



# Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / San Carlos Apache Reservation - Globe, AZ / July 26, 2007

**Meeting Convened at 8:30AM**

## **Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)**

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mescalero Apache Tribe    | Butch Blazer (Chairman)              |
| 2. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Albert John (Vice-Chairman)          |
| 3. Southern Ute Tribe        | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 4. Jicarilla Apache Nation   | Kevin Terry                          |
| 5. San Carlos Apache Tribe   | Anna Tryfonas                        |
| 6. Zuni Pueblo               | Nelson Luna                          |
| 7. Santa Clara Pueblo        | Lawrence Singer                      |
| 8. Navajo Nation             | Viola Willeto                        |
| 9. Cochiti Pueblo            | Kai-T Blue Sky                       |
| 10. Sandia Pueblo            | Paul Holmes                          |
| 11. Isleta Pueblo            | Not present                          |
| 12. Picuris Pueblo           | Not present                          |
| 13. Laguna Pueblo            | Not present                          |
| 14. Ute Tribe (U&O)          | Not present                          |
| 15. Okay Owingeh             | Not present                          |

## **Other Guests:**

Mike Montoya, SWTFC Executive Director  
Winkie Crook, Hualapai Tribe Fish & Wildlife  
Scott Crozier, Hualapai Tribe Fish & Wildlife  
Harold Nofchissey, San Carlos Apache Tribe  
Chris Kitcheyan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service NM FRO  
Jennifer Smith, BIA Mescalero Agency

## **Welcome / Opening Comments (Harold Nofchissey, Butch Blazer)**

Harold welcomed group to San Carlos Apache  
Butch offered brief background on SWTFC for new guests, encouragement about current project, activities

## **Approval of past minutes / Financial Status (Steve Whiteman)**

Steve presented April 27<sup>th</sup> minutes for approval; No edits requested since draft was emailed out  
Past minutes were approved by unanimous vote of all members present  
MTFH-SWTFC account separation took place May 30<sup>th</sup>; a separate account has been setup for MTFH funds  
Total fund transfer determined by Steve and Mike was \$136,834.60, leaving the SWTFC balance at \$19,793.67  
The transferred hatchery funds are primarily tribal purchase dollars used for growing and delivering fish to tribes  
The remaining SWTFC funds are made up primarily of tribal donations and Commission membership dues  
Total SWTFC revenue since "account separation" on May 30<sup>th</sup> has been \$1,100.00 in membership dues  
(Navajo \$400; Mescalero \$400; Okay Owingeh \$100; Picuris \$100; Sandia \$100)  
There have been *no expenses* since the account separation.  
The SWTFC ending balance on June 25<sup>th</sup> was \$20,893.67.

## **Chairman's Report (Butch Blazer)**

Butch discussed joint-funding opportunity with BIA-FWS  
Butch recently met with Larry Morrin and Ben Tuggle (regional directors) to secure stable, long-term funding  
SWTFC officers have prepared a proposal to BIA-FWS for the annual funding support  
Proposal will be finalized and submitted in next few weeks  
Larry Morrin fully supportive of SWTC; hopes to secure year-end funding (FY07), as well as long-term funding  
Discussions will be taking place on 638-contracting options for directly supporting SWTFC (separate from MAT)

Shenan Atcitty continues to work on Congressional appropriation for SWTFC  
Also, draft Cooperative Agreement between SWTFC-FWS will soon be re-submitted to Ben Tuggle

### **Executive Officer Report (Mike Montoya)**

#### Western Trout Initiative Update

Some tribes may have been contacted recently by FWS about this already  
Deadline for receiving 1-page conceptual proposals for projects is August 31  
Dan Fairbanks (Pyramid Lake Tribe Fisheries) is on the proposal review/selection committee (only tribal official)  
Tribes should submit proposals to him ASAP at [dfairbank@plpt.nsn.us](mailto:dfairbank@plpt.nsn.us), call Dan first at 775-476-0500  
Jim Brooks at FWS FRO (ABQ) can also be contacted for more information – esp. regarding tribal trout projects  
Native fish emphasis, especially rare-status spp: Gila trout, Apache trout, Rio Grande cutthroat, non-trout spps  
RGC Cooperative Agreement (MAT-NMGF-SWTFC)  
Agreement describes Tribe-State cooperation on Rio Grande cutthroat rearing & distribution; with SWTFC support  
Initial sovereignty concerns at MAT, but have been addressed in the new draft; now needs to go back to NMGF  
Butch will work with NMGF Director, as necessary, to try to facilitate final document approval

#### Surplus Hatchery Equipment

Surplus equipment provided to MTFH (e.g., oxygen generator) will offset re-construction costs for the hatchery  
Mike invites tribes to contact him about sharing of surplus equipment (both ways) to help meet mutual goals  
Mike also offers assistance in fish transportation to tribes who need it; contact him as needed

#### Youth Conservation Corp Grant to MAT

Youth Cons. Corp grant awarded to MAT/MTFH, thanks to Pres. Chino visit to FWS officials in D.C.  
Six kids have been hired for 8-week summer program at MTFH (minimum wage position; \$5.75/hr)  
Mike wants to develop, expand an all-Indian program focused on hands-on environmental projects with other tribes  
Under program, Tribes would develop their own “service programs”; SWTFC would support a fisheries component  
Also, a TWG-funded educational program will soon be available at MTFH  
Mike is working on the curriculum now; housing will be available at MTFH; small stipend will be paid  
Contact Mike to arrange participation of Tribal staff/youth in the program

#### Sandia Pueblo Fisheries Development

Paul brought up questions, concerns, discussion on SWTFC support of individual tribal program development  
SWTFC is willing to meet with Sandia officials to discuss production/rearing economics  
Paul is not clear on SWTFC vision; apparently feels that SWTFC needs to be more “assertive”. **As a commissioner, Paul wants to clearly understand region wide work plans involving SWTFC membership. Paul asked for a clear description of SWTFC activities as described in the business plan developed by NMSU for hatchery funding efforts.**

Clarification was made that SWTFC is committed to helping tribes in ways that truly benefit tribes  
SWTFC leadership will meet with and help tribes however it can; needs to learn about specific challenges first

#### Executive Director Search

Mike invites ALL SWTFC participants to think about qualified individuals for an anticipated paid, FT position  
Discussion took place on qualities/traits/qualifications expected in the new Executive Director (see Mike’s notes)

### ***BREAK (10:15–10:40)***

### **Santa Clara Rio Grande Cutthroat (RGC) Restoration Project (Lawrence Singer, Chris Kitcheyan)**

Brief discussion regarding Santa Clara Pueblo’s plans for a Rio Grande Cutthroat restoration project  
Project Phases: Genetics of current stock; Fish barrier installation; Chemical removal; RGC re-introduction  
SWTFC/MTFH will assist, as needed, with holding fish, obtaining pure strain stock, etc.  
Critical planning, coordination meeting to take place on August 7, 10:00AM Santa Clara offices in Espanola  
Meeting will include many key agency officials, plus numerous technical experts (Pueblo, FWS, NMGF, etc.)  
Mike to attend on behalf of SWTFC

### **PowerPoint: Hualapai Fisheries Program (Winkey Crook, Hualapai Fisheries Tech)**

Program supports T&E species recovery efforts in Colorado River; primarily funded by BOR  
Program is also supported by FWS and Hualapai Tribe  
Presentation included overview of razorback sucker grow-out facilities started in 1995  
Program involves pumping of ground water to a series of gravity-fed ponds and raceways; re-circulation  
Plans for humpback chub production in future  
Potential for fisheries development elsewhere on Hualapai; would like to explore the options – including catfish

**PowerPoint: Tribal Youth Education in Natural Resources (Kai-T Blue Sky, Cochiti/MTFH/FWS)**

Kai-T is presently employed with FWS at MTFH; will soon become MAT Fisheries Biologist under Mike Montoya  
Kai-T discussed various aspects of MTFH's hands-on education program, its great successes with youth  
Program discusses science/fisheries, but also Native American history, challenges, sovereignty, and resource mgmt  
Plans for Cochiti youth to participate in MTFH program in late July; MAT welcomes broad intertribal participation

**Fish & Wildlife Service Update (Chris Kitcheyan)**

Expected to fill Native American liaison position (SW Region) by October 1, 2007

Seven candidates interviewed; top 4 selected for follow-up interviews; local native hoped for, but no guarantees

RFPs for TWG will go out by end of July; Check FWS website this weekend

Existing grants must be in compliance (e.g., reporting) to be eligible for new grants

TLIP has been zeroed out (i.e., eliminated) for FY08; TLIP was a \$2.3 million program in FY07

TWG was \$6.0 million last year; is being increased to \$7.3 million for FY08 (pending presidential approval)

Net loss of \$1 million to the combined Tribal grant programs

Brief summary of Native Trout Initiative provided; application process

Funding awards expected spring 2008 (contact Chris Kitcheyan, Jim Brooks, or Dan Fairbanks for more info)

**Fundraising Update (Viola Willeto, for Jeff Cole)**

Viola gave a run-down of various tribal donations for fundraising (e.g., guided hunts)

Butch wants to dedicate next year's NAFWS Regional fundraising effort to SWTFC

Butch would like Jeff to contact him regarding fundraising plans, use of the tribal donations

**Upcoming Southwest Strategy Meeting (Butch Blazer)**

SW Strategy is a multi-agency organization focused on natural resource issues in southwest

SW Strategy and tribes gathering in mid-August (2-3 days) at Gila River

Many Tribal leaders, officials to be involved

Butch wants NAFWS-SWTFC representation at the upcoming meeting; important exposure to other agencies

**Discussion on Sandia Fisheries Development (Paul Holmes)**

Sandia has contracted with ACI for fisheries development on Sandia lands

Sandia expected to invest significantly in aquaculture facilities

Paul is concerned about direction of changes; especially when outside consultants are involved

Paul would like to acquire **big** catfish for derbies; having difficulty locating sources

Paul has been impressed with cooperation of NMGF on fish importation issues; major change from past experience,

**Paul believes the new cooperation of NMGF is in part due to SWTFC**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:30PM**

**Next meeting: *Quarterly Meeting – October 2007 (Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce NM)*  
Details to be provided later.**

**Meeting Minutes taken by:**

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer

Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

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\*\*\* Suggested edits (in red) submitted by Paul Holmes 8/2/07.