



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / Talking Stick Resort – Scottsdale, AZ/ July 26, 2010

Meeting Convened at 7:15 PM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Arthur "Butch" Blazer (Chairman)
2. Jicarilla Apache Tribe	Kevin Terry (Vice-Chairman)
3. Southern Ute Tribe	Ben Zimmerman (Fill-in Secretary-Treasurer)
4. Santa Clara Pueblo	Joseph Mark Chavarria
5. Navajo Nation	Viola Willetto
6. Laguna Pueblo	Adam Ringia
7. Zuni Pueblo	Nelson Luna
8. Ohkay Owingeh	Not Present
9. Isleta Pueblo	Not Present
10. Nambe Pueblo	Not present
11. Cochiti Pueblo	Not present
12. Sandia Pueblo	Not present
13. Picuris Pueblo	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:

USFWS: Joe Early, Stewarts Jacks, Angela James, Chris Kitcheyan, Jeremy Voeltz,
Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
Ben Martinez, Sandia Lakes
Farold Begay, Navajo Nation
Jeff Cole, Navajo Nation
Kai-t Blue-Sky, Pueblo of Tesuque
Gilbert Gutierrez, Santa Clara Pueblo
Marc Brusuelas, Mescalero Apache Tribe
Randy Bell, Mescalero Apache Tribe

Welcome / Opening Comments (Butch Blazer)

Officer Elections: The two open SWTFC positions are Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. Butch Blazer and Steve Whiteman have both been nominated to continue in those two positions, respectively. However, nominations will still be taken all the way until vote time. Both positions are two-year terms, staggered with the Vice-Chairman position. Under the SWTFC bylaws, officers are elected by a "*majority vote of the member tribes*". Therefore, we'll need at least 9 representatives from our 16 member tribes present.

Only 7 member Tribes are present at this time, which is insufficient to hold the election.

Nelson makes a motion to elect officers at tomorrow's NAFWS business meeting in hopes of better attendance
Motion was seconded by Joe C.; with no objection, motion carries

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Ben Zimmerman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Per usual procedure, the minutes were emailed and posted following last meeting; no corrections submitted
Ben presented the April 23, 2010 quarterly meeting minutes for approval, no quorum, minutes were not approved.

Detailed financial reports were made available to all meeting participants.

The balance for the Discretionary Account as of 7/20/10 is \$28,44.68.
There were no revenues and \$3,736.59 in expenses for the Discretionary Account for the period 4/5/10 to 7/20/10.

The bank account balance for the Feed and Fuel Account as of 7/20/10 totaled \$410,397.14.
Revenue for the Feed and Fuel Account totaled \$52,268.38, while expenses were \$26,568.80 for the period 4/5/10 to 7/20/10.

Joe C. asked about the status of the Commission's tax problem.
Butch indicated that Mike M. has written a letter to the IRS asking for forgiveness on our earlier reporting problem.
The IRS has 45 days to respond.

Chairman Report (Butch Blazer)

Mike M. could not make the meeting due responsibilities at the hatchery. He has 13 youth working in the hatchery and on surrounding habitat projects, all of which he needs to oversee.

Butch commented to the group about the positive impacts on youth that working at the hatchery has made. With the help of BIA and FWS, the youth have kept fish flowing to Tribes.

Joe C. asked if Gov. Richardson office has been solicited for funding to support youth programs. Butch reported he has approached the Governor about this and is waiting to see what happens.

A promotional video is being made at the Hatchery. This video can be used as a tool to seek future funding.

Butch has continued to work on the "Tribal National Natural Resource Strategy (TNNRS)". The process, once established, will be a positive impact for the Commission and serve as a voice for Tribes to address natural resource issues as well as youth programs. TNNRS could pull successful youth programs together.

Joe C. asked if any of the Indian casino taxes could be used to fund tribal hatcheries. Butch mentioned that the Commission serves mainly in a technical support capacity, although it could assist in sending letters to tribal governments to explore the possibility of using Casino tax revenue for hatcheries.

Vice Chairman Report (Kevin Terry)

The "Fish in Classroom" program is starting to gain momentum.
Two fish tanks have been purchased by SWTFC and are available (through application) to SWTFC member tribes.

First edition of the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission newsletter, "Waterways", has been published and copies were made available. Distribution of Waterways will mainly be in electronic format and will get bigger and better as time goes on. Waterways could be used in the future to demonstrate that SWTFC is a capable and proactive group, and to solicit outside support.

Kevin discussed Ted Smith's aquatic education program at Trinidad State Junior College. This is a tremendous resource for training Native American youth as hatchery techs and managers.

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

The class "Rotenone & Antimycin Use in Fish Management" will be at Santa Clara Pueblo ("Casino 7") Aug 16-20
The class fee has been waived for Tribes, and website registration is available. Contact Chris for more information
Meetings have begun on the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan. More tribal involvement is needed.
Grant requests under the FWS Fish Passage program are due October 1, 2010.
Laguna Pueblo is the first New Mexico tribe to receive a Fish Passage grant
Project proposals for the Western Native Trout Initiative are due October 1, 2010; see www.westernnativetrout.org.

Alchesay NFH Update

Hatchery has been able to meet all trout stocking commitments to tribes and is on schedule for winter stocking.
\$2.4 million FY11 funding request to repair main water supply line to the hatchery is in-process
Alchesay NFH will be temporarily shut down for construction if funds are received

Stewart Jacks (Pinetop FWCO) spoke briefly about tribal youth employed at Pinetop and a Career Explorations Workshop is to be held August 4, 2010. He also mentioned the Biologist in Training Program.

GIS Workshop

The Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office and Partners for Fish and Wildlife are hosting a short GIS workshop for tribal natural resource departments in Arizona and New Mexico. The workshop will be from Tuesday, August 31st through Thursday, September 2nd. The workshop will be located south of Pinetop, AZ, at the Hon-Dah Fire Station (#830) and will last 2.5 days, call Dominic Barrett @ 928-338-4288 for more information.

FWS will help with Fish in Classroom project funding

FWS will help with per diem for students wanting to travel to meetings for presentations

Other Business:

Norman Jojola reported that this year's Youth Practicum at the Turner Ranch has again been a success
Joe Chavarria indicated that interns are employed at Santa Clara Pueblo.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM

Next Meeting:

***SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – November 2010
(Specific date and location to be determined)***

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Ben Zimmerman, Fill-in Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
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SWTFC Special Meeting (in conjunction with NAFWS Board Meeting) / July 27, 2010

Meeting Convened at 12:11 PM

SWTFC Officer Election

Butch explained the need for the election at this meeting --- not enough reps for a vote at our last annual meeting
Representatives of eleven (11) SWTFC member tribes were present at this Board meeting, including:

- Cochiti Pueblo – Kai-T Blue Sky
- Isleta Pueblo – Abel Camarena
- Jicarilla Apache Nation – Kevin Terry
- Laguna Pueblo – Adam Ringia
- Mescalero Apache Tribe – Randy Bell
- Navajo Nation – Viola Willetto
- San Carlos Apache Tribe – Harold Nofchissey
- Sandia Pueblo – Timothy Smith
- Santa Clara Pueblo – Joe Chavarria
- Southern Ute Tribe – Ben Zimmerman
- Zuni Pueblo – Nelson Luna

Vice-Chair Kevin Terry conducted the election for SWTFC Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer

Butch Blazer and Steve Whiteman have already been nominated for the positions; no other nominations received
Kevin solicited any last minute nominations at the meeting; none received

Steve was not in attendance due to family emergency, but he has expressed his desire to continue as Sec-Treasurer

Butch discussed his highest priority as SWTFC Chairman: keep Mescalero Hatchery open for SWTFC tribes

The vote was taken by Kevin Terry to elect Butch and Steve for continuing terms.

There was a consensus among the 11 member tribes to re-elect Butch and Steve, with no abstentions.

Per bylaws, Butch and Steve are elected as Chair and Sec-Treasurer (respectively) for 2-year terms each

Meeting Ended at 12:17 PM