

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CLOUD SEEDING TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING
August 19, 2004

The seventh monthly meeting of the TAG was held August 19 at the Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association offices. Present were John Brown, Gina Deola, Sigmund Silber, Bill LeMay, Alan Jager, Walton Chapman and Roy Stoesz (Chair).

Agenda item 1) Summary of Funding & Operating Committee activities: Sig Silber

Now that the response to Governor Richardson's Innovation Water Fund has been submitted, the F&O Committee is concentrating on getting support for our proposal. They plan to write an executive summary with a few attachments and send that to a number of people. On September 7, the F&O will make a presentation to the Water and Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature as a preliminary step to a possible request to the Legislature in January for funding all or part of the pilot project.

Agenda item 2) Summary of response to the Governor's Water Innovation Fund: Walt Chapman

Our proposal covers a pre-seeding data acquisition program this year and the first year of a multi-year pilot project at a total cost of nearly \$700,000. The RFP drew 116 responses, but no other cloud seeding proposals. We expect a reply to our proposal in September.

Agenda item 3) Discussion of topo maps and areas of drainage basins: John Brown

John gave a progress report on his analysis of drainage basins in northern NM. The area of drainage basins on the west slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains from Santa Fe to Colorado totals about 1,030,000 acres (1600 sq. mi.) above an elevation of 2250 m (7425') and 520,000 acres (810 sq. mi.) above 2750 m (9075'). He is now looking at drainage basins on the east slope of the Sangre de Cristos which may enjoy a down-wind benefit from cloud seeding. These data will be used in determining the beneficiaries of cloud seeding in the Sangres and in calculating benefit/cost ratios. His estimates, based on a grid overlay will be spot checked with a planimeter by Alan Jager. There was some discussion about posting John's maps and findings on a web site for those interested in watershed data.

Agenda item 4) Discussion of the role of the TAG during program design and seeding operations: Group

The Chair led a discussion of TAG's future role. The timeline shows that in order to find a contractor to begin the first year of cloud seeding in Nov./Dec. 2005, and meet the new licensing rules of the ISC, we should begin now to search for a consultant to help design the program. It was agreed the TAG will outline general specifications for a cloud seeding program and, during coming weeks, will approach universities, consultants and, perhaps, cloud seeding operators to determine their capabilities and interest in helping us design such a program. There was lengthy discussion about the organization and management of the pilot project as proposed in the response to the Governor's Innovation Water Fund. At the end it was agreed that the TAG should continue to act as an independent body, advising all principals involved in the effort.

Agenda item 5) Next meeting

We will meet Friday, Sept. 17 at 9:00 AM at the same place. An agenda will soon follow.

