



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA SW Regional Office – Albuquerque, NM / November 12, 2008

Meeting Convened at approx. 1:40 PM

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. Zuni Pueblo | Nelson Luna |
| 6. Isleta Pueblo | Jackie Keryte |
| 7. Navajo Nation | Not present |
| 8. Cochiti Pueblo | Not present |
| 9. Laguna Pueblo | Not present |
| 10. Okay Owingeh | Not present |
| 11. Santa Clara Pueblo | Not present |
| 12. Sandia Pueblo | Not present |
| 13. Picuris Pueblo | Not present |
| 14. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 15. Ute Tribe (U&O) | Not present |

Other Attendees:

Mike Montoya, SWTFC/Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, FWS Southwest Regional Director
Brian Millsap, FWS Southwest Regional Deputy Director
Mike Oetker, FWS Asst. Regional Director (Fisheries)
Charna Lefton, FWS Asst. Regional Director (Public Affairs)
Chris Kitcheyan, FWS ABQ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
Joe Early, FWS Southwest Region Native American Liaison
Bill Walker, BIA Acting Southwest Regional Director
Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southern Pueblos Agency
Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
Pete Stine, FWS Retired
Carlos Trujillo, Isleta Pueblo
William Wadsworth, Pyramid Lake

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Steve presented the August 11th quarterly meeting minutes for approval

Per usual procedure, the minutes were emailed out following last meeting; no corrections have been submitted

Motion for approval of past minutes: Albert John 2nd: Nelson Luna. Unanimous approval.

Last reported bank account balance (from June 24, 2008 bank statement) was \$21,413.67

Current balance (from most recently received statement, October 24, 2008) is \$22,061.67 for a net increase of \$648

The \$648 was a personal donation by Mike Montoya related to his fisheries consulting service to Holloman AFB

Also, additional funds (\$1,545) are being received from the NAFWS Fundraising at the SW Regional conference

The \$1,545 was generated primarily from donated hunts/items by Jicarilla, Mescalero, Navajo, and Southern Ute

Lastly, Kevin Terry presented a \$1,500 donation check from the Jicarilla Apache Nation

Jicarilla elected to make this donation at a recent discussion with Kevin about the proposed SWTFC stamp program

Jicarilla has not yet formally approved its own stamp fundraiser for SWTFC, but will re-visit this in spring 2009

Chairman Report (Butch Blazer)

Butch noted how the changing federal administration will require renewed networking effort with federal officials
SWTFC needs to continue its effort to build a strong funding base
Continued operation of MTFH will be an ongoing challenge due to budget constraints
Tribes need to continue their strong efforts in natural resource mgmt, diversification, and maintenance of revenues
SWTFC will continue to help tribes as much as it can
NAFWS will hold a regional directors meeting in ABQ in fall 2008, possibly at Isleta Pueblo
Butch gave a brief update on NAFW Foundation, and work toward resolving issue of \$300K held on behalf of tribes
NAFWF has made some important concessions on the funds issue
Butch expects this to finally be resolved favorably for tribes at the upcoming NAFWS meeting
Butch noted that MAT has recently completed elections, and that Mike continues to do outstanding work at MTFH
Butch also acknowledged Mike's outstanding efforts at involving local youth at MTFH

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Flood Damage Update.

Mike summarized fish losses from flood damage and ash-flow into the hatchery
There was an outstanding effort by youth to save fish at the hatchery by removing debris from water intakes
A pH spike was the fatal factor causing fish loss at MTFH, but it wasn't a total loss
A similar flood 8 years ago completely knocked out FWS operation of the hatchery; many fish saved this time
BIA and NRCS were both hugely helpful in repairs to hatchery buildings and facilities following flood
All fish delivery commitments have been met this year, but uncertain about availability of fish later next year
If there is a fish shortage impact (from the flood), it will be spread among all fish buyers (tribes)
Fish are essentially only made available to tribal governments at cost to raise and deliver
MAT receives 1,200 lbs of fish for MAT lakes in return for use of MTFH facility and partial salary for Mike

SWTFC Funding.

Mike noted successful efforts to secure YCC and Flood Relief grants
MAT and Mike are currently hiring for positions in the YCC youth corp
Mike provided job applications/announcements and requests tribal assistance with posting/advertising
Mike described long-term vision of developing youth (preferably tribal) into fisheries professionals
Positions are not limited to Native Americans only; goal is to develop future professionals for work on tribal lands
Mike acknowledged importance of BIA 638 funding, and esp. Joe Jojola's efforts to locate new funding for SWTFC
Mike is interested in identifying and working with private donors to help sustain SWTFC core functions
Mike also acknowledged importance of FWS, esp. on: fish disease testing, trout eggs, financial support for youth programs, excess property transfer, TWG funding support for native fish work, and esp. for the dedicated assistance of Chris Kitcheyan (plaque and certificate presented to Chris by Mike)
Mike notified group of award of NM Capital Outlay Funds (\$186K) secured for spring improvement at MTFH
Mescalero Fire Department will soon be leaving MTFH buildings, allowing far better equipment/supply storage

SWTFC-FWS MOU Signing Ceremony (Butch Blazer and Dr. Benjamin Tuggle)

Butch acknowledged outstanding working relationship of SWTFC and FWS
Dr. Tuggle noted importance of partnerships, exemplified with SWTFC
Dr. Tuggle noted that federal financial resources are limited, but staff assistance is a valuable resource to share
Dr. Tuggle sees the MOU as a foundation for strong future collaboration between FWS and SWTFC
Butch and Dr. Tuggle both signed the MOU

New FWS Asst. Regional Director Introduction (Mike Oetker)

Mike is from the Great Lakes region; enjoys being in southwest and working with tribes
Mike noted FWS' strong mandate to work with tribes, and he indicated his strong commitment to follow mandate
Mike also noted the importance of developing youth in the fisheries profession, and will work on this with Mike M.

Fish & Wildlife Service Update (Chris Kitcheyan)

FWS should have genetic purity results in February for Santa Clara Creek Rio Grande cutthroat
Draft MOA between New Mexico and MAT on sharing native cutthroats is currently in MAT's hands
Western Native Trout Initiative: Out of 11 proposals received, the 3 tribal proposals ranked very well, as follows:
Santa Clara #2, Taos #5, Mescalero #8 (Great job to all!!!)
Additional proposal screening still to occur at higher levels in review process; project awards to come later

Fish Disease Alert

Ennis NFH has unknowingly distributed eggs infected with *cutthroat trout virus (CTV)* to numerous hatcheries
Both MTFH and Williams Creek-Alchesay NFH have received these eggs and are presumed to be infected
MTFH may choose to have an inspection by FWS; Strongly recommended to contact Dexter NFH to arrange testing
Tribal stocking for Nov and Dec 2008 will not take place due to wait period on recent fish health testing results
There is much uncertainty on CTV threat level for southwest native trout species (Apache, Gila, Rio Grande cut)
Presently feds are suspending deliveries/stocking from infected sources until risk is better understood
CTV has been known about for many years, but is still poorly understood; *unknown* if detrimentally affects fish
CTV transmits vertically (from broodstock to eggs); *no known human health risk*
Chris to provide SWTFC with scientific literature on cutthroat trout virus; Steve to send out to SWTFC members

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM

Next Meeting:

SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – January 2009
Location to be determined.

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
swhitema@southern-ute.nsn.us

SWTFC Executive Committee Meeting (Nov 13 2008, 4:15 - 5:00PM, BIA SW Reg. Office)

Attendance: Butch Blazer, Steve Whiteman, Mike Montoya

Butch, Steve, and Mike discussed the current financial status of SWTFC and how funds are accounted for and monitored. Mike continues to maintain a “feed/fuel” account which consists entirely of related income (i.e., tribal fish purchase revenues) and expenses (i.e., fish feed and delivery costs). Although, this account is managed to ensure reduced, “at-cost” pricing for SWTFC member tribes, the account has been growing over time. Most recently, account funds invested in an interest-bearing CD returned approximately \$8K. Butch and Steve indicated it would be best to roll this return into the SWTFC “discretionary” account, which mainly consists of member tribe donations and incidental expenses.

A BIA-638 contract pays primarily for half of Mike’s salary, while MAT picks up the remaining half. MAT also provides the MTFH facility for SWTFC administration and fish production. In return, MAT receives fish for its lake stocking, as well as significant outreach to its youth through Mike’s onsite youth programs. MTFH continues to operate under the SWTFC 501c3 “umbrella”, and MAT leadership appears content with this arrangement. Butch, Steve, and Mike discussed the possibility of obtaining assistance from MAT’s CFO (as an independent contractor) to ensure proper expense/revenue accounting and 501c3 compliance. Mike will look into this.

Butch, Steve, and Mike also discussed Mike’s interest in having SWTFC purchase, using various grant funds, a skid steer and trailer for O&M work at MTFH. Estimated costs for new equipment are between \$50K and \$60K. Mike believes this would be extremely helpful for various tasks at MTFH, and is confident the equipment could be “rented out” to recoup costs. Butch and Steve requested that Mike compile more information on the specific equipment to purchase.

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
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swhitema@southern-ute.nsn.us