



# Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA SW Regional Office – Albuquerque, NM / Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 2007

## Meeting Convened at 9:30AM

### Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Butch Blazer (Chairman)
2. Southern Ute Tribe	Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer)
3. Navajo Nation	Jeff Cole
4. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Kevin Terry
5. Santa Clara Pueblo	Ben Chavarria, Adrian Garcia
6. Laguna Pueblo	Adrienne Tiller, Russ Martin
7. Sandia Pueblo	Paul Holmes
8. Pyramid Lake Tribe	not present
9. Picuris Pueblo	not present
10. Isleta Pueblo	not present
11. Zuni Pueblo	not present
12. Cochiti Pueblo	not present
13. Okay Owingeh	not present
14. Northern Ute Tribe	not present
15. San Carlos Apache Tribe	not present

### Other Officials/Guests:

SWTFC Executive Director - Mike Montoya  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Chris Kitcheyan, Pete Stine (retired)  
Holland & Knight – Shenan Atcitty

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

Per usual procedure, Steve presented November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006 quarterly meeting minutes for approval. No concerns or edits to the past minutes – which were distributed by email - were communicated to Steve. Motion to approve the minutes by Adrienne Tiller with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Cole; Minutes approved by unanimous consent. Steve explained the two separate books being kept since October: SWTFC-related funds and MTFH-related funds. Former "SWTFC Service Account" was split due to MAT taking over operation of MTFH in FY07 from SWTFC. SWTFC's funds (mostly from donations) are presently all committed to a \$25K Bank CD (matures March 2007). SWTFC is vested in \$20,613.05 in the CD; The balance (\$4,386.95) must be paid to MAT to be fully vested. MTFH balance is at \$93,806.24. Activity since Oct. 2 2006 Meeting: Revenue=\$32,737.32, Expense=\$14,901.77. Steve will continue to assist with bookkeeping on MTFH for remainder of FY07, then hand-over to MAT. A detailed financial report showing all activity with both funds was provided at the meeting. Butch gave a brief overview of SWTFC funding history for new participants at the meeting. The BIA SW Region is looking to secure \$35K-\$40K in funding support in FY07. Steve gave early notice of an upcoming election for Vice-Chair position. Albert John (current VC) has been serving out the remainder of former VC Jim White's term. Election to be held at SWTFC annual meeting in April in Albuquerque. More info will be provided later.

### Executive Officer Update (Mike Montoya)

MTFH Disease testing begins on Feb 15; the hatchery will be out of service through March 20<sup>th</sup>. Tribes wanting to stock fish soon should have orders submitted well before the Feb 15 closing date. Fisheries management / aquaculture training is becoming a major emphasis at MTFH. MAT hopes to offer tribal training opportunities at MTFH to help develop tribal fisheries professionals. Shelly Belin (MAT Member) to begin hatchery work on Monday (under scholarship). Alisha Antonio (NMSU graduate) also to work temporarily at the hatchery. Residences at MTFH are being now converted to student dormitories. Pat Durham (FWS in DC) is also developing a Native American Fellows program for tribal fisheries professionals.

Mike wants to partner in FWS effort and is coordinating with Pat  
Mike explained status of the draft MOU between SWTFC and FWS; nearly complete  
The MOU would address important aspects of relationship between SWTFC and FWS, such as disease testing  
The completion of the MOU was delayed due to some unfortunate health issues for Mike in Fall 2006  
Mike offers to provide letters of support from SWTFC for Tribal fisheries-related TWG applications  
MAT is re-submitting a TWG proposal for a tribal fisheries training and education program at MTFH  
Paul asked about status of EDA grant for MTFH  
Delays have occurred with EDA grant due to national funding issues, but general support for the grant continues  
Paul asked about possibilities of purchasing large, trophy-size fish from MTFH  
Mike indicated that many requests for large fish have been met, thanks especially to 9" fish received *free* from FWS  
MTFH will try to fill all trophy fish requests, however, demand for trophy fish exceeds capacity of MTFH  
More tribal grow-out facilities coming on-line could help in satisfying Tribal demands for large fish  
State funding opportunities (e.g., NM Capital Outlay program) could benefit individual tribes in developing facilities  
Mike emphasized that, not only is facility development important, but also human resource development  
MTFH is ideal opportunity for promoting and developing interests of tribal youth

### **Chairman Update (Butch Blazer)**

Butch gave an update on revision of the SWTFC's 5-year strategic plan  
The draft will be posted on the website for review and comment once it's available  
Revised plan is expected to be approved at the April annual meeting  
*Status of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout project:*  
Executive Committee meeting was held on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss acquisition of broodstock, possibly from NMGF  
Butch gave a summary of developments with Jicarilla's Poso Creek trout population; unfortunately won't work  
The Jan 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with NMGF was very encouraging; SWTFC and NMGF share common goals  
An agreement will likely be developed between MAT, NMGF, and SWTFC, with SWTFC serving as a "facilitator"  
Mike briefly mentioned improvements at MTFH to support RGC rearing program  
Capabilities to readily switch from single-pass to re-circulation, as needed  
MTFH RGC program will be an excellent opportunity to provide fish to tribes for restoration projects  
Mike hopes to receive eggs by April/May 2007 to avoid another 1-year delay in implementing program  
Recreational uses of RGC *not* the priority at this time; focus right now is on restoration of key populations  
A RGC Workgroup (multi-agency) will be meeting next week in Santa Fe; Steve and Mike to attend for SWTFC  
*NAFWS Update:*

Butch was recently elected to 1 of 2 BOD positions for SW region (Marilyn Ethelbah is the other BOD)  
A NAFWS meeting was held at Nat'l Office in Denver on Dec 9-10 to hire new national director  
New NAFWS Executive Director is Fred Matt, member of Salish-Kootenai in Montana  
Fred is a former NAFWS BOD, Tribal Chairman, and president of the Intertribal Timber Council  
Butch is very optimistic about Fred's skills and capabilities in new position  
One strong desire is to resolve the conflict between the Society and NA Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
Butch offered brief history of the Foundation and rift that has developed with Society  
Dispute is currently in court; \$300K is presently "safe" in an account, but not accessible  
National meeting of NAFWS is scheduled for mid-May in Reno, NV  
One challenge for this conference is to replace John Antonio on the planning committee  
John was recently elected governor for Laguna Pueblo and does not have time for the planning committee  
Butch would like to hear from anyone interested in volunteering for the planning committee  
Financially, NAFWS is in good shape; recent audit was passed  
SWTFC will need support of NAFWS and Butch and Marilyn are committed to this  
MAT donated a trophy bull elk hunt package for NAFWS fundraising  
Butch briefly described the raffle and funding generated already

### **Fundraising Committee Update (Jeff Cole)**

Committee last met in Fall 2006; a draft letter soliciting support from tribal clientele has been developed  
Additional batch of SWTFC brochures is needed; Perhaps Joe Jojola can assist by contacting John Antonio  
Paul Holmes recommends updating the brochure with new photos; Paul was invited to submit photos  
Discussion of setting up a raffle for SWTFC  
Tribal contributions to raffle are requested; contact Jeff Cole at [jcole@navajofishandwildlife.org](mailto:jcole@navajofishandwildlife.org).  
Jeff will work on a letter about the raffle; Also will arrange a meeting with the fundraising committee

### **Legislative Update (Shenan Atcitty)**

Shenan updated the group on recent developments, legislation by new Congressional leadership in D.C.

Much attention has been focused on Indian gaming issues; not expected to continue under Democratic leadership  
More attention probably will go toward resolving Cobell lawsuit and Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
Shenan thinks more opportunities will come with tribal economic and natural resources development  
New Mexico Congressional representation is looking strong for tribal interests  
BIA looking at major budget cuts; huge challenge will be to restore some of this funding  
No major changes in federal programs expected for remainder of Administration's term  
SWTFC focus should be on excess or year-end funds from FWS, BIA, etc.  
SWTFC should not expect any earmarks, line-funding in the near future due to national funding priorities  
501c(3) has been filed; SWTFC can now pursue new private foundation funding  
EDA grant is still "alive"; MAT to strategize on presenting this in 2007

## **Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM**

**Next meeting: *Annual Meeting* - April 2007 (Albuquerque BIA - Date to be determined)**

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

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission  
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