



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting / BIA Southwest Regional Office – Albuquerque, NM / April 24, 2009

Meeting Convened at approx. 9:15 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Albert John (Vice-Chairman) |
| 2. Southern Ute Tribe | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 3. Mescalero Apache Tribe | Oliver Enjady |
| 4. Jicarilla Apache Nation | Kevin Terry |
| 5. Zuni Pueblo | Nelson Luna |
| 6. Isleta Pueblo | Jackie Keryte |
| 7. Cochiti Pueblo | Kai-T Blue Sky |
| 8. Laguna Pueblo | Frank Cerno |
| 9. Ohkay Owingeh | Lawrence Cata |
| 10. Santa Clara Pueblo | Gilbert Gutierrez |
| 11. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 12. Navajo Nation | Not present |
| 13. Sandia Pueblo | Not present |
| 14. Picuris Pueblo | Not present |
| 15. Ute Tribe (U&O) | Not present |

Other Attendees:

Mike Montoya, SWTFC/Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
Carlos Trujillo, Isleta Lakes
Virgil Cata, Ohkay Owingeh
Larry Philips Jr., Ohkay Owingeh
Frank Ortiz Cerno, Laguna Pueblo
Ann Watson, Santo Domingo Tribe
William Wadsworth, Pyramid Lake Fisheries
Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southern Pueblos Agency
Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
Jennifer Smith, BIA Mescalero Agency
Jim Brooks, FWS ABQ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
Chris Kitcheyan, FWS ABQ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
James Sandoval, FWS Fisheries Biologist
Joe Early, FWS Region 2 Tribal Liaison
Martin Monroe, Tsay Corp.
Brian Lang, New Mexico Game & Fish
Pete Stine, FWS (retired)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Steve presented the January 14th 2009 quarterly meeting minutes for approval

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

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

Last reported bank account balance (from December 23, 2008 bank statement) was \$33,677.27

Current balance (from most recent statement, March 24, 2009) is \$33,777.27 for a net increase of \$100.00

Total Payments included: [None] 0.00

Total Deposits included: Sandia Pueblo Membership 100.00

SWTFC Vice-Chairman Election (Mike Montoya)

Mike explained the need to conduct the election for the 2-year SWTFC Vice-Chairman position
Albert John indicated his inability to continue as VC and nominated Kevin Terry (Jicarilla) for the position
2nd from Nelson Luna (Zuni) on the nomination of Kevin Terry
Steve asked Kevin about his willingness and ability to serve; Kevin confirmed he is willing and able to serve
Lawrence Cata (Ohkay Owingeh) motioned to close nomination process; 2nd to close nomination from Nelson
Unanimous approval (by affirmation) of Kevin Terry to serve 2-year term as Vice-Chairman (i.e., thru April 2011)

Federal Excess Property (Mike Montoya)

Mike explained that in recent weeks, SWTFC has gained good access to excess property on behalf of tribes
Mike wants to help interested tribes obtain property for fisheries programs, esp. those not familiar with process
Mike handed out a description of process for Tribes to follow for identifying and acquiring surplus equipment
Tribes should contact Mike for more information on tagging/inspecting/obtaining equipment they want or need
Mike discussed the good and bad aspects of obtaining surplus equipment, potential quality issues
Military facilities that Mike has worked with: Kirtland, Cannon, Holloman. Also with Federal Courts, Nat'l Parks
Kevin suggested that Mike identify potentially desirable equipment and notify Tribes, rather than send full list out
Mike responded that the needs among tribes are vastly different, so it's difficult to determine needs
Alternatively, Tribes should email equipment needs to Mike, so he can evaluate common, shared equipment needs
Mike will look for common items that tribal fisheries programs may want/need (e.g., pickup trucks)
Tribes can also obtain lists of equipment over the Internet. Contact Mike for more info.

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Operations Update (Mike Montoya)

Demand is far exceeding supply of fish produced at the hatchery
Mike is working under enormous pressure to raise more fish, but the hatchery is already producing at capacity
FEMA dollars are being used to rehab hatchery from recent flood damage; this could eventually increase production
The MTFH business plan identifies significant production potential, but would require major investment in upgrades
Oliver suggested that it might help to have an intertribal letter of support for funding upgrades at the hatchery
It was suggested that the letter may best be sent to Congressional representatives involved in fed funding decisions
The SWTFC tribal reps present supported the idea of developing a letter in support of MTFH funding for upgrades
One option with the letter is for SWTFC to draft it, with signature lines of member-tribes' elected leaders
Mike will work on drafting the letter

Tribal Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) Exchange (Kevin Terry)

Jicarilla is working with Pyramid Lake to obtain LCT for stocking in Jicarilla's Stone Lake
Biologically, LCT may do very well in Stone Lake (i.e., alkaline environment, huge salamander prey base)
Would potentially support an outstanding destination trout fishery in New Mexico; a new species for NM
One challenge being worked on is importation into NM; Kevin said NM would neither deny nor approve a permit
Project is now considering using SWTFC fish transport capability to acquire LCT; have to address disease testing
Still exploring options and requirements, but Kevin is optimistic about the project's potential
Project needs to ensure rigorous disease testing to avert disaster; AFS bluebook standards would be followed

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

Rainbow trout and catfish distribution to tribes has started; Chris will be contacting tribes about water conditions.
PH, dissolved oxygen, and water temperature are key water quality parameters Chris looks at in receiving waters
Chris asks for patience from tribes when receiving fish; deliveries often are coming from very long distances
Tribal Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) are still needed from several tribes; extremely important to get this done
The FMPs provide important justification for stocking of Federal-supplied fish on tribal waters
A template management plan has already been sent out; Chris will review individual drafts, assist with finalization
Chris also mentioned a FWS summer employment opportunity; 2 intern positions, fisheries work throughout NM
Contact Chris for more information about these seasonal job opportunities
Still planning a Tribal Field Fisheries Techniques Workshop at Santa Clara Pueblo, July 14-16, limited to 20 people
Program will be a combination of classroom/field activities. Two groups will be rotated through different activities
Cost will be \$50 for books, materials, food/drink, and payments will be made to NAFWS SW Region
Chris wants a diverse group, and prefers a minimum of 2 people from each tribal fisheries program
A notification of enrollment will be sent out by email by June 12
A questionnaire will also be sent out to students prior to the class to inquire about specific desired training topics

Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) Update (Jim Brooks)

Dan Fairbanks at Pyramid Lake Paiute has agreed to serve as a Tribal rep on the WNTI Board
It would be good to get confirmation of Dan as tribal rep from both SWTFC and NAFWS; shouldn't be a problem
A nomination letter for Dan will be needed; SWTFC and NAFWS should both submit letters of nomination/support
Desert Fish Partnership is another effort that needs stronger Tribal representation; involves all non-trout species
Mike M. has served on DFP, but not to the level of attention needed. Mike would like new Tribal rep(s) to step up.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Update (Norman Jojola)

SW Regional Conference of NAFWS is planned for end of July at Isleta Resort and Casino
Next quarterly SWTFC meeting will be held in conjunction with the NAFWS conference; July 27th, 7PM
Conference agenda is under development and looking good; Norman invites presenters to contact him for sign up.
The conference theme this year is: Managing Tribal Natural Resources in the Face of Environmental Changes.
Conference registration will be \$150; More information will be sent out to tribes by email soon
Also, the 16th Annual NAFWS Natural Resource Youth Practicum will be held July 6-10 2009, Ladder Ranch, NM
Practicum is focused on high school-level students; 20 students will be needed. For more info, contact Norman

Tribal Wildlife Grants Update (Joe Early)

Joe briefly discussed how the TWG program is setup and handed out the notice of 2009 TWG tribal recipients
Joe will provide a TWG training workshop to tribes in conjunction with NAFWS SW Regional Conference in July
There will also be discussion of eagles - regulatory issues, cultural uses, etc. – at the workshop
Nelson said he hopes for improvement in issues of illegal take/sale of eagles, which create problems for tribes

BIA Update (Joe Jojola)

MAT was successful in obtaining BIA hatchery maintenance funds (approx \$17K)
There continues to be good support in D.C. and at the region for the MAT tribal fish hatchery.
Ira Newbreast was recently selected as the new Division Chief for Natural Resources at BIA Central Office
Bob Gartner retired last month; Bob has been a strong supporter of SWTFC and tribal fisheries programs
Joe isn't certain about the status of the Fish, Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation program manager vacancy in DC; and will likely be a topic of discussion at the upcoming regional ESA Coordinator/biologists meeting this summer.
Joe isn't certain how much stimulus funding will be received at BIA; it is currently at the Secretary's – level. Bulk of stimulus funding will likely go toward construction projects; and will have to wait to see if Natural Resources will get funded.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management (Brian Lang, NMGF)

Brian gave a PowerPoint presentation, with an overview of AIS issues nationwide, and prevention in NM
AN AIS training workshop (e.g., boat inspection protocol) will be offered at the NAFWS conference
Brian acknowledged strong tribal awareness/attention to AIS issues; among the most active groups in trainings
Brian strongly encourages tribal participation/representation on the State AIS Advisory Council
Contact Brian if interested you are interested in serving on the Council

*Brian Lang, NMGF Conservation Services Division
Phone: 505-476-8108
Email: brian.lang@state.nm.us*

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Next Meeting:

***SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – 7:00PM July 27th 2009
In conjunction with Southwest Regional Conference of NAFWS
Isleta Casino and Resort / Isleta, New Mexico***

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
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