



SWTFC Executive Committee Meeting

BIA Southwest Regional Office – Albuquerque, NM / July 22, 2005

Meeting Convened at 9:15AM

Attendance: Butch Blazer, Jim White, Steve Whiteman, Mike Montoya,
John Antonio, Joe Jojola, Shenan Atcitty

Open Discussion

All member tribes have been contacted and we anticipate all will be attending upcoming special meeting at WMAT – sufficient attendance to vote on critical bylaws amendment (i.e., dissolution clause)

Cameron Martinez and Norman Jojola at Northern Pueblos Agency are pursuing BIA funding to offset current SWTFC budget deficit – need to boost Mescalero 638 contract that sustains SWTFC

Cameron and Norman are contacting regional superintendents for “extra” BIA funding throughout region

The BIA – Mescalero Agency has awarded \$10,500 to the Mescalero Apache Tribe / Dept. of Resource Management and Protection (MAT DRMP) for the “Eagle Creek Aeration and Vegetation Control Project” (ECAVCP)

MAT DRMP would like to contract ECAVCP to SWTFC for implementation (Mike to oversee)
Mike estimates actual project expenses at \$4,861, with balance of \$5,639 to supplement SWTFC accounts
Mike and Steve need to setup additional SWTFC accounts for Equipment and Materials and Supplies

***SW moved to approve contract development with MAT DRMP for the ECAVCP;
JW seconded motion; Unanimous BOD approval***

Shenan indicated that EDA funding has been restored by Congress; this should lead to MTFH renovation funding in FY06!

Butch emphasized importance of SWTFC gaining access to Native American Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NAFWF) funding

Rebecca Reynolds, private consultant in Denver, will be working with Norman Jojola on getting NAFWF funds to SWTFC – Butch expecting real progress soon.

Butch indicates that access to NAFWF will open tremendous funding opportunities for SWTFC, especially from wealthy private party(s) supportive of SWTFC

Butch described a new funding opportunity with the NM Dept. of Indian Affairs - Tribal Infrastructure Fund; An SWTFC proposal for capital outlay at MTFH needs to be developed
Mike is working on plans for a new MTFH equipment storage building plus other misc. improvements
If funded, improvements would complement the MTFH renovation plans under the current EDA proposal

Discussion on 501c3 Application

Discussion took place on SWTFC's need for a Conflict of Interest Policy – Recommended by Shenan as an important element of 501c3 integrity

Shenan recommends that the standard IRS language be adopted as SWTFC's policy; this does not constitute an amendment to the bylaws – simply an SWTFC operating policy

SW moved to approve adoption of standard IRS language on Conflict of Interest as SWTFC policy; JW seconded motion; Unanimous BOD approval

The filing fee for 501c3 status is approx. \$500

Mike recommends, and group agrees, that an accountant should be retained by SWTFC for full financial accountability; An accountant in Albuquerque who specializes in 501c3s has been recommended

Professional accounting services will also be important for 501c3 integrity, esp. with the variety of funding anticipated for SWTFC in the future

Annual cost for SWTFC accounting services expected to be several hundred dollars

Discussion occurred on SWTFC's IRS status as: Private Foundation vs. Public Charity
Based on how SWTFC operates and IRS criteria, Shenan recommends filing as public charity – BOD agrees

BOD expected to approve submittal of App during a future ExCom meeting (after Aug. 4 special meeting)

Open Discussion - Continued

Review and discussion took place on a draft MOA between SWTFC and MAT for operation of MTFH in FY06; responsibilities of both parties are spelled out in MOA; minor edits were made to the draft

***JW moved to approve submittal of the draft SWTFC-MAT MOA as amended; SW seconded motion; Unanimous BOD approval
Copy of draft document available to members upon request.***

Review and discussion took place on a draft SWTFC-USFWS Coop. Agreement; Agreement spells out specific cooperative commitments of both parties; edits were made to the draft

***SW moved to approve submittal of the draft SWTFC-USFWS Coop. Agreement; JW seconded motion; Unanimous BOD approval
Copy of draft document available to members upon request.***

The group discussed the status of SWTFC membership; concern about Isleta membership resolution that has not materialized yet

Other tribes/pueblos we very much hope to “enlist” in SWTFC soon: Cochiti, Picuris, Zuni, Taos, San Carlos Apache, White Mtn. Apache – Critical that we obtain resolutions.

Butch, Mike, Shenan to make personal contacts with officials of above tribes

Planning took place for agenda of upcoming ExCom meeting at White Mtn Apache
Next quarterly meeting planned for Friday, September 23rd – Mescalero, NM (Inn of Mtn Gods)

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 PM