

# **Weather Modification Advisory Committee**

Meeting of December 8, 2008

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

## **Summary of Minutes**

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly called the meeting to order 10:04 a.m.

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

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item C., Approval of Minutes – Meeting of August 18, 2008. Committee member, Pat Nance made a motion to approve the minutes with a change in reference from the City of San Antonio to San Antonio Water System. Committee member, Everett Deschner 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 reported on cloud seeding operations during 2008 and presented a map which shows Gonzales County as part of the permitted target area of the South Texas Weather Modification Association (STWMA); However, Gonzales County is not participating this year. Mr. Bomar reported on communications from ranchers and farmers residing within the Trans-Pecos Weather Modification Association target area, who were concerned cloud seeding operations were stealing rain from their area during the summer. Review of weather modification operations logs shows that no seeding was done on the days the residents had identified. Todd Flanagan addressed the Board on four projects; South Texas Weather Modification Association in which he reported that STWMA had 42 days of seeding and 74 flights, an above average year; Southwest Texas Rain Enhancement had 36 days of seeding and 54 flights - a normal year; Webb County left, then ~~and~~ rejoined the project; West Texas Weather Modification Association had a below average year with 38 days of seeding and 65 flights; and Panhandle Ground Water District had a below average year with 22 days seeding due to normal rainfall in early summer. Mr. Bomar addressed Webb County's drop and re-entrance to the South Texas Weather Modification Association. Mr. Bomar reported on a proposal submitted to the Texas Weather Modification Association which would allow super resolution Doppler radar data to be analyzed and stored on site. Todd Flanagan gave an overview of the proposal which would improve the computer systems and allow greater detail for review.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.2.b., Staff Reports, Compliance Division - Status of Texas rain enhancement licenses issued for Fiscal Year 2009. George Bomar, Program Specialist updated the Board on the eight licenses it recommended issuing, issued by the Commission and good for the duration of the current fiscal year.

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 ongoing operations in Texas; Archie Ruiz, who works for the Texas Weather Modification Association, will offer a report of his findings on the 2008 programs at a future Council meeting. Mr. Bomar presented a press release which reports that scientists have stepped closer to demonstrating a capability of steering hurricanes by dropping carbon particulates into the top of the hurricane. The press release also addressed the possible legal actions related to redirecting hurricanes and causing damage to other countries, which could change a hurricane from an act of God to a man made occurrence.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.1., Staff Reports, Executive Office. Dianne Casey, Assistant Deputy Director reported that the legislative session begins in January and the department will monitor legislation and look for matching funding for weather modification projects, and reported on the change in the next Committee meeting location to the north campus.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item F., Discussion pursuant to Texas Agriculture Code Section 301.053 to consider recommendations to the Department regarding Texas Agriculture Code §301.107 to include the efficacy of a proposed weather modification methodology in determining whether to issue a permit. George Bomar, Program Specialist presented an overview of the proposed language as a result of a previous discussion related to TDLR rules considering applications for permits. Committee member Everett Deschner addressed the rule §79.18(3)(D) which controls projects seeking a permit requiring citation in referenced meteorological journals. Mr. Deschner suggested that the Committee change the language to require peer review as opposed to referenced meteorological journals. Mr. Bomar noted that the language as it is stated includes peer reviewed articles. Committee members discussed possible revisions to the proposed language. Committee member Everett Deschner made a motion to change the existing rule to clarify that the document relied upon must be peer reviewed or refereed as well as published in a journal, and recommended that the citation support the technology in the permit. Motion was seconded by Frank Riley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item G., Recommendations for agenda items for the next meeting. The Committee recommended a potential rule change to §79.18 be put on the next agenda.

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, April 6, 2009 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 11:12 p.m.

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Frank Reilly, Presiding Officer  
Weather Modification Advisory Committee