

Weather Modification Advisory Committee

Meeting of March 6, 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 10:20 a.m.

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

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item C., Approval of Minutes – Meeting of November 1, 2007. Committee member, James Nance 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 were no public comments.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item F., Consideration of application for a new, 4-year rain enhancement permit: Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (White Deer, Texas). George Bomar, Program Specialist presented an overview of the permit review and public hearing process. Mr. Bomar presented a February 25, 2008 letter from the District requesting to amend the original permit application by removing Swisher, Hartly, and Moore counties from the permit. The Committee heard public comment from Jay O'Brien, Mary Weilham, Veron Weilham, and resolutions from Donley and Swisher Counties opposed to the permit. Mr. Bomar responded to comments offered regarding a Department investigation of cloud seeding outside the permitted area. The Committee heard public comment from Jennifer Wright of Panhandle Groundwater Association in support of the permit. The Committee asked questions and discussed the law and rules regarding denial or suppression of a permit. Tommy Shearrer offered comments in support of the permit. Committee member, Everett Deschner made a motion to recommend approval of the new 4-year rain enhancement permit: Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District. Committee member James Nance seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.2.a., Staff Reports, Compliance Division – Status of Weather Modification Operations: George Bomar, Program Specialist presented a general overview. Todd Flanagan and Robert Rhodes reported on rain enhancement activities of their respective Associations.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.2.b., Staff Reports, Compliance Division - Status of license renewals and new rain-enhancement permits: George Bomar, Program Specialist reported SWTWMA's hail suppression permit will expire May 2008. No other permit renewals expected.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item E.2.c., Staff Reports, Compliance Division –Status of weather modification research and assessment activities: George Bomar, Program Specialist reported prospects for ongoing weather modification efforts specifically HB 3445 sponsored by Representative Udall and the companion bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson. Tommy Shearrer talked about Federal legislation regarding weather enhancement.

Presiding Officer, Frank Reilly moved to agenda item G., Recommendations for agenda items for the next meeting. The Committee did not offer any items for 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 Thursday, July 31, 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 12:18 p.m.

Frank Reilly, Presiding Officer
Weather Modification Advisory Committee