**Small Group Discussion Questions\_\_\_\_ FYS 178**

25, 27 Aug 2020 (Wk#3) Society, Technology & Weather

Questions for **Chapter 2** of “Appropriating the Weather…”

[1] What was the impact of a seventy-year absence of coastal herring (p. 40) on the local society of the Swedish west coast? If society utilizes science to fill its needs, how might this impact have directed scientific funding in Sweden?

[2] Although Sweden was a “dead end” for theoretical physicists in the early 1900s, what type(s) of scientists might have found more favorable funding and influence in Sweden at this time? {look at your response to Question [1]}

[3] How did VBs circulation theorem assist the prominent Swedish scientists in the early 1900s? Please list specific oceanographic problems that the theorem helped describe or explain.

[4] In light of your responses to Questions [1] – [3], contrast VB’s ability to achieve professional success (p. 5, para. 3) in the fields of physics (Chap. 1) versus oceanography/meteorology (Chap. 2).

[5] VB and Ludwig Silberstein (Poland, p. 45) arrived at the *general circulation theorem* for describing fluid motions and yet Bjerknes generally receives credit for its discovery. Explain the factors that influenced why [hints: perception of the theorem significance, influence of colleagues].

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Questions for **Chapter 2** of “Appropriating the Weather…” (cont.)

[6] How was the field of meteorology perceived by leading physicists around 1900? Provide a specific quote that reflects this attitude? How might this attitude have discouraged VB from making the leap to a career in geophysics?

[7] What technological advances related to flight in the late 1800s and early 1900s forced VB to consider the opportunity to effect major changes in meteorology as a science and a profession?

[8] VB determined that two conditions were necessary for making useful weather forecasts (p. 53). List the two conditions and note how technological limitations in the early 1900s might have contributed to making useful weather forecasts impossible.

[9] While contemplating a career change from 1903 to 1905, VB had a series of personal crises that added stress to the decision. List some of the crises and describe how these crises add stress to the career change decision.

[10] Two events helped convince VB that he could take a chance on a career change from physicist to meteorologist (p. 56, 57). What needs did these events meet that finally convinced VB to make the leap in his career as a meteorologist?