



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA Southwest Regional Office – ABQ, NM / Nov 23, 2010

Meeting Convened at approx. 9:20 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mescalero Apache Tribe | Arthur “Butch” Blazer (Chairman) |
| 2. Jicarilla Apache Nation | Kevin Terry (Vice-Chairman) |
| 3. Southern Ute Tribe | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 4. Sandia Pueblo | Michael Bridges |
| 5. Laguna Pueblo | Adam Ringia |
| 6. Ohkay Owingeh | Naomi Archuleta |
| 7. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Harold Nofchissey |
| 8. Santa Clara Pueblo | Not present |
| 9. Zuni Pueblo | Not present |
| 10. Isleta Pueblo | Not present |
| 11. Nambe Pueblo | Not present |
| 12. Cochiti Pueblo | Not present |
| 13. Picuris Pueblo | Not present |
| 14. Navajo Nation | Not present |
| 15. Ute Tribe (U&O) | Not present |
| 16. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present |

Other Attendees:

Mike Montoya, SWTFC/Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
 Kai-t Blue-Sky, Tesuque Pueblo
 Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southwest Regional Office
 Mike Oetker, FWS Southwest Regional Office
 Jason Davis, FWS ABQ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Steve presented the July 26th 2010 quarterly meeting minutes for approval

Per usual procedure, the minutes were emailed and posted following last meeting; no corrections were submitted

Motion for approval of past minutes: Kevin Terry, with 2nd from Adam Ringia; Approved by consensus

As always, minutes are available for review over the SWTFC’s website – www.swtfc.org

Steve provided the financial report for the SWTFC Discretionary and Feed/Fuel accounts, as follows:

	Discretionary Account	Feed & Fuel Account
Last reported Balance (as of 7/26/10)	\$28,440.68	\$410,397.14
Period Expenses	0	- \$23,282.59
Period Revenues	+ \$1,826.64	+ \$71,770.50
Ending Balance (as of 11/18/10)	\$30,267.32	\$458,885.05

It was noted that the revenue to the Discretionary Acct was largely due to an IRS refund of a previous late-filing fee
 Also, expenses for the Feed/Fuel Acct were fish feed purchases, while revenues were purchases of fish (6 tribes)
 More detailed accounting is available, upon request, to SWTFC’s Tribal representatives; Contact Steve

Chairman Report (Butch Blazer)

Butch expressed excitement about the new SWTFC newsletter, Waterways (vol 2)

Also, Butch is pleased with a recent trip to D.C. and support for developing a tribal national conservation strategy

Many tribal conservation organizations have operated successfully for years, but not in a collaborative way

The Strategy is being developed as an intertribal effort to improve tribal representation and capacity building

Butch anticipates empowerment of tribal conservation efforts at national, regional, state, and local levels

Strategy will consist of a tribal-oriented, core working group; it will not be a new “organization”

The Strategy is currently being referred to as “ONR” for “Our Natural Resources”

Mike asked how the Strategy will benefit tribes at the ground level

Butch responded it is still uncertain – too early; however, tremendous opportunity exists with resource sharing

Butch will prepare an article for our next SWTFC newsletter, Waterways, explaining the effort in more detail

A website for the Strategy is *being developed* (www.OurNaturalResources.org)

Vice-Chairman Report (Kevin Terry)

Kevin gave an overview of stories in the latest edition of Waterways, vol 2

Steve will continue to post Waterways on the SWTFC website

Kevin emphasized availability of Waterways to tribes and agencies to run stories on tribal fisheries topics

Kevin also strongly suggests that the Youth Conservation (at D.C.) video be posted on the web/YouTube

Kevin discussed recent interagency meeting hosted by Nature Conservancy in Ignacio, CO

Meeting focused on San Juan Basin conservation challenges; should lead to strategic planning and collaboration

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Mike gave brief history of Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH) operational challenges, including staffing

Youth have provided a tremendous resource for keeping MTFH running

FWS recently honored the youth efforts at MTFH with an invite to D.C. to share successes with various Agencies

Mike showed the group a video of the youth natural resources “summit” at D.C.

Mike emphasized the availability of youth to assist at Tribes (via AmeriCorp), or the option to send kids to MTFH

The opportunity for 1-year of service work is outstanding for college preparation, particular in natural resources

An example of success is 2 youth from MTFH who have gone on to Trinidad State College for aquaculture program

Butch commented on how important this youth program is and how it can serve as a model in Indian country

Butch also commented that he hopes the video will help free federal monies for needed infrastructure development

Harold asked about the availability of the video for distribution

Mike responded that copies are available now, if desired

Also, some editing is planned for the video, including success stories; new version will be available in a few months

Steve asked about advertising/promoting the program; Butch indicated he will work with NAFWS for strategies

Finally, Mike commented on economy-of-scale with MTFH operations and potential for cost reductions to tribes

USFWS Update (Jason Davis for Chris Kitcheyan)

Alchesay NFH to be shutdown May-September 2011 (worst-case scenario) for pipeline repairs

Trout will be stocked into partnership waters prior to repairs

Stocking at NM tribes/pueblos will not be affected by the project

Mike Oetker indicates that funding is still needed to implement the repair project

Catfish stocking will resume in May 2011; tribal recipients will be contacted by Chris before-hand

Chris Kitcheyan is now planning to put on a Tribal Fisheries Mgmt Workshop in April 2011 at Santa Clara Pueblo

Details and logistics of the training are still being worked out; more coming soon

Other Business

Kai-t asked about status of SWTFC mission, staffing, strategic plan, sustainability, etc.

A huge part of SWTFC’s challenge has always – and continues to be – the lack of dedicated, annual funding

Butch, Kevin, Mike all emphasized the need to be persistent with gathering SWTFC support and funding

Without dedicated funding, SWTFC will continue to be housed at MTFH and appear as a Mescalero effort

Only with consistent annual funding will SWTFC be able to move beyond its all-volunteer support and MTFH home

The more recent youth focus is not directly in-line with SWTFC Strategic Plan, but may provide vehicle for support

Marketing strategies need to be improved for youth conservation programs, which could help SWTFC in long run

Mike Oetker gave his impression of the youth presentation in D.C., which was very well-received by FWS

Mike O. wonders now how this successful program will be expanded across the country

Stronger support from high-level Interior officials will be critical

Mike M. hopes that more outreach and support can happen with private foundations

Butch discussed recent meeting with SIPI representatives to discuss SIPI natural resource program
SIPI recently lost accreditation, but is working to have this restored in 2011; Butch and Joe Early are assisting

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Next Meeting:

SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – January 2011
Location to be determined.

Meeting Minutes taken by:

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