

North Dakota State Water Commission

- Governor Doug Burgum, Chairman
- Doug Goehring
- Michael Anderson
- Katie Hemmer
- Richard Johnson
- Mark Owan
- Matthew Pedersen
- Steven Schneider
- Jay Volk
- Jason Zimmerman

UND John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences

ARB sponsors UND pilot interns in the 5 county Cloud Seeding Project

Weather Modification Association

- Members
- ND Atmospheric Resource Board
- Darin Langerud & Mark Schneider
- Ice Crystal Engineering, Charlie Harper
- Weather Modification International
- Patrick Sweeney

North Dakota

Weather Modification Association

About 10 members including Lance Gaebe *information difficult to find with little online presence

North American

Weather Modification Council

- ARB, Darin Langerud director, full member
- ND WMA, Lance Gaebe, assoc. member

Clearwater Communications

- Mike Dwyer, a Clearwater owner, agent for Weather Mod Inc
- Lance Gaebe, acct. exec.
- Managing NDWMA

North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board

- ARB Director Darin Langerud
- ARB District Members
- I - Mr. Monte Hininger, Williston
- II - Mr. Henry "Hank" Bodmer, Kenmare
- III - Rep. David Monson, Osnabrock
- IV - vacant
- V - Mr. Casey Veil, Jamestown
- VI - Mr. Tom Tupa, Bismarck
- VII - Mr. Thomas Burke, Bowman
- Mr. John Paczkowski ND State Water Commission,
- Mr. Kyle Wanner Director ND Aeronautics Commission
- Dr. Angela Seligman ND Department of Environmental Quality

Weather Modification Inc

Fargo Jet Center

Ice Crystal Engineering

Patrick and James Sweeney, owners

Ward County funding goes to ND

Atmospheric Resource Board who, in turn, pays Weather Modification Inc. for a turnkey operation including airplanes and chemicals

What began as a small group of farmers working with one cloud seeding researcher, has morphed into a large cartel of special interests, ignoring a large group of farmers.

When and why did this equation tip upside down? Follow the money...

Vote NO on Weather Modification on your June 9th Primary Election Ballot

Ward County

Follow the Money

Spring 2020

Ward County's Weather Modification Program Makes MILLIONS for Some

Pluviculture n. rainmaking; attempts to induce rain artificially

Pluviculture, or rainmaking, began with James Pollard Epsy, the "Storm King", a U.S. meteorologist who proposed burning forests to increase rainfall. His theory was published in 1840 as *The Philosophy of Storms*. His work was the beginning of scientific weather forecasting. In subsequent years, "Rainmakers" came and went, using methods involving explosions, chemicals and eventually airplanes and silver iodide.

In the 1950's, a group of North Dakota Farmers, discouraged by periodic droughts, hired a meteorologist from South Dakota to start cloud seeding to make rain. They raised private funding and proceeded in their attempt to squeeze moisture from the clouds. Somewhere along the line, when goals in rainmaking were not reached, the project was re-imagined to include hail suppression.

At one point, 37 North Dakota counties were involved in the project. As it became apparent to most of them that the project was not cost effective, they dropped out.

The Special Interest Cronyism Ended Almost Everywhere Else

Today, Ward County is one of only five North Dakota counties who continue to use tax dollars for cloud seeding. In fact, this project is only five of 3,242 counties in the whole United States currently cloud seeding for hail suppression. As participation in the project began to shrink, funding grew. How did that happen?

In 1974, the Pilot Internship Program (PIP) was started with a \$274,000 grant from the National Science foundation to UND. It was called an "experimental project for training pilots in weather modification". In 1976 the ND Atmospheric Resource Board (ARB) signed a contract with UND to employ interns in the cloud seeding program.

This appears to be what launched the stream of money and further involvement in the program coming from a broad spectrum of sources outside Ward and the other 4 counties now known as the North Dakota Cloud Modification Project. Even though an exceedingly small group of ND counties was left in the project, the state actually controls it via the ARB.

What is the Atmospheric Resource Board?

The **ARB** is a quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative advisory and rule-making board under the supervision of the **ND State Water Commission (NDSWC)**. The SWC has ten members including the governor and ag commissioner. The other eight are appointed by the governor.

The ARB is made up of seven districts covering North Dakota. ARB director is Darin Langerud. He oversees Weather Modification for the state. Ward County is in District II, Henry "Hank" Bodmer being the representative member. Now we have a total of 17 people involved in Ward County's cloud seeding

program, only one of them living in Ward County. We were unable to obtain more than a barebones, line-item budget from the ARB. How's that for transparency?

Tax Dollars Lining Pockets in Fargo

The ARB contracts with **Weather Modification Inc.**, for a turnkey cloud seeding operation. **Weather Modification Inc., Fargo Jet Center, and Ice Crystal Engineering** provide airplanes, chemicals, and pilots. All three of these entities are owned by Patrick and James Sweeney. They are a private company, so we are unable to determine if there are other investors or beneficiaries there.

Interconnected Interests and Lobbying with Tax Dollars

Another big outside interest in Ward County Weather Modification is **UND's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences**. We 100% support the students in the School of Aerospace Sciences, but do not feel obligated to spend county taxation dollars to provide a supplemental classroom for them.

The Weather Modification machine spreads from there to the professional and political realm via **Weather Modification Association (WMA), North Dakota Weather Modification Association (NDWMA), and North American Weather Modification Council (NAWMC)**.

Enter **Clearwater Communications**, an association management and public relations firm located in Bismarck. Former District 47 State Senator Michael Dwyer is a founder of Clearwater Communications and heavily involved in Weather Modification. He is the representative of Weather Modification Inc. in their business registration with the Secretary of State's office. Dwyer is also Executive Director of **ND Water Education Foundation** and editor of **ND Water Magazine**. The magazine devotes space for an article about cloud seeding in each issue and is distributed to all ND county commissioners and other officials to promote Weather Modification.

Weather Modification Association is basically an information exchange for cloud seeding. Ice Crystal Engineering, LLC, North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board, and Weather Modification International (Patrick Sweeney) are all members of WMA.

Former N.D. Commissioner of University and School Lands, Lance Gaebe, is an account executive at Clearwater Communications. He, too, is involved in Weather Modification, managing NDWMA. Clearwater Communications, Dwyer Law Office, North Dakota Water, and Natural Resources Trust are all conveniently located in one building.

North Dakota WMA has only about 10 members and flies under the radar with little online presence. A long-standing board member on the Ward County Weather Modification Board, is a member. NDWMA receives an annual donation from the Ward County Board and goes on to lobby the state for more weather modification funding. **Our tax dollars are circling around to lobby for more tax dollars to be spent on weather modification.**

The mission of the North American Weather Modification Council (NAWMC) is to advance the proper use of weather modification technologies through education, promotion, and research. NDARB represented by Darin Langerud and NDWMA represented by Lance Gaebe are members.

Clearly, there is a great deal more money coming into this project than Ward, Mountrail, Williams, Bowman and Slope Counties' tax dollar contributions. (Actually, only a handful of townships in Slope

County are in the project.) For reasons we have been unable to determine, Ward County's contribution is higher than the others.

And what goes out? Weather Modification Inc., of course is a major financial benefactor of Ward County Weather Modification. Beyond that, there is no way to trace individuals who may have investment interests in Weather Modification. Some, of course, benefit by way of salaries and expense accounts in their capacity with Boards, Commissions, and Organizations. They all represent a cartel of special interests invested in Ward County Weather Modification in various ways and having nothing to do with bumping up crop acre profits by increasing rainfall or suppressing hail. It is about their own profits, career advancement, and status within their own professional organizations.

The Ward County Weather Modification Project has become excessive and gone beyond the control of county residents. Weather modification in Ward County has lost its purpose. Clearly, even the Ward County Commissioners could not control it, or it wouldn't be a ballot measure now.

*****March 2023 Note:**

After seeing the facts about weather modification, 85% of Ward County 2020 Primary Election voters ended the project in their county.