



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA Southwest Regional Office – ABQ, NM / Feb. 9 2011

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. Santa Clara Pueblo | Joseph Mark Chavarria |
| 7. Ohkay Owingeh | Not present |
| 8. San Carlos Apache Tribe | 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)
 Gilbert Gutierrez, Santa Clara Pueblo
 Ben Martinez, Sandia Lakes
 Jan-Jay Moolenijzer, Jemez Pueblo – Planning & Development
 Chris Kitcheyan, FWS ABQ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
 Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
 Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
 Pete Stine, USFWS (retired)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Steve presented the November 23rd 2010 quarterly meeting minutes for approval

Per usual procedure, the minutes were emailed and posted following last meeting; minor corrections were made

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

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 11/18/10)	\$30,267.32	\$458,885.05
Period Expenses	0	-\$3,084.86
Period Revenues	0	\$41,994.76
Ending Balance (as of 2/7/11)	\$30,267.32	+ \$497,794.95

Chairman Report (Butch Blazer)

Butch reminded the group about the SWTFC Strategic Plan, which expires in September 2012

We welcome feedback from member tribes on ideas for updating the Strategic Plan

Butch reiterated challenges faced by SWTFC – largely funding related – and moving forward

The SWTFC Executive Committee met yesterday to discuss these challenges

We want to ensure continued and expanding benefits to member tribes

An important effort will be made to develop an MOU between SWTFC and MAT on operation of MTFH

The MOU would detail the commitments of SWTFC and MAT in their partnership to run the hatchery

Butch also discussed his efforts at the national level, i.e., the National Tribal Natural Resource Strategy

A formal name has been proposed for the NTNRS: “Our Natural Resources”, or ONR

Five major goals of ONR (draft):

1. Establish and advance Tribal government involvement in natural resource policy decisions
2. Assist tribes with maintenance of natural resource related funding
3. Establish and advance use of traditional ecological knowledge in resource management
4. Promote educational programs that emphasize Tribal youth involvement in natural resources
5. Support natural resource work of Tribal communities

Butch emphasized that tribes will be invited to review and comment on development of the ONR initiative

So far, ONR has strong support of many inter-tribal organizations across the country

NCAI assisted with developing the ONR website, www.ournaturalresources.org.

Next meeting to be held in March in Washington (State)

Vice-Chairman Report (Kevin Terry)

Kevin indicates his continuing effort to publish the SWTFC newsletter; he needs more stories to be submitted

Kevin also emphasized his desire to see SWTFC’s strong support of tribes

Current emphasis is on fish production, but hopefully the scope of service will expand

The SWTFC Strategic Plan describes a broad vision of service/benefit to tribes; hope to see this happen over time

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Mike spoke to the history of SWTFC and development and operation of MTFH

Mike struggles with wearing “two hats”: Executive Director of SWTFC and Fisheries Director for MAT

Mike feels that SWTFC needs to move more toward an independent identity, including a new Executive Director

Mike also indicated a need for SWTFC representation in Desert Fish Habitat Partnership; Mike is too time-limited

We will explore the possibility of SWTFC representation in DFHP by Kevin (Jicarilla), or possibly Ben Z. (S. Ute)

Mike discussed a new youth initiative with an AmeriCorp grant request; a summer hands-on educational program

MAT has submitted the grant application and results will be announced in May 2011

If awarded, 10 youth will be selected for participation – hopefully representing multiple tribes throughout southwest

The youth crew will receive education/outreach, and also be available to perform projects on reservations/pueblos

The vision is to prepare tribal youth for future careers as natural resource managers

Tribal reps should talk with Mike if interested in learning more about this opportunity

USFWS Update (Chris Kitcheyan)

All fish at Alchesay NFH need to be stocked out very soon; probably heavy stocking in March

Construction/renovation at the hatchery is expected to start in June, be complete by September, online in October

Tribes should contact Chris ASAP when they anticipate suitable stocking conditions at receiving waters

No updates on availability of catfish yet

Some additional rainbow trout are currently available through MTFH; Chris to contact tribes about distribution

There is an interagency effort continuing on Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGC) recovery

A recovery plan is under development to help conserve and expand the species; intent is to preclude fed ESA listing

Current two tribal participants are Jicarilla and Mescalero; the group wants more tribal participation/endorsement

Chris will continue to update SWTFC on the group’s efforts and progress toward recovery

Kevin suggests that tribes consider adding RGC in their resource management plans

If RGC is in a management plan, this could bring assistance/funding with management and conservation

Other Business

Joe J. notified the group about a planned ESA training meeting for tribes April 26-28

This may be an opportunity to schedule a meeting time in conjunction with SWTFC’s annual meeting

Norman J. notified the group about the plan for the annual NAFWS youth practicum June 20-24, Ladder Ranch, NM

Practicum is open to Grade 10-12 tribal youth; advertising to start soon

Santa Clara Pueblo has agreed to host NAFWS SW Regional Conference, July 26th - 28th
The conference planning group will be meeting soon; information will be e-mailed out
Norman mentioned "Hunting the Rez" Tribal media group working to promote Tribal wildlife/hunting programs
Group brings strong marketing ability that can help tribes capitalize on their quality hunting opportunities
Some tribes may be interested in this, depending on priorities: see www.huntingtherez.com for more information
Steve reminded group that next SWTFC meeting is annual meeting with officer election
Steve and Mike will take nominations for SWTFC Vice-Chair position (from members) prior to the next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Next Meeting:

***SWTFC Annual BOD Meeting
(Reminder: SWTFC Vice-Chairman Election)
Afternoon of Thursday, April 28th 2011 (PROPOSED)
BIA Southwest Regional Office***

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
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