



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA Southwest Regional Office – ABQ, NM / Feb. 10th 2012

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. Mescalero Apache Tribe | Mike Montoya |
| 4. Jicarilla Apache Nation | Kevin Terry |
| 5. Pueblo of Taos | Sylvia Rains-Dennis |
| 6. Sandia Pueblo | Michael Bridges |
| 7. Nambe Pueblo | Nichole Carnevale |
| 8. Ohkay Owingeh | Naomi Archuleta |
| 9. Santa Clara Pueblo | Not present |
| 10. Zuni Pueblo | Not present |
| 11. Isleta 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. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 17. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present |

Other Attendees:

- Jennifer Smith, BIA Mescalero Agency
- Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
- Robby Henriksen, Taos Pueblo Ecology Programs Division
- Jim Brooks, FWS / NM Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
- Chris Kitcheyan, FWS / NM Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
- Pete Stine, FWS (retired)
- Peggy Adams, Vista Volunteer / MAT Sovereign Nations Youth Corp

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Introduction of meeting participants
 Steve noted that we've attained quorum at this meeting in case any formal actions are needed

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:
 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 10/12/11)	\$28,331.11	\$545,670.27
Period Expenses	0	\$16,602.00
Period Revenues	0	\$25,493.30
Ending Balance (as of 2/9/12)	\$28,331.11	\$554,561.57

As indicated, there has been no activity in the discretionary account for the period
 Feed/Fuel expense consisted of a fish feed purchase and a \$12 bank fee for a minor check handling error

Feed/Fuel revenue was two tribal fish purchases
Steve presented for approval the minutes from SWTFC quarterly meetings
Steve noted that we have 3 prior sets of un-approved minutes (Apr 7, Aug 25, Oct 14 2011)
These past minutes generated very few requests for corrections and edits, which Steve has addressed
Adam motioned to approve the outstanding past meeting minutes (Apr 7, Aug 25, Oct 14); 2nd from Kevin
Vote was made by consensus to approve the minutes

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Mike spoke to the importance of officer elections for SWTFC and attendance at upcoming annual meeting
Steve pointed out the upcoming officer vacancies and elections; Chairman and Sec-Treasurer
Steve expressed willingness to continue as Sec-Treasurer (if nominated); however, no nominees yet for Chairman
Adam expressed willingness to continue as Vice-Chair, but is not interested in running for chairmanship
Steve indicated that nominations should be communicated to he and/or Mike up to or at the annual meeting

Mike proceeded to update the group on operations at Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
2011 was the best production year at MTFH, exceeding level of FWS before their departure from Mescalero
Pete commended Mike for restoring operations at the hatchery; Mike acknowledged the importance of youth
Total fish on-station is approx. 300,000, which are mostly new RBT fry; approximately 80K are catchables
19K of the catchable RBT on-station are tied to the FWS/SWTFC 2011 arrangement to hold Alchesay NFH fish
The 19K FWS fish are allocated for tribal lands, but Chris can't disclose which tribes are to receive these fish
MTFH will be temporarily shut down (Feb 28 – Mar 28) for mandatory federal fish health inspection
Kevin asked about the ability of MTFH to hatch-out eggs that Jicarilla may purchase from Trout Lodge
Jicarilla is having success with grow-out pens at Jicarilla lakes, and MTFH assistance would be helpful
Mike indicates no problem, provided all health requirements are satisfied and Jicarilla takes immediate delivery

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Update (Chris Kitcheyan)

Chris gave a brief summary of the cooperative fish rearing effort between MTFH and Alchesay NFH
Kevin asked whether FWS will again want fish rearing assistance from MTFH in 2012
It is uncertain if MTFH assistance will be needed; may depend on outcome of 2012 federal budget approval
Mike asked about water conditions at Alchesay and projections for hatchery operations
Water supply has been a limiting factor and ongoing concern for hatchery production
Jim indicated the hatchery is now getting more water than expected with the new supply pipeline in place

Chris indicated that catfish stocking will start in May; Chris will be contacting tribes for catfish orders; be ready!
Kevin asked about catfish sizes this year; he likes the broad range of sizes that were delivered last year
Chris is not sure yet about catfish sizes that will be available, but will find out and let Tribal fish managers know

Chris noted that NCTC will be hosting an electrofishing training in Las Cruces, Game and Fish office, May 5-9
The course will cover electrofishing theory, the multiple application methods, and safety
Seats may still be available, and registration for non-FWS employees is \$950
Let Chris know if cost assistance is needed for tribal participation; may be able to cover the reg fees for tribes

Also, Chris notes that a new Native American Consultation Guide is being drafted by the FWS tribal liaisons
This will be an updated procedural guide for formal/informal federal consultations with tribes

The Rio Grande Cutthroat (RGC) group (various fed/state/tribal partners) is developing a strategic recovery plan
The final draft of the plan is expected in May; Kevin and Chris are both involved with this group
Kevin requests that if any tribes are interested in RGC restoration on their lands, let him know by Feb 17
The RGC plan will be an important document for potentially keeping RGC from going to a federal ESA listing

Mr. Andy Dean is the new FWS Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) specialist for the southwest region
FWS hopes to re-start tribal outreach efforts on aquatic invasive species control
FWS wants to meet with and update tribes on AIS in 2012, to promote trainings at different tribes to advance efforts

Chris updated the group on the FWS Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) program, which has been cut from \$7M to \$4M
Current TWG evaluations are in-process and award announcements will soon be made, pending final approvals
It will possibly be another month before tribes will be notified about TWG awards

According to information from Liaison Joe Early, 3 southwest tribes are expected to receive TWG awards
The 2013 TWG Request for Proposals will again occur from May thru September 2012
Contact Joe Early at FWS with any questions about the TWG program

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership Update (DFHP) (Kevin Terry)

Kevin, as SWTFC rep, recently went to the annual DFHP meeting and is getting up-to-speed on DFHP activities
DFHP is focused on non-sport desert fish, and has monthly tele-conference calls with its partners
Generally, DFHP projects are low-budget, but with strong potential for native fisheries benefits
Kevin is very interested in advocating for DFHP funding of native fish projects on tribal lands
A DFHP RFP will soon be available, and Kevin will notify SWTFC members when information is released
Steve asked about Kai-T Blue Sky's participation on Executive Committee on behalf of SWTFC
Kevin indicates that both he and Kai-T are still evaluating and advocating for DFHP support of tribes

Acting Chairman Report (Adam Ringia)

Adam continues to be concerned about lack of member participation in our meetings
It shows lack of interest in our mission by our members, and also prevents action through lack of quorum
Steve prepared a hand-out showing current bylaws requirements for quorum and elections
An option we have for alleviating the quorum problem is to amend our bylaws
One approach is to base SWTFC membership eligibility on meeting participation, thereby shrinking quorum
Steve pointed out that this may help with quorum, but is contrary to strategic vision of growing the SWTFC range
Adam suggests that we can improve participation through tele-conference calls into meetings
Teleconferencing into meetings is allowable under the bylaws and would be valid for meeting quorum
Adam also believes we need to provide better incentives for participation; e.g., trainings, presentations at meetings
SWTFC needs to move beyond just providing fish from MTFH; more benefits are needed to engage members
The group seems enthusiastic about trying teleconferencing to help with the quorum issue, before amending bylaws
Norman indicates that the BIA Regional Office has teleconferencing capability, including in this conference room
Pete also suggests that consideration be given to computer-based voting

Adam started a lengthy discussion on the draft MOU between SWTFC/MAT concerning future operation of MTFH
Steve and Mike gave a history on the partnership and noted the critical need to formally document our commitments
There was much discussion on evolution of the partnership and development of SWTFC's large "Feed & Fuel" fund
It is critical to the vision and viability of SWTFC to provide member services beyond just fish from MTFH
At same time, SWTFC has an unwavering commitment to the long-term viability of MTFH (for SWTFC members)
Steve emphasized that SWTFC needs to know exactly what MAT wants and, *if possible*, to reflect it in the MOU
Adam would like to see budget figures for MTFH, so we can be financially realistic with our MOU commitments
The SWTFC Executive Board will continue working on the draft MOU, esp. focusing on financial aspects

Adam turned the conversation to member tribe updates on respective fishery management activities, as follows:

Laguna Pueblo

Laguna is developing a TWG grant for improving fish habitat and possible sport fish expansion near Mt. Taylor
Fisheries genetics work has been recently conducted at Laguna, with results showing hybrid RBT/cutthroat trout
Upcoming meetings of potential tribal interest include:

- Climate Change Initiative in Albuquerque on Feb 23rd
- New Mexico Wetlands Roundtable in Santa Fe also on Feb 23rd

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Kevin spoke about habitat improvement work on Navajo River and recent roundtail chub surveys

Southern Ute Tribe

Steve mentioned a similar roundtail chub project at Southern Ute, as well as a pond project in Ignacio
Steve mentioned CDOW is looking for historical data on pure greenback and CO River cutthroat trout in Colorado
Colorado tribes have been asked for Native American midden bone samples for DNA analysis

Taos Pueblo

Sylvia spoke briefly about Taos Pueblo's interest in native fish resources and ecological restoration
Sylvia introduced new fisheries specialist at Taos (Robby), and Robby spoke of his aquatics background

Sylvia mentioned current work at Taos on post-fish kill assessments and potential restoration work
Sylvia also sends greetings of the Ecology/Habitat Team at Taos Pueblo to the SWTFC

Sandia Pueblo

Michael mentioned the active recreational fishing activities happening at Sandia Lakes
Michael spoke about extensive re-design and improvements and fisheries management
Sandia is evaluating the holding potential for catfish relative to water supplies

Nambe Pueblo

Nichole (Environmental Director) is new to Nambe and has recently hired new field staff to help
A recent wildfire has wiped out fish in Rio Nambe, and Nambe is considering re-introducing native RGC
No stocking of recreational fish is planned at this time

BIA Update (Norman)

Norman appreciates the discussion held today and believes SWTFC is experiencing growing pains
He encourages group to focus on facts and to update important documents
Norman also spoke of the strength with diversity in the member tribes; take advantage of this to move forward
He suggests personal calls to invite members to meetings, as well as using teleconferences
The Northern Pueblos Agency will be moving to a new building in near future; make use of the facilities
The NAFWS Youth Practicum will be held June 25-29, possibly at Ladder Ranch but exploring other options, too
There is an application requirement; the practicum targets 10th thru 12th grade age-range
NAFWS Southwest Regional Conference to be hosted by Southern Ute, July 24-26 in Ignacio, Colorado
Conference planning committee will be meeting soon; contact Norman with presentation topic ideas
NAFWS Southwest Region will be hosting the *national* conference in May 2013

Motion to adjourn by Michael; 2nd by Kevin; Unanimous approval to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm

Next Meeting:

***SWTFC Annual BOD Meeting – Thursday, April 26th 2012
BIA Southwest Regional Office***

NOTE: OFFICER ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
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