



# Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting / BIA SW Regional Office – Albuquerque, NM / April 27 2007

## Meeting Convened at 9:30AM

### Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mescalero Apache Tribe    | Butch Blazer (Chairman)              |
| 2. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Albert John (Vice-Chairman)          |
| 3. Southern Ute Tribe        | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 4. Jicarilla Apache Nation   | Kevin Terry                          |
| 5. San Carlos Apache Tribe   | Anna Tryfonas                        |
| 6. Zuni Pueblo               | Nelson Luna                          |
| 7. Isleta Pueblo             | Michelle J. Keryte                   |
| 8. Sandia Pueblo             | Paul Holmes                          |
| 9. Picuris Pueblo            | Francine Yazza                       |
| 10. Laguna Pueblo            | Chuck Schultz                        |
| 11. Santa Clara Pueblo       | Jeremy Yepa                          |
| 12. Ute Tribe (U&O)          | Jonas Grant Sr.                      |
| 13. Navajo Nation            | not present                          |
| 14. Cochiti Pueblo           | not present                          |
| 15. Okay Owingeh             | not present                          |

### Other Guests:

Mescalero Apache Tribe / SWTFC – Mike Montoya  
Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery – Shelley Belin, Alisha Antonio  
White Mtn. Apache Tribe – David Kitcheyan  
BIA / Mescalero Agency – Jennifer Smith  
BIA / Northern Pueblos Agency – Norman Jojola  
BIA / SW Regional Office – Joe Jojola  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Jim Brooks, Chris Kitcheyan

### Chairman's Opening Statement (Butch Blazer)

Butch asked Nelson Luna to offer an opening prayer to start the meeting  
Butch commented on current challenges facing the Commission and strong opportunities for youth involvement

### Approval of past minutes / Financial Status (Steve Whiteman)

Per procedure, Steve presented January 5<sup>th</sup> minutes for approval; No edits requested since draft distribution  
Motion to approve minutes by Nelson Luna with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy Yepa; Approval by unanimous consent  
Steve presented financial activity and balances for SWTFC and MTFH  
The SWTFC ending balance on Mar 23 was \$20,203.05.  
SWTFC expenses (\$710) were for non-profit filing with Fed and State; revenues (\$300) was from member dues  
A detailed financial report was made available at the meeting  
The two funds are presently kept in the same bank account, which makes bookkeeping challenging  
Steve and Mike expect to separate the funds into two different accounts in the near future  
MTFH funds belong to the Mescalero Tribe and are all tied to raising and delivering fish to tribes  
SWTFC funds belong to the Commission and consist of member dues and tribal and non-tribal donations

### Executive Officer Update (Mike Montoya)

Mike conducted vice-chairman election; No nominations received by mail; requested nominations at the meeting  
Nelson Luna inquired about Albert John's willingness to serve full term- Albert responded yes  
Butch spoke to Albert's strong qualifications to continue to serve as Vice-Chair  
Nelson Luna nominated Albert John; 2<sup>nd</sup> from Steve Whiteman; No other nominations received for Vice-Chairman  
Kevin Terry motioned for acclimation vote on Albert John; 2<sup>nd</sup> from Jackie Keryte

Albert John unanimously approved for a second two-year term as Vice-Chairman  
Mike introduced Alisha Antonio and Shelley Belin, who each gave PowerPoints on their tribal hatchery experiences  
Joe Jojola acknowledged the outstanding work of SWTFC and MAT with hatchery re-operation on limited budget  
Joe also indicated a very favorable progress report on MTFH is going to BIA in D.C.  
Joe also pointed out that the MAT 638 contract is somewhat unique because many tribes benefit (via SWTFC)  
Butch said that MTFH can serve as a model to other tribes in building their resources and people  
Mike also discussed the great potential to expand fisheries capabilities of other tribes, including facilities and staff  
MAT President Chino recently visited with high-level FWS officials in D.C., expressed strong support of SWTFC  
FWS committed to funding 4 students to work 8 weeks at MTFH and Alchesay-Williams Cr NFH

#### Update on Rio Grande Cutthroat Program

Mike commented on positive dialog underway with State of NM on native fish cooperative efforts  
Draft coop agreement between MAT and NM is currently under review at MAT – so far, document looks favorable  
SWTFC is serving as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to the agreement; helping to facilitate future broader tribal cooperation  
The MAT-SWTFC-NM agreement may work as a template for other tribes  
Mike briefly discussed strains of RGC to be available, uses of the fish, plans for exchanges (RGC strains) w/NM  
Steve asked about meeting requirements of TWG – particularly our commitments under the FWS-funded grant  
Jim Brooks (FWS) pointed out no FWS concerns or issues with MAT/SWTFC performance under the TWG grant

#### Draft FWS Cooperative Agreement

Draft document has been exchanged for reviews; currently resides with SWTFC to finalize and submit  
Butch commented that this is an opportune time to develop this agreement between SWTFC and FWS  
The agreement is very important to SWTFC and its future relationship with FWS  
SWTFC will work with FWS to complete this agreement in the near future

#### **Strategic Plan Update (Butch, Mike, Steve)**

The Executive Committee recently completed an update to the SWTFC 5-Year Strategic Plan (2004)  
Copies of the revised plan were provided; the proposed changes were reviewed with the group  
Changes were relatively minor and do not reflect any major change in priorities or direction  
Updates included: new member tribes identified; ‘goals completed’ added; ‘current projects’ updated; Exec. Board members updated; implementation timelines updated; operating cost estimates updated  
Motion by Nelson Luna to approve the update; 2<sup>nd</sup> from Jackie Keryte; Unanimous approval  
Steve to finalize plan with signatures and make available in PDF over the SWTFC website

#### **NAFWS Update (Norman Jojola)**

Upcoming nat. conference in Reno, NV, to be hosted by Pyramid Lake Paiute May 20-24, Silver Legacy Resort  
Large agenda is nearly finalized; available at NAFWS website; Invitation has all registration/lodging information  
Contact Norman Jojola for more information on the conference; can also checkout NAFWS website  
Norman also reminded group about NAFWS fundraiser currently underway  
Raffle tickets are still available for a trophy bull elk hunt on MAT reservation

#### **Update on Fundraising Efforts (Butch)**

Butch needs help of group to come up with ideas on avenues for securing outside funding  
Opportunities are out there; need to obtain the funds to hire an Executive Director  
SWTFC operates on “soft”, year-end money  
Butch to talk to SW region directors of BIA, FWS about joint-funding of Executive Director position  
Butch would like to have tribes provide updates at SWTFC meeting on fisheries activities at their reservations

#### **Fundraising Committee Update (Steve, for Jeff Cole)**

Steve explained the effort currently underway to acquire tribal contributions for SWTFC fundraising later this year  
Tribes are being asked to donate goods/services that can be auctioned off at an event to-be-determined still  
Some contributions already include guided hunts, fishing permits, pottery, and blankets  
Jeff Cole at Navajo Fish & Wildlife is heading up the fundraising effort and should be contacted about donations  
The Fund Raising Committee still needs to plan out an event for holding the auction (date, venue, etc.)

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update (Chris, Jim)**

Stocking of rainbow trout in tribal waters continues, expected to end in June  
FWS drivers now have cell phones and are better equipped to communicate on delivery/arrival times  
Cell phone numbers will be provided to tribes, upon request – contact Chris Kitcheyan  
There is a fixed amount of trout available to tribes; Additional fish must be purchased (call Mike at MTFH!)  
Channel catfish are currently being provided to 6 tribes in FWS Region 2  
Currently, available catfish start small, get larger throughout year.  
FWS is considering option of starting at larger size, 10-12”.  
If larger size is implemented, total numbers of fish will be reduced, but poundage will be comparable  
If help with fish sampling is needed, contact Chris. Sampling is good to evaluate fish condition and stocking needs.  
Reminder about FWS requirement for tribal management plans. Chris will work with tribes on development.  
John Antonio’s former FWS Tribal Liaison position still being advertised; uncertain about permanent replacement  
Jim discussed Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration opportunity on Rio Nambe (on Nambe Pueblo)  
Pueblo Council has decided to undertake a major effort to restore RGC, including possible hatchery development  
Pueblo has strong support of FWS; FWS encourages Pueblo to work with SWTFC on feasibility, facilitation  
Steve Romero – Environment Director at Nambe Pueblo – is the contact

### **Update on Western Native Trout Initiative / Fish Passage Program Funding Opportunities (Jim)**

Jim would like SWTFC help in identifying potential projects for grant funding under these two programs  
Many past proposals from SW, including projects on Gila, Apache, and RGC trout restoration  
Stephanie Coleman (works for Chris K.) will soon be in touch with SWTFC to solicit input on possible projects  
Hope to have proposals done by end of October 2007  
Butch invites Jim to present subject again at next SWTFC meeting in August  
Mike expressed strong appreciation for NMFRO and its support of SWTFC/MTFH efforts  
Suggestion is made for SWTFC to develop a “briefing paper” (1 page) outlining its purpose/accomplishments  
This document could be an easy, convenient tool for gaining support of potential funding entities  
Butch also suggests that Commission members consider offering presentations on their respective fisheries programs  
The presentations could be offered at SWTFC meetings and help familiarize members with programs/activities

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM**

**Next meeting: *Quarterly Meeting - August 2007 (San Carlos Apache Reservation)*  
Details still to be determined.**

#### **Meeting Minutes taken by:**

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission  
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