



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA Northern Pueblos Agency - Ohkay Owingeh, NM
 October 14th 2011

Meeting Convened at approx. 9:10 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Laguna Pueblo | Adam Ringia (Vice-Chairman) |
| 2. Southern Ute Tribe | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 3. Jicarilla Apache Nation | Kevin Terry |
| 4. Santa Clara Pueblo | Gilbert Gutierrez |
| 5. Pueblo of Taos | Sylvia Rains Dennis |
| 6. Ohkay Owingeh | Not present |
| 7. Zuni Pueblo | Not present |
| 8. Sandia Pueblo | Not present |
| 9. Isleta Pueblo | Not present |
| 10. Nambe Pueblo | Not present |
| 11. Cochiti Pueblo | Not present |
| 12. Picuris Pueblo | Not present |
| 13. Navajo Nation | Not present |
| 14. Ute Tribe (U&O) | Not present |
| 15. Mescalero Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 16. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 17. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present |

Other Attendees:

Mike Montoya, SWTFC/Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
 Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
 Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
 Jennifer Smith, BIA Mescalero Agency
 Mescalero AmeriCorps Members (Julia Keating, Shantal Shanta)
 Curtis Sandoval, Pueblo of Taos, Lieutenant WarChief, Pueblo of Taos Ecology Programs Division / Wildlife and Habitat Team (8 team members)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Mike welcomed the group; due to the large number of new faces, Mike gave a brief history of the SWTFC

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Per usual meeting procedure, Steve presented past meeting minutes and financial status
 The financial report for SWTFC includes the “Discretionary” and “Feed & Fuel” accounts, as follows:

	Discretionary Account	Feed & Fuel Account
Last reported Balance (as of 8/18/11)	\$28,091.76	\$522,878.02
Period Expenses	\$10.65	\$3,707.00
Period Revenues	\$250.00	\$26,499.25
Ending Balance (as of 10/12/11)	\$28,331.11	\$545,670.27

For Discretionary, the only expense was a Wells Fargo monthly service charge
 Discretionary revenue was the refund of a NAFWS conference registration fee (i.e., for former Chair Antonio)
 The Feed & Fuel expense was a fish feed purchase from Nelsons, and revenue was two tribal fish purchases
 Steve followed-up on the Wells Fargo monthly charge related to on-line banking; the service/fee has been cancelled

Steve presented the minutes from SWTFC quarterly meetings on August 25th 2011, as well as April 7th
Due to lack of quorum at *this* meeting, the approval of minutes for both August 25th and April 7th is postponed
Corrections to the Aug 25th minutes, requested by Sylvia and Pete Stine, have been made by Steve and posted online

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Due to lack of quorum, we were unable to hold a special election of SWTFC Chairman
Mike briefly explained the Feed/Fuel Account, how it evolved, how it is growing, and its intended purpose
The average market price for hatchery rec trout is now around \$4/lb.; SWTFC is charging member tribes \$2.35/lb.
Mike indicated that Nelson Feed is *not* charging for deliveries from Salt Lake City – a *very* nice benefit to SWTFC
SWTFC is currently working on an MOU with MAT; hopefully to be ready for approval in near future
The MOU will describe the shared fiscal responsibilities of SWTFC and MAT for operating MTFH
MTFH has been operating at “120% capacity”, due to holding of additional 80K trout for tribes on behalf of FWS
The additional FWS fish are being held at MTFH due to the current closure at Alchesay NFH
The FWS is providing all feed for their fish at MTFH, plus delivery to tribal stocking sites
Recent stocking on tribal lands have been a huge relief on crowded raceways at MTFH
Mike is encouraged about possible continued cooperation with FWS in 2012; need more discussion on expenses
Kevin asked about the possibility of having FWS Alchesay staff possibly being temporarily assigned to MTFH
Mike sees greater advantage in sending AmeriCorps kids at MTFH to Alchesay NFH for additional training
Mike introduced the Sovereign Nations Service Corp (SNSC), a 3-year project of AmeriCorps assigned to MAT
Shantal briefly discussed her experiences working at MTFH on behalf of AmeriCorps
Projects included stream restoration, hatchery operations, trail and pond construction, spring protection
A request was made to hold a presentation (w/photos) of SNSC projects at our next SWTFC meeting
Mike emphasized the availability of SNSC to go to different tribal lands to provide workforce service for a year
Mike also talked about a new area of interest for SNSC; agriculture
Julia gave a brief discussion of planned SNSC agricultural activities at Mescalero
Kevin mentioned the possible advantages of using hatchery effluent from MTFH to support agricultural production
Taos is interested in doing native fish and habitat restoration projects, and in looking at reference ecology
Curtis spoke to the importance of the youth ecology program at Taos, for educational and environmental values
Curtis also mentioned the possibility of developing a hatchery-type facility to maintain native cutthroat trout
Also, Curtis indicated the potential political assistance Taos can provide to important tribal causes (like SWTFC)
Sylvia suggested the possibility of SWTFC sponsoring an intertribal peer mentorship program
Mike, and other tribal reps, see strong feasibility in SWTFC implementing this type of program
There was discussion about possibly reviving the newsletter to help promote a “youth exchange” effort
Sylvia expressed some concern about unnecessary bureaucratic and media involvement that could complicate it
Mike and Kevin indicated we can keep the effort very simple to start
There was also discussion about FWS’ YCC Program, opportunities with tribes and funding challenges
Transportation, liability, insurance are all issues that would still need to be discussed; SWTFC may be able to help

Acting Chairman Report (Adam Ringia)

Adam gave a brief personal background for the group, as well as some of the NR management challenges at Laguna
Adam spoke to the challenges of leadership in SWTFC; past leaders have moved on to positions in D.C.
Adam re-iterated a strong desire to see more information exchange among SWTFC members about their projects
Adam is enthusiastic about youth-in-natural resource programs available in conjunction with SWTFC
Adam asked Mike to prepare a brief narrative for tribes explaining SNSC and how tribes can access it
YCC is a separate program of the FWS that is also available to tribes
It would be good to have FWS provide written documentation of how YCC is setup and how it can be accessed
Adam clarified that SWTFC supports the several different youth program models that have been discussed
Adam requested updated information be sent to Steve for incorporation into the SWTFC website

Taos Pueblo Membership in SWTFC (Curtis Sandoval / Sylvia Rains Dennis)

As requested by Lt. WarChief Curtis Sandoval, Sylvia spoke of the shared goals of Taos and SWTFC, and specifically on some challenging incidents at Taos
Curtis addressed the group with a statement on Taos Pueblo’s support for SWTFC and read a Council resolution
Resolution indicates unanimous, favorable vote by Taos leadership for the Pueblo to become a member of SWTFC
As requested by Lt. WarChief Curtis Sandoval, Sylvia gave an overview of the fish resources at Taos Pueblo and desire for comprehensive ecological restoration

SWTFC Representation w/ Desert Fish and Three Species (Kevin Terry)

Kevin serves as the appointed SWTFC rep on the Steering Committee of the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership

DFHP is an organization that can help fund/support native, non-trout restoration projects on tribal and other lands
Kevin will keep SWTFC members updated on DFHP projects and activities; next annual will be in Salt Lake City
Kevin is also involved in the Three Species Agreement, focused on roundtail chub, bluehead/flannelmouth sucker
Finally, Kevin also participates in the Rio Grande Cutthroat Workgroup
Kevin will keep SWTFC updated on these different groups and welcomes feedback, questions, etc. from members

Other Business

Adam spoke of Kai-T Blue Sky's request for SWTFC endorsement for DFHP

Kai-T is specifically interested in serving on the DFHP Executive Committee as Native American representative

Mike spoke about Kai-T's character and work history, advocacy for tribes

Mike read a draft letter of endorsement for Kai-T for DFHP; no objections from group. Adam will sign and send.

FWS update was tabled; no FWS staff present

Norman announced that Southern Ute will be hosting the 2012 NAFWS SW Regional Conference

Norman also emphasized that tribes need to identify their needs so that SWTFC and others can help

Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm

Next Meeting:

SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – January 2011

Date and location to be determined.

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer

Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

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