

NAIWMC - FORMATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES THROUGH 1975 ^{a/}

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Governor Richard F. Kneip of South Dakota invited the Governors of the United States to attend or be represented at a June 10-12, 1974 conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on "Weather Modification in the United States -- Potential and Problems for Interstate Action". Governor Kneip recognized the need for the prudent design and critical analysis of all weather modification efforts. He pointed out that interstate cooperation is particularly needed in view of the growing importance of agricultural production to the economy and well-being of the people of all states, and the tendency to develop individual state weather modification programs.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

All fifty states were invited to attend the Sioux Falls conference, in which some twenty-three states were represented, as well as the Province of Alberta, Canada. At the end of the successful working conference, those present selected representatives from six states -- California, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Washington and the Canadian Province of Alberta to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee to:

1. Look at possible organizational needs, i.e., participation, goals, funding, affiliation, etc.
2. Plan a second conference on interstate weather modification cooperation and coordination within one year.
3. Study the Sioux Falls working committee reports and develop these suggestions into recommendations to be presented at the next interstate conference on weather modification.

The Ad Hoc Committee met in Seattle, Washington on October 1, 1974. Among the items of business to which the Committee addressed itself was the name of the proposed organization -- North American Interstate Weather Modification Council. After pointing out the need for an organization to coordinate intrastate, interstate and possible international weather modification activities, the important bases for concern were:

1. Substantial but fragmental local, state, and federal activity in deliberate and inadvertent weather modification has taken place in the past twenty years.

^{a/} Revision of the paper presented by John T. Carr, Jr. at the January 16-17, 1975 Conference of the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council in Denver, Colorado.

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2. Weather modification effects do not respect internal or national boundaries and no compacts or agreements exist regarding the effects.
3. States require a measure of control over weather modification activities and effects within their boundaries.
4. No effective mechanism presently exists for interstate cooperation in weather modification and the states do not have a coordinated approach for atmospheric resources decision making.
5. Minimal public involvement in weather modification decision making has been solicited in the past.
6. Lack of uniformity exists in most state statutes concerning weather modification operations, qualifications, and regulating weather modification activities, including environmental effects.
7. Little exchange of information among states has taken place concerning environmental relations and reports.
8. Weather modification decision making must be responsive to local, state and interstate concerns.
9. Weather modification activities in response to emergency drought conditions would be most effective through an interstate organization of state representatives knowledgeable in local needs and conditions.

The Ad Hoc Committee suggested that the overall objective of the Council must be to serve as the focal point and clearing house for interstate weather modification activities. Specific objectives outlined by the Ad Hoc Committee included:

1. Serve as the official spokesman for states' needs and views of weather modification.
2. Provide the organization through which funding of multi-state assistance programs can be accomplished.
3. Provide a forum for developing interstate agreements and understanding.
4. Develop and promote the adoption of compatible state regulatory activities.
5. Develop and provide information for public use.
6. Exchange information and provide assistance in environmental and societal relations.

FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

On January 17, 1975, the NAIWMC called its first business meeting in Denver, Colorado. The conference "Weather Modification--A Useable Technology" was held the day before. Among the significant items which were accomplished during the first official Council meeting were: Adoption of a set of By-Laws for the Council's organization, election of an Executive

Committee and a Board of Directors to carry out the Council's activities, and adoption of several resolutions. The organization of the Council, as elected and selected at the January 17, 1975 meeting, is shown in Figure 1.

Regular membership in the Council is available to all states of the United States of America, to Mexico, and to all provinces of Canada. Each jurisdiction electing to become a member of the Council shall affirm its decision by informing the Council of its support, by appointment of a delegate to the Council and an alternate, and by payment of dues to the Council.

Affiliate membership in the Council is available to national agencies and to political sub-divisions within states or provinces. Professional organizations and scientific societies may also become affiliate members.

The officers of the Council consist of the Executive Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer) and ten other members of the Board of Directors. Consistent with the by-laws and resolutions of the Council, the Board of Directors shall establish the policies of the Council and act on its behalf. The Board may propose by-laws and resolutions for adoption by delegates to the Council. It may also employ an Executive Secretary for the Council, and may delegate to him such functions as it seems appropriate, including the authority to select and supervise employees of the Council.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The purpose of NAIWMC, as outlined by the Ad Hoc Committee's recommended needs, goals, and objectives and as stated in the adopted By-Laws, has been divided into six categories:

1. Operations. The Council shall assist governmental and private organizations in planning, design, implementation, coordination, and assessment of on-going, temporary, and emergency weather modification operations which are planned with the intent or conducted with the effect of causing international, national, interstate, or intrastate consequences. The Council shall promote effective partnerships among various agencies conducting weather modification operations, and shall assist in integrating weather modification operations with water resources development and other activities affected by weather modification activities. It shall make appropriate recommendations in order to promote these purposes.
2. Research and Development. The Council shall assist governmental and private organizations in planning, design implementation, coordination, and assessment of weather modification research and development. It shall promote common research concerning weather modification activities and their environmental and societal consequences. The Council shall provide a forum for the exchange of experience, data, and information about weather modification.

3. Public Involvement. The Council shall seek to provide information for and engage in discussion with a) public officials, b) persons involved in weather modification activities or who demonstrate an interest in the effects of weather modification, and c) the general public. It shall serve as spokesman for the needs and views of the member jurisdictions, and it shall develop public education programs.
4. Legislation. The Council shall assist national governments, state or provincial governments, and groups of state or provincial governments in preparation, review, and alteration of treaties, statutes, compacts, and administrative rules and regulations. It shall seek to obtain legislation which is responsive to local, state, interstate, national and international concerns.
5. Regulation. The Council shall assist regulatory agencies in maintaining a high level of integrity and professional competency among weather modifiers. It shall assist regulatory agencies in coordination of their professional licensing and operational permit issuing functions. It shall serve as a clearing house for environmental impact statements relating to weather modification and for such other data as will assist regulatory agencies.
6. Miscellaneous. The Council shall serve such other purposes relating to the development, operation, and control of weather modification as are consistent with those purposes expressly named in this article. Such purposes shall be stated by resolution adopted at annual, regular, or special meetings of the Council.

Amendments to the By-Laws purpose may be proposed by the Committee on By-Laws, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, or delegates or alternates representing one-third of the regular members registered as attending the annual meeting prior to the time of presentation of the proposals.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH 1975

The Ad Hoc Committee addressed itself to four resolutions at the Seattle Meeting in October 1974. These, as well as one more, were adopted at the end of the first Council meeting in Denver, Colorado. A summary of each adopted resolution follows:

75-1: Federal and State Legislative Actions Affecting Weather Modification

The unanimous decision of the NAIWMC was to inform all federal legislators of the existence of the Council and of the interest and willingness of the organization to assist in the preparation and review of existing and proposed Federal legislation.

Further, since several of the states do have successful legislation

in effect and some of these states have had considerable experience in implementing their laws, the Council felt it was appropriate for this organization to offer the expertise of its members to assist other states in preparing and developing weather modification legislation.

75-2: United States Forest Service Control of Weather Modification Activities

Recently some regional supervisors of the United States Forest Service have required land and water use permits if any proposed weather modification activities are expected to have any effect or impact on any National Forest or National Grassland areas. These requirements have been based upon the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (Act of June 4, 1897, 30 Stat. 34, 35, 36, 16 U.S.C. 475).

It was the unanimous decision of the NAIWMC to oppose this action by personnel of the United States Forest Service because:

1. Federal legislation has specifically established another Federal agency to monitor and exercise certain regulatory (reporting) functions over non-federal weather modification activities.
2. The applicability of the Organic Administration Act of 1897 is in question in light of more recent legislation specifically directed toward weather modification.
3. It is apparent that in the Forest Service regulatory interpretation is being applied to existing laws in order to control weather modification activities.

The NAIWMC strongly recommended that both Federal and State officials and agencies address this problem--one which could have far-reaching ramifications beyond the question of autonomous weather modification regulation and control.

75-3. Planning and Operation of Weather Modification Programs in Drought Emergency Situations

Because of existing and continuing drought conditions which persist over much of the Great Plains and Corn Belt areas of the North American Continent, it is anticipated that the Federal governments may well implement weather modification activities as a drought relief tool.

It is of considerable interest, however, that during recent summer activities the feasibility of drought relief was limited to decision making totally within the Federal agencies. No consultation with officials of potentially affected states was apparently considered.

Therefore, it was the decision of the NAIWMC to recommend that appropriate state agencies be consulted and included in the planning, developing and implementing emergency weather modification programs during drought situations.

75-4: Assistance in Reviewing, Assessing, and Furthering the Field of Weather Modification by the Weather Modification Association

This was a resolution requesting the Weather Modification Association to consider supporting the concept of the NAIWMC and to agree to provide a ready and willing reservoir of talent and expertise to the Council and/or the various states, individually or collectively. They were requested to assist in developing weather modification programs in years to come.

75-5: Emergency Drought Assistance, S.4028

This resolution strongly supported the concept of utilizing weather modification technology as proposed in S.4028, but further suggested that these concepts be expanded to specifically include a strong organizational structure at the state level, advanced technical planning, the mechanisms for quick reacting financial response, and a strong local input to subsequent field operations.

Furthermore, the Council recommended that the bill specify a mechanism for recognizing and anticipating the conditions under which the provisions of the bill would come into play so that relief can be given before a drought becomes advanced and critical.

Regular membership by the states has grown to a total of five: South Dakota and Michigan in April, Alberta and California in August, and North Dakota in September. Mexico has indicated that their dues are on the way to the Secretary-Treasurer. Other states which have legislation for the Council's regular membership are: Minnesota, Oregon and Utah.

Close coordination and cooperation was established with The Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislatures at their weather modification planning session in Denver, Colorado on December 17-18, 1975. The representatives of these two groups suggested greater activity and input could be made at their regional and national governor's conferences. Some of the issues that might be faced at these meetings include interstate arrangements for research, operation, and evaluation; providing adequate funding for research and demonstration as well as evaluation; providing the institutional framework to handle funding and trade-offs between various segments of society; and providing better information to the state decision makers, both in executive and legislative branches.

The NAIWMC Directors would be the logical chairman of interstate coordination and cooperation in the areas of their directorship. Also, they should become involved in regional and national legislative and governor's conferences which support the concept of a thorough public education program.

FIGURE 1

1975

NORTH AMERICAN INTERSTATE



COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Vern Butler of SOUTH DAKOTA*
Vice-Chairman: Gordon Sterling of ALBERTA
Secretary-Treasurer: Paul Gillette of Utah
Executive Secretary: Conrad Keyes, Jr. of N.M.S.U.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Area 1 (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming):
Dr. David Perry of Montana.
- Area 2 (Canada): Dr. John Maybank of Saskatchewan.
- Area 3 (Arizona, CALIFORNIA, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah):
Prof. Joseph Warburton of Nevada.
- Area 4 (Mexico): Dieter Kraemer of Mexico.
- Area 5 (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, Wisconsin):
Harold Vavra of NORTH DAKOTA.
- Area 6 (Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas):
Prof. Wayne Decker of Missouri.
- Area 7 (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, MICHIGAN, Ohio):
Stan Changnon of Illinois.
- Area 8 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, South
Carolina, Tennessee): Dr. Earl Droessler of North Carolina.
- Area 9 (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West
Virginia): Fred Wertz of Pennsylvania.
- Area 10 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusettes, New Hampshire, New York,
Rhode Island, Vermont): Dr. Earl Droessler of North Carolina--
Acting.

* States or provinces in capitals indicate paid-up members.

** Actual agreement starts January 1, 1976.