the minutes with two corrections. Committee member, Everett Deschner stated that the Technical Papers offered at the May 21, 2010 meeting did not provided one shred of evidence to support the use of hail cannons and if taken on face value there is evidence that say a hail cannon might cause hail to form. Committee member, James Nance seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item D., Training for Board Members. Brad Bowman, General Counsel provided training on the Open Meetings Act, quorum requirements, notice of public meetings requirements, Open Records Act response times, and the Administrative Procedures Act requirements for publication of rules.

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

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item F., Staff Reports, Compliance Division 1.a. Evaluation of snowpack augmentation: International projects; and 1.b. Prospects for resumption of cloud-seeding research in Texas: The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). George Bomar, Program Specialist reported on International and National developments in weather modification technology regarding winter snow pack augmentation. Mr. Bomar cited an article called *Impacting Snowing*. Augmentation has increased snow by 20%. He said that a member of the Australian Parliament, John Forrest, who visited Texas on several occasions to inspect the State's weather modification projects, returned to Australia and gained government funding for a research project on snow-pack augmentation. Mr. Bomar reported that he's received several phone calls regarding so-called "chem.-trails" observed in Texas skies in recent months. Mr. Bomar reported that efforts to obtain federal funding under the AWEP from the NRCS have not been successful. A proposed research project offered to AWEP would investigate the efficacy of salt seeding in West Texas during drought conditions. Mr. Bomar answered questions from the committee regarding chem. trails and contrails.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item G., Field meteorologists' report on (1) status of rain-enhancement activities; and (2) manual for project meteorologists. The

Committee heard from Todd Flanagan of South Texas Weather Modification Association, who reported a total of 22 days of seeding operations so far in 2010, along with a lower than average seeding operation with more than adequate rainfall for the area. Stephanie Beall of Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association reported 33 flights on 21 days for a lower than average season. Robert Rhodes, West Texas Weather Modification Association reported 65 flights on 31 days of seeding. Mr. Rhodes reported that the Texas Weather Modification Association (TMWA) has issued another edition of its newsletter, in concert with the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District. Miss Beall stated that the TMWA handbook has been revised after a work session involving Mr. Bomar and Committee member Everett Deschner. Tommy Shearer made himself available for questions.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item H., Report by Committee working group on weather modification rules. George Bomar, Program Specialist presented the work group's suggested changes to the rules. The work group has identified possible changes to the section 79.10 definitions – operational area and adding a section for advisory committee; §79.13(b) clarification of meteorologist responsibilities; §79.17(b) requirements for the notice of intention; §79.18(3) with members requesting General Counsel clarification of the section; §79.31 record keeping requirements, §79.61 deletion of the entire section on hail suppression as it is covered by the statute; and §79.62 also deletion of the entire section since the same material is included in the statute. The Committee discussed requirements pertaining to licensing an individual meteorologist compared with licensing an entity.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item I., Consideration and possible recommendation on applications for renewal of weather modification licenses for fiscal year 2011. George Bomar, Program Specialist summarized the requests of eight licensees for renewal of licenses for fiscal year 2011. SOAR - Committee member, Gary Foster made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member Everett Deschner seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District - Committee member, James Nance made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member Gary Foster seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. South Texas Weather Modification Association - Committee member, James Nance made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member Everett Deschner seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. West Texas Weather Modification Association - Committee member, Gary Foster made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member, James Nance seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Belding Farms - Committee member, Gary Foster made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member, James Nance seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 3-1 with Everett Deschner opposed. Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement Association - Committee member, James Nance made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member Gary Foster seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Trans-Pecos Weather Modification Association - Committee member, Gary Foster made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member Everett Deschner seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. ColorSpot, Inc. - Committee member, Gary Foster made a motion to recommend approval of the permit. Committee member James Nance seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 3-1 with Everett Deschner opposed.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item J., Recommendations for agenda items for the next meeting. The Committee placed discussion on statutory changes and a report from the Working Group on weather modification rules.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item K., Discussion of date, time, and location of the next Committee meeting. The Committee decided to meet on November 19, 2010, 10:00 a.m. in Austin, Texas at the E.O. Thompson Office Building.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item L., Adjournment. Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Frank Reilly, Presiding Officer
Weather Modification Advisory Committee