



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Meeting Minutes / January 27, 2005 / BIA Northern Pueblos Agency, Espanola, NM

Meeting convened by Mike Montoya at 9:00AM

• **General Business**

Steve started discussion with review of previous meeting minutes from October 29, 2004

The BOD would like minutes approval to become a regular agenda item at subsequent meetings

Due to low turnout for this meeting, we will wait on minutes approval until a larger group can vote

Next meeting should include review and/or approval of minutes from Oct 29 2004 and Jan 27 2005

Mike Montoya discussed upcoming election for the SWTFC Vice-Chair seat, currently held by Jim White

Steve and Butch currently are on 2-yr terms; Jim is on a 1-time, 1-yr term (necessary for term staggering)

Election for the Vice-Chair position must be conducted at the next meeting

Steve will notify membership and collect nominations for the vice-chair seat, and résumés from nominees

Steve discussed need for SWTFC participants to provide updated contact info., esp. email addresses

Steve also commented that the BOD will provide much more advanced meeting notices in the future

• **SWTFC Financial Update (Steve Whiteman)**

Steve provided a general overview of the 3 funds utilized by SWTFC, and gave the following update:

1. SWTFC Service Account

(Includes tribal membership dues (dep), fish purchases (dep), transport (wdl), feed (wdl), etc.

Starting Balance on 11/05/04 \$5,180.05

Ending Balance on 12/07/04 \$4,460.85

DEP / WDL	Note
+ \$1,345.80	Fish purchase by Sandia
+ \$200.00	Membership fees from Jicarilla and S. Ute
- \$2,265.00	Feed payment to Nelson and Sons, Inc.

2. SWTFC Media Project

(Note: Project funded by \$10,000 SUIT grant to SWTFC, funds administered by SW NAFWS)

Past and anticipated project expenditures:

Video Project (completed) \$6,818.30

Website Project (in progress) \$1,397.04

Brochure Project (projected) \$1,784.66

Total *\$10,000.00*

3. Mescalero 638-Contract

(Includes Exec. Director salary + Minor SWTFC Administration expenses)

See Mike Montoya or BOD for financial status questions

• **SWTFC Video Presentation to group**

SWTFC now has an inventory of our video production, received copies in DVD (x40) and VHS (x10)

Discussion took place on use and distribution of completed SWTFC video

First priority is to distribute copies to all member tribes

So far, DVD copies have been distributed to representatives of:

San Juan, Laguna, Northern Ute, Mescalero, Isleta, Southern Ute, Jicarilla

Still need to get copies to: Santa Clara, Navajo, and Sandia

Pete Stine would like to obtain a DVD copy to share with Fisheries Forever participants

Jim suggested that sharing free copies with partners/potential partners should be o.k.

The videos should be made available to the general public for a nominal fee (e.g., \$5 each)
Suggestion was made to advertise the video for sale on the SWTFC website, currently being developed

• **SWTFC Media Campaign Update**

Video production task has been completed (see above)

Jim, Steve, and Mike discussed current development and contents of WWW.SWTFC.ORG

Website development is contracted to Amanda Moors of Globe, AZ

Anticipated website launch by end of March 2005

Tribes interested in having fisheries mgmt/fishing rep. on the website should email digital photos to Steve

Prototype brochure has been developed; will finalize and order with remaining grant funds

Anticipated brochure completion by end of March 2005

Brief break at 9:50AM / Re-convened at 10:05AM

• **SWTFC Draft Strategic Plan Presentation (Jim White)**

Jim offered PowerPoint presentation on Executive Summary portion of draft strategic plan

Topics covered, along with proposed edits, are described below.

(Some of this may not make sense without having the draft plan to see where edits are proposed)

“Who We Are”	Discussed SWTFC role in helping achieve tribal self-determination in fisheries programs; doesn’t necessarily include just “economic” considerations, as presented in draft statement. Our vision is to move tribal programs and projects from “concept to reality”. Edits to the vision statement: Strike words: “economic” and “the” (technical skills) Need to modify “intergovernmental” partnerships to incl. NGO’s
“Guiding Principles”	Provides concise statements supporting our “philosophy” Several guiding principles were listed Need to take harshness out of “tribes must recognize and strive for self-sufficiency” – will work on re-wording Cooperation principle re-stated: “The ability of tribes to gain recognition and support is much greater when they collaborate and speak with a unified voice.”
“Our Strategy”	1. Secure sufficient funding (no changes) 2. Expand program capacity re-stated: “Expand tribal capacity for managing their fisheries resources by pursuing partnerships involving native fish restoration.” 3. Increase SWTFC staffing 4. Implement a communication plan 5. Develop SWTFC policies, need to strengthen statement
“Five-year Goals”	1. Central office in Alb, NM 2. Congressional line-funding for core functions; Need to carefully develop dollar-amount for “core” operations Want to make sure all core expenses are included 3. Staff positions filled 4. Reliable fish distribution capacity 5. Membership of no less than 30 t/p/n located in SWTFC region 6. Completion of five tribal projects 7. Independent operation (i.e., hand-over) of MTFH

“Plan Format”, includes the following narrative-elements

1. Background and History

2. Fisheries Environment Across the SW
3. Stakeholders
4. Existing Growth and Services
5. Board Members and Executive Committee
6. Operational Framework
7. Five Year Goals and Budget (2006-09)

Butch recommends that broader membership input is needed on the draft plan
 At next meeting we'll need to have review and adoption of draft
 This is especially important for funding requests to BIA (e.g., pre-Gary Rankel retirement)

• **Northern Pueblos Initiative discussion (Butch Blazer)**

SWTFC will be making greater effort to recruit northern pueblos into SWTFC membership
 Northern pueblos need the fisheries assistance and SWTFC is able to help. Must do the outreach.
 SWTFC plans to meet with chairmen/governors and utilize new media tools (e.g., video, brochure)
 Chris Kitcheyan (FWS) will be meeting with multiple-pueblos on stocking plans
 FWS continues to work on providing fish to tribes, but there won't be enough fish to meet entire demand
 Tribes and pueblos will still need to look beyond FWS for additional fish

• **Update on FWS TWG/TLIP Proposals in progress (Jim White)**

Under TWG proposal: Request for new SWTFC Fish Distribution System, including:
 Delivery vehicle, sanitations system, fuel vault, driver training
 Benefit: Greatly improved fish distribution capacity for SW tribes

Under TLIP proposal: Rio Grande Cutthroat Restoration program at MTFH, including:
 RGC population survey at Mescalero, prepare a broodstock mgmt plan,
 Water quality improvement equipment for raising RGC broodstock, young
 Benefit: RGC broodstock at MTFH to supply re-intro projects on tribal lands

2005 FWS grant cycle expected to start in early February

• **Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH) Update (Mike Montoya)**

Mike described hatchery operations funding requests to BIA for minor maintenance expenses:
 Delivery truck improvements for increasing distribution capacity (\$3,500)
 Improvement of oxygen equipment needed for fish rearing (\$3,500)
 Notification expected early April, if not sooner
 Funding competition with other tribal organizations (e.g., NWIFC) is a challenge for us
 FWS Pinetop Fish Health Center has certified health of MTFH-raised trout
 Having disease-free fish (certified) will be an extremely important SWTFC standard to maintain
 New Concern: Leak in water supply system at MTFH, now improvising, but could jeopardize prod.
 Leak is difficult to address without substantial heavy equipment/facility work (underground)
 One option is to bypass leak, but fix probably exceeds current available funds
 Current fish supply on-station:

1. 80K RBT fry
2. 45K 8-10" RBT – ready for stock-out
3. Approx. 700 17" RBT (almost 2 lbs each) Trying to share w/multiple tribes, but need to unload soon. \$2.35 per pound for the 17" trophy fish – outstanding bargain for member tribes

Butch recognized tremendous support of FWS SW Region in operating MTFH
 Funding difficulties of past largely result of national-level decisions
 Current FWS regional support (esp. Director Dale Hall) to tribes is outstanding
 Current distribution equipment is improvised.

Tribes with knowledge of surplus/unused delivery equipment should notify Mike
If awarded TWG proposal, new distribution equipment will help tremendously

• **Funding Outlook / Timetable (Butch Blazer)**

Shenan Atcitty now working to secure \$2 million EDA grant for MTFH renovation
D.C. visit planned to promote EDA grant app, to include Mescalero President Mark Chino
D.C. trip will include visits to NM Congressman Pierce and Senator Domenici
FishPro's business plan for MTFH (already completed) greatly improves grant chances
Other important funding needs are for MTFH and SWTFC continued operation
Holland & Knight (Shenan Atcitty) playing a very important role in D.C. fund-raising efforts
Nat'l Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a very strong potential funding source
Achieving NFWF financial support will require programs/efforts on native fish restoration
Other possible sources that we need to consider include large organizations/companies such as
Sport Fishing and Boating Council and tackle suppliers
Butch has met with Ernie Stevens (NAIGA rep) on strong possibility of NAIGA support
Other possible funding opportunities with gaming tribes

• **FWS Update (Chris Kitcheyan)**

Chris planning very important visits with individual tribes starting in February to discuss fisheries
Recent notice from Ink's Dam that catfish stocking on tribal lands should be moved up on
schedule due to hatchery disease concerns – will mean smaller fish to stock for tribes
If catfish are held longer, disease will substantially reduce crop / final delivery #'s to tribes
Chris will do follow-up calls to tribes on new stocking proposal (i.e., earlier w/smaller fish)
Chris will also be emphasizing need to develop tribal fisheries mgmt plans
Tribal trout stocking for 2005 to occur March-June
Tribes to receive FWS fish in 2005 (in addition to tribes already served by Williams Cr-Alch NFH):
Isleta, Sandia, Laguna, Zia, San Juan, Nambe, Santa Clara, Picuris, San Ildefonso, Mescalero
FWS stocking locations based on past stocking regimes and established tribal fish management plans
Chris emphasized importance of having updated tribal mgmt plans and suitable water quality conditions
at stocking locations when FWS stocks-out fish
Jim White asked about specificity requirements for tribal fisheries mgmt plans
Chris discussed a possible template for a tribal mgmt plan, outlined as follows (example only):
I. Introduction / Overview of tribe and resources
II. Management Objectives
III. Methods, techniques for monitoring fisheries and meeting goals/objectives
IV. Adaptive management techniques, such as using creel-monitoring statistics
Jim expressed SWTFC's willingness to review/assist with tribal mgmt plans
Chris is also very willing to assist with developing plans (his job is to help, but won't prepare for you!)
A FWS letter was sent out Sept 2004 to many tribes that received fish from Williams Cr-Alchesay
Letter requested any and all information on economic benefit to tribes resulting from FWS-supplied fish
Very limited response from tribes so far; Chris will do follow-up
Information includes permit sales, creel data, etc, which is important for justifying future NFH operation
New concern: New Zealand Mudsnaill found in Kline's Boulder Creek, CO facility
Mudsnaill impacts aquatic resources by smothering benthic community (fish food chain base)
Chris provided advisory to avoid transmission of mudsnaill (and diseases) by disinfecting equipment
Disinfect waders, nets, etc. with 5-10% bleach solution; contact Chris for more info.
Tribes that purchase fish should be aware that Kline's (commercial trout supplier) has a facility
in Boulder, CO that has had an outbreak of mudsnaill – Please avoid purchasing fish here.

• **Fisheries Forever Presentation (Pete Stine)**

Pete is a retired career-FWS Fisheries Program manager
Fisheries Forever is a citizens' lobbying group aimed at advocacy for the FWS Fisheries Program

e.g., securing critical operational funding for NFHs, picking up where feds have stumbled
Trying to build membership of this new organization; no membership fees
Pete maintains an e-mail newsletter and invites all interested parties to join list
Email Pete at stine4@flash.net for more info on Fisheries Forever
Pete is esp. concerned about a new Bush Administration/DOI proposal to out-source some NFH
operations/positions
Proposal specifically involves out-sourcing labor positions, e.g., animal caretakers and bio-technicians
Bid process currently underway; many NFH employees' jobs at stake if out-sourcing occurs
Fisheries Resource Office (FRO) staff positions could also be eliminated, with far-reaching impacts
Pete would like to see strong appeal to outsourcing proposal
Current Fisheries Forever mailing list is approx. 700 people
Pete would also like to see a strong tribal involvement/representation in Fisheries Forever

• **Closing Business**

San Juan Pueblo membership resolution presented by Linda Smith
Northern Ute membership fee presented by Everett Manning
Next SWTFC full-commission meeting proposed for:

Pima-Maricopa Indian Community near Phoenix, AZ
Thursday, April 7 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Some discussion/action items planned for the next meeting....

- Get meeting invitations to other tribal reps (e.g., NV and So. CA)
- Possible fisheries mgmt presentation from an AZ Tribe (?)
- Vice-Chairman election
- Review and vote on SWTFC draft strategic plan
- Vote on past meeting minutes (review, if necessary)
- Possible review of new website pages
- Usual business: updates on legislation, funding, non-profit status, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30PM

Minutes taken by:

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