



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting / USFWS – New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
 Albuquerque, New Mexico April 26, 2012

Meeting Convened at approx. 9:10 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Laguna Pueblo | Adam Ringia (Vice-Chairman) |
| 2. Southern Ute Tribe | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 3. Jicarilla Apache Nation | Kevin Terry |
| 4. Mescalero Apache Tribe | Alfred LaPaz |
| 5. Santa Clara Pueblo | Gilbert Gutierrez |
| 6. Pueblo of Taos | Sylvia Rains-Dennis |
| 7. Sandia Pueblo | Michael Bridges |
| 8. Zuni Pueblo | Nelson Luna (by phone) |
| 9. Isleta Pueblo | Jackie Keryte |
| 10. Ohkay Owingeh | 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. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 17. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present |

Other Attendees:

- Kai-T BlueSky, Tesuque Pueblo (by phone)
- Robby Henriksen, Taos Pueblo
- Michael Sandoval, Taos Pueblo
- Mike Montoya, SWTFC/Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
- Jennifer Smith, BIA Mescalero Agency
- Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
- Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
- Chris Kitcheyan, FWS NMFWCO
- Pete Stine, FWS (Retired)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montova)

Introductions of meeting participants

Quorum was reached; Steve confirmed majority of member tribes present, as needed to hold officer elections

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Steve presented minutes from the February 10th meeting and reviewed several requested edits that were made
 Motion to approve minutes provided by Kevin Terry, 2nd from Adam Ringia; minutes approved through 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 2/9/12)	\$28,331.11	\$554,561.57
Period Expenses	0	\$24,338.90
Period Revenues	0	0
Ending Balance (as of 4/23/12)	\$28,331.11	\$530,222.67

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Mike gave a brief update on Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)

Mike indicates no requests from FWS to raise additional fish for FWS (due to Alchesay NFH coming back online)

Capacity of MTFH is good and sufficient for meeting tribal fish requests; water supply into MTFH is good

AmeriCorps youth group (i.e., tribal youth) is doing good projects at MTFH

Mike indicates the access road into MTFH is being fixed

Mike is concerned about retirement of FWS' Stuart Leon; he has been a huge advocate for MTFH youth programs

Officer Election (Mike Montoya)

Mike and Steve review nominations received for Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer

Two prior nominations have been received already for Sec-Treasurer: Steve Whiteman and Robby Henriksen

Robby spoke of his background in hatcheries and native aquatic habitats

Steve spoke briefly of his history with SWTFC and commitment to continue as Secretary-Treasurer

Adam and Mike spoke of their support for Steve continuing as Secretary-Treasurer

No prior nominations were received for Chair; However, MAT has authorized Alfred to serve as SWTFC Chair

Adam clarified for the group the recent history of the SWTFC Chairman position; Adam has been acting since 2010

Sylvia nominated Steve to be Chairman, but Steve declined due to interest in continuing as Sec-Treasurer

Steve nominated Mr. Alfred LaPaz to be Chairman of SWTFC; 2nd from Adam Ringia

Alfred LaPaz introduced himself to the group and responded to several questions from the group

Steve pointed out that bylaws call for officer elections by secret ballot

However, the group confirmed that an open vote is acceptable

Mike called the vote for office of Chairman:

Alfred LaPaz: 8 yay, 0 nay, 1 abstention

Alfred LaPaz is confirmed as new Chairman of the SWTFC (term ends April 2014)

Mike called for vote for office of Secretary-Treasurer:

Robby: 1 yay, 8 nay, 0 abstentions

Steve: 8 yay, 1 nay, 0 abstentions

Steve Whiteman is confirmed as Secretary-Treasurer of the SWTFC (term ends April 2014)

Robby emphasized his desire to work with other tribes in native species restoration efforts

Sylvia offered assistance of Taos Pueblo to help achieve SWTFC goals and objectives

Acting Chairman Report (Adam Ringia)

Adam strongly suggests that we continue to incorporate Tribal program presentations/updates at SWTFC meetings

Adam reviewed some of the SWTFC activities in past year, and challenges moving forward

Adam re-iterated support for Mr. LaPaz and is optimistic about SWTFC's future

USFWS Update (Chris Kitcheyan)

Chris indicated that the current Waterways newsletter has a FWS write-up on aquatic invasive species (AIS)

Some AIS have entered New Mexico (esp. in northern part of state); FWS wants to coordinate with tribes on AIS

Chris distributed handout on AIS-related funding available to tribes; call FWS for more information

All FWS fish held at Mescalero have been stocked-out

The main pipeline repair project at Alchesay NFH is completed; the hatchery is back in operation

Various hatchery modifications and improvements are being made at Alchesay/Williams Cr. to improve operations

A hatchery dedication ceremony will be held in May 2013; Chris believes SWTFC participation would be good

Catfish stocking will start approx. mid-May; tribes should have water parameter data evaluated for readiness

Several southwest tribes are receiving FY12 TWG awards; FY13 request opening will be coming up in early May

Any TWG related questions should be forwarded to Joe Early at FWS

Chris briefly reviewed status of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout; Chris and Kevin are contributing to RGC strategic plan

Chris invites tribes to contribute ideas, suggestions to the RGC strategic plan; send ideas to Kevin Terry

Kevin spoke of the meeting/organization of the RGC group

There was discussion of the RGC Rangewide Committee versus the more local RGC Working Group

Sylvia is very interested in getting more Taos representation in RGC working group; possibly contributing to plan

Chris indicates that Santa Clara Pueblo is interested in wildfire restoration support from SWTFC; in-kind or funds

Chris will forward the email from Santa Clara to the SWTFC officers

Other Comments

Sylvia expressed appreciation for Kevin's efforts with developing Waterways newsletter

Kevin suggests that our current SWTFC Strategic Plan (currently expiring) be reviewed by member tribes
The group agrees with Kevin's suggestion; comments should be presented at next meeting at NAFWS conference
Kevin spoke about a recent world-class fly fishing competition at Jicarilla lakes
Taos Pueblo is planning a community event in May focused on fisheries; first festival of this kind
Kai-T spoke of a planned Tesuque Ecology Project and a planned stream restoration project
Joe Jojola invited presentation topics for the upcoming NAFWS meeting; send to Joe or Norman
Norman indicated NAFWS national conference will be held next week
NAFWS Youth Practicum is on-schedule for end of June; still accepting applications
Jennifer suggests that Waterways include a schedule of upcoming events; Kevin said this is no problem at all
Kevin will be making some last-minute edits to Waterways, and will re-distribute a revised version

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am

Next Meeting:
SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – July 2012
Ignacio, Colorado in conjunction with NAFWS Conference

Meeting Minutes taken by:
Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
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