



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting / USFWS - New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
 Albuquerque, New Mexico / April 7, 2011

Meeting Convened at approx. 9:00 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mescalero Apache Tribe | Greg Mendez |
| 2. Jicarilla Apache Nation | Kevin Terry |
| 3. Southern Ute Tribe | Steve Whiteman |
| 4. Sandia Pueblo | Michael Bridges |
| 5. Laguna Pueblo | Adam Ringia |
| 6. Santa Clara Pueblo | Gilbert Gutierrez |
| 7. Ohkay Owingeh | Naomi Archuleta |
| 8. Zuni Pueblo | Nelson Luna |
| 9. Isleta Pueblo | Jackie Keryte |
| 10. Nambe Pueblo | Joe Vigil |
| 11. Cochiti Pueblo | Not present |
| 12. Picuris Pueblo | Not present |
| 13. Navajo Nation | Not present |
| 14. Ute Tribe (U&O) | Not present |
| 15. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 16. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present |

Other Attendees:

Mike Montoya, SWTFC Executive Director / Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
 John Antonio, SWTFC Chairman / Laguna Pueblo
 Curtis Thompson, Isleta Lakes
 Jan-Jay Moolenijser, Jemez Pueblo
 Jennifer Smith, BIA Mescalero Agency
 Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
 Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
 Jim Brooks, FWS ABQ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
 Angela James, FWS ABQ Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
 Arthur "Butch" Blazer, Blazer Conservation Connection
 Pete Stine, USFWS (retired)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

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 2/7/11)	\$30,267.32	\$497,794.95
Period Expenses	\$133.21	\$21,173.16
Period Revenues	0	\$37,688.58
Ending Balance (as of 4/5/11)	\$30,134.11	+ \$514,310.37

Steve discussed the financial activity, including Feed & Fuel activity mostly related to fish purchases and feed costs
 Mike discussed our financial plan/strategy to invest the Feed & Fuel funds in a \$500K interest bearing CD

Steve also presented the February 9th 2011 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: Adam Ringia, with 2nd from Nelson Luna; Minutes approved by consensus

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

SWTFC Representation in Fisheries Groups

Mike indicated Kevin Terry's willingness to serve as the SWTFC representative to Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
Motion by Steve to appoint Kevin as SWTFC's rep to DFHP, 2nd from Michael; Approved by consensus
Kevin also offered (and group agreed) that he serve as SWTFC rep to RG Cutthroat effort and Three Species Cons.
A letter will be drafted and sent to DFHP indicating Kevin as SWTFC representative

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH) Operations

Mike updated the group on operations at MTFH
MTFH is running at "110%", and Mike is very satisfied with the quantity and quality of fish being produced
However, there is an urgent need to move approx. 12K 10" catchable RBTs off-station to make room for FWS fish
Jim Brooks updated the group on the Alcheyay NFH construction project and urgent need to "empty" the hatchery
The plan is to transfer 80K fingerling RBT and associated feed to MTFH for grow-out, then stock in Fall 2011
The fingerling transfer needs to happen by May, and FWS is looking at options for re-locating current MTFH fish
Looked into 31K of the fingerlings going to Toadlena at Navajo, but unfortunately there is no room there for fish
Mike reports that Neosho hatchery also has excess trout (sub-catchables) to move
Surplus trout stocking needs to be planned/discussed with Chris Kitcheyan, but he's currently out-of-office, in field
Angela James advised the group that channel catfish will be available soon for tribal stocking
Tribes should contact Chris to coordinate catfish stocking, as well as monitor receiving water quality conditions

Vice-Chairman Election

Mike indicated that Kevin Terry's Vice-Chairmanship is ending, and election of a replacement is needed
Mike and Steve indicated no nominations were received prior to the meeting, so Mike called for nominations
Steve nominated Adam Ringia from Laguna Pueblo to serve as Vice-Chair; 2nd from Kevin Terry
Adam Ringia accepted the nomination and spoke of his education, career background, interests, etc.
Adam also spoke of recreational and native fisheries conditions on Laguna Pueblo lands
No other nominations were made for the Vice-Chairman position
Nelson motioned to close nominations for VC; 2nd from Michael – Unanimous vote to close nominations
Nelson motioned to elect Adam to Vice-Chair; 2nd from Steve – Unanimous vote to approve by 10 present members
Group expressed appreciation to Kevin Terry for past service as SWTFC Vice-Chair
Kevin indicated his desire to continue his involvement and support of SWTFC
Kevin also talked about his recent involvement in a D.C. lobbying effort in support of San Juan R. Recovery Prog.
The current federal budget crisis is seriously jeopardizing important programs to tribes, such as the SJRRIP

Chairman Report (Butch Blazer)

Butch expressed appreciation for attendance of member tribe reps at this meeting
Butch spoke of his recent efforts to start his own private consulting firm, Blazer Conservation Connection
Butch spoke of the strong progress of SWTFC early on, especially with getting MTFH operational
However, progress on other goals and objectives of SWTFC has been extremely slow due to lack of funding
Butch proposes to step down as SWTFC Chairman, then work as a consultant for SWTFC and focus on fundraising
Butch expressed urgency about moving forward on SWTFC goals; we can't continue to rely on Mike for everything
Butch also spoke of his recent contacts with regional tribal fisheries organizations throughout the country

Chairman Special Election

Effective at this meeting, Butch submits his verbal resignation as Chairman of the SWTFC
Butch spoke of the need for more outreach to Tribal programs and more fundraising efforts
Butch would like to continue to represent SWTFC through various networking that he is involved in as a consultant
He believes that SWTFC's 1st priority continues to be obtain funding to hire an SWTFC Executive Director and staff
Butch recommends that the Board consider John Antonio as his successor, and spoke of John's leadership skills
John Antonio offered his thoughts about the Commission, his early involvement, the ongoing Tribal needs
John expressed his willingness to step up as Chairman of the SWTFC
Mike spoke to the broader vision of SWTFC and need to develop an identity beyond the Mescalero Apache Tribe
Mike indicates that an MOU between SWTFC and MAT is under development concerning the MTFH partnership

Mike opened the nomination process for filling the un-expired term of the SWTFC Chairmanship
Nelson expressed appreciation for Butch's support of SWTFC and involvement in Native American organizations
Nelson also indicated his opinion that John Antonio may be a stronger candidate for SWTFC Executive Director
Butch and Mike both responded that this is not yet financially feasible; the \$500K is a trust for MTFH operation
Mike explained the MTFH trust/endowment in greater detail for the group
Therefore, there is not yet sufficient or sustainable income to fund a paid Executive Director position
Nelson expressed understanding of financial situation and concurs with recommendation of John as Chairman
Greg Mendez expressed his Tribe's (Mescalero Apache) appreciation of SWTFC partnership and support of MTFH
Greg indicates that MAT wants to see MTFH continue to support regional tribal fisheries programs
Motion was made to nominate John Antonio for un-expired term of SWTFC Chairman by Steve, 2nd by Kevin
With a vote of unanimous approval, John Antonio is the SWTFC Chairman for remainder of the term (1 year)

USFWS Update (Jim Brooks)

Jim spoke about Western Native Trout Initiative and Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
Jim thinks that DFHP is more tribal-friendly, whereas WNTI is State-dominated
Jim believes there is a disparity in tribal representation in WNTI; 1 Alaska seat and 1 seat for all other tribes
Jim described the proposal/funding processes for WNTI and DFHP, and various projects that have been funded
Jim encourages Tribal attention to these partnerships for funding opps, whether for trout or non-game/natives
Jim predicts that FWS FWCO office will be furloughed and office completely closed due to federal budget crisis;
Federal FWS hatcheries will maintain minimal staff necessary to keep on-station fish alive

15 min break at 11:15; resumed at 11:30

YCC Update

Jim spoke about a renewed interest in youth programs, and YCC in particular
Stewart Leon (FWS) has been instrumental in getting native youth participation in YCC
A very successful YCC program has been operating at Mescalero for 4 years
Mescalero, White Mtn and Salish-Kootnai had a very successful visit to D.C. to promote YCC at national level
FWS has a goal of developing YCC programs with representation from *every tribe* in State of New Mexico
Currently FWS is working to develop new youth programs at Santa Clara, Isleta, Sandia, and Santa Ana
Jim wants tribes to keep these YCC opportunities in mind for potential tribal youth employment
Funding for the YCC program is currently a "work-in-progress"; Insufficient funds in FWS to cover all expenses
YCC funding historically went to FWS Refuges, and re-directing to Fisheries-oriented programs has been difficult
There was discussion about the difficulty in moving youth on to employment post-YCC
Chris Kitcheyan is spearheading FWS YCC development effort in New Mexico
Jim provided a fact sheet to the group; Interested tribes should contact Chris

Other Business

Jemez Pueblo Request for SWTFC Support

Jay Moolenijser spoke to the group about renewing operation of Jemez' Holy Ghost Rec Area and fishing ponds
The HGRA is located on Jemez lands and the Pueblo intends to re-open commercial operation to the public
Jay is requesting a letter or resolution of support from the SWTFC for fundraising purposes with HGRA
There was general concurrence that a resolution would carry more weight than a letter and would be acceptable
A draft resolution was read by Mike; Steve indicated he will work with ExCom to cleanup/finalize resolution
A motion to approve the resolution was made by Steve, with 2nd by Adam
The vote on the resolution is: Favor 6 / Against 0 / Abstain 3
Abstentions were based on uncertainty of the member-reps authority to vote on a resolution on behalf of their tribes
Those members abstaining were encouraged to determine their authority level as tribal reps to SWTFC

NAFWS Southwest Regional Conference and Youth Practicum Update

Norman updated the group on this year's Native American Youth Practicum, June 20th-24th
Applications are available through Norman. Contact Norman for more information.
Planning is underway for NAFWS southwest regional conference; to be held July 26-28 at Santa Clara Pueblo

John reiterated his appreciation for vote-of-confidence, requests to hear from members on any questions, concerns
John's contact info: (505) 238-9093 or (505) 323-9086 or jeantoniosr@aol.com

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm

Next Meeting:
SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting
Evening of Monday July 25th at Santa Claran Resort Casino
To be held in conjunction with
NAFWS Southwest Regional Conference July 26 - 28

Meeting Minutes taken by:
Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
swhitema@southern-ute.nsn.us