



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Meeting Minutes / August 12, 2004 / Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado

Meeting convened by Butch Blazer @ 12:30PM

Butch provided an agenda overview and discussed his plans to address future SWTFC funding needs. Butch will be discussing surplus FY04 funding with Gary Rankel (BIA), and also traveling to D.C. soon. He will meet with Nat'l. Fish & Wildlife Foundation reps and other Federal officials. Butch will also meet with ANA reps about grant opportunities for funding SWTFC activities.

Other news....

Butch gave an overview of Mike Montoya's accomplishments at Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)

FishPro's MTFH business plan is almost complete; Ken Ferjancic (FishPro) would like to meet with the SWTFC Executive Committee in the near future to discuss this plan. The MTFH Business plan will be presented to Mescalero Tribal Council. Butch expects that Mescalero will be considering/approving a resolution of SWTFC membership at this meeting.

No results at this time on USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant application, but announcements by USFWS expected very soon.

Steve Whiteman presented the results of the logo contest; votes were taken at the meeting and the following twelve tribes were represented in the vote: Southern Ute, Northern Ute, Colorado River, Zuni, Sandia, Jicarilla, San Juan, Salt River, Mescalero, White Mtn, Pyramid Lake, Navajo. The winning logo, with four votes total, was Mike Montoya's logo (Entry #3). Mike generously declined the \$500 award, expressing his desire that this money be used by the SWTFC toward meeting Commission goals.

Mike Montoya discussed stocking of fish from MTFH and the need for a strategic plan to address a variety of issues that have come up. During this discussion, Paul Holmes urged the Executive Committee to obtain its 501c status to facilitate fund raising needs.

Jim White discussed the SWTFC "membership drive". Unfortunately, no new Tribes have signed up. Current Members are: Southern and Northern Ute, Navajo, Jicarilla, Santa Clara, Laguna, and Sandia. Cochiti is not an official member yet, but has approved of the SWTFC "concept". Steve suggested that the SWTFC should identify the Tribes that participate in SWTFC but which have not become members yet. We should determine why they are not members. Membership is presently at \$100/year, and SWTFC will make presentations to tribal leaders, if necessary, to gain support.

No progress to report on MOU regarding State-Fed fish importation laws that present potential problems for SWTFC stocking activities. Jim will discuss issue more with Alex Puglisi at Sandia.

Mike Montoya gave an update on acquisition of surplus Federal property. Tribes are well positioned to receive Federal equipment, esp. through BIA agencies. Jennifer Smith has been especially effective through BIA/Mescalero Agency. Process of property acquisition is fairly simple; Tribes should work through respective agencies when desired equipment becomes available.

Shenan Atcitty provided an update on the SWTFC corporate filing. Papers are ready for submission in New Mexico, just need directors' signatures. AZ corporation will need to be dissolved due to discontinued SWTFC administrative presence in AZ. In NM, need to file articles AND bylaws. (Slightly different than AZ law). Shenan gave overview of SWTFC articles and bylaws to be submitted in NM. No substantive changes from AZ documents.

Paul Holmes motioned to have BOD sign and submit NM papers as presented by Shenan. Jim White – 2nd, Vote – 12 for, 0 against. Papers were signed by Butch, Jim, Steve. Shenan will submit to NM.

John Antonio Overview of SUIT-funded media campaign as follows:

Video. Preferred contractor is Pete Drown- Video Specialist. Due to limited budget for video, Pete may need to keep video clips to local Albuquerque area and Mescalero; 1/3 of costs needed up-front. Budget: \$5,000+

Website. Preferred contractor Amanda Moores – Website Developer. Offering ½ price discount for SWTFC website. \$1,000 fee, with \$500 up-front. Budget: \$2,500-

Brochure. Mike Montoya has a draft that will be further developed. Budget: \$2,500-

Steve motioned to authorize discretionary spending by John Antonio on media campaign expenses (e.g., if video production is over-budget and other projects are under-budget). Paul – 2nd, Vote – 12 for, 0 against. Discussion: Paul – Would like to see bidding utilized in future projects. John Antonio will run drafts of media documents through the SWTFC for review/comment.

[Note: Due to delayed 501c status for the SWTFC, the Southern Ute media campaign grant check is being cancelled and re-written to the Southwest Region NAFWS, which in-turn will provide the full \$10,000 to fund the SWTFC media campaign.]

Butch touched on the need to brainstorm future funding strategies. Butch would like to see a winter '04 SWTFC meeting to develop a strategic plan, perhaps professionally facilitated.

San Carlos Apache rep expressed concern about de-watering of San Carlos Lake due to downstream water-user demand. The lake fishery is 25-50% of tribal revenue. San Carlos is attempting to establish a minimum pool in the lake to protect the fishery. Total fish kill is expected soon due to inadequate lake level. Downstream interests include Indian and non-Indian water users. San Carlos would like to join the SWTFC, and a resolution of membership is expected soon.

Motion to adjourn made, 2nd-ed, and approved at approx. 2:30PM.

Minutes taken by:

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