



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / Isleta Resort & Casino – Albuquerque, NM / July 27th, 2009

Meeting Convened at approx. 7:10 PM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

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

Other Attendees:

Mike Montoya, SWTFC/Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
Hope Helms, SWTFC/MTFH
Ben Zimmerman, S. Ute Tribe
John Caid, White Mtn. Apache Tribe
Tim Gatewood, White Mtn. Apache Tribe
Joseph Mark Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo
Jay Bautista, Laguna Pueblo
Jeff Cole, Navajo Nation
Ferlin Begaye, Navajo Nation
Chris Kitcheyan, FWS NMFWCO
Jeremy Voltz, FWS AZFWCO
Stewart Jacks, FWS AZFWCO
Phil Hines, FWS Williams Cr-Alchesay NFH
Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southern Pueblos Agency
Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
Pete Stine, FWS (retired)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Mike welcomed the group and introduced Hope Helms as a Vista-volunteer employee of the SWTFC. Hope will handle many MTFH administrative responsibilities, as well as youth programming. Hope received BS in Consumer Science at NMSU; has worked with youth and domestic violence programs. Hope indicated she is very excited about the opportunities at MTFH and looks forward to the work ahead.

Secretary-Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Meeting Minutes:

Steve presented the April 24th 2009 quarterly meeting minutes for approval. Per usual procedure, the minutes were emailed and posted following the last meeting. Minor corrections to the minutes were submitted by Joe Jojola and Lawrence Cata; corrections reviewed by Steve. Motion for approval of past minutes: Lawrence Cata, with 2nd from Kevin Terry; Approved by consensus.

Financial Report:

Last reported bank account balance (from March 24, 2009 bank statement) was \$33,777.27

Current balance (from most recent statement on July 23, 2009) is \$33,877.27, for a net increase of \$100.00

Total Payments included: [None] 0.00

Total Deposits included: Nambe Pueblo Membership 100.00

SWTFC Chairman Report (Butch Blazer)

Butch continues to be impressed with activities at MTFH, and is excited with his daughter, Hope, helping at MTFH
Butch has been meeting with Obama Administration officials on helping to address SWTFC and tribal needs
Butch is disappointed in lack of Native American/minority presence at a recent Natural Resources conf. in D.C.
Butch wants to improve Native American presence in federal government policy decisions
State of New Mexico has made good progress with Indian affairs (e.g., work with Intertribal Timber Council)
There are many strong non-profit Indian groups, but little cross-interaction (e.g., tribal fish/wildlife commissions)
Butch is organizing a conference this September in Denver with invites to a wide variety of Native American groups
The purpose is to strategize on how the groups can work best together to meet/represent needs in Indian country

SWTFC Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Mike gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Mescalero Apache Youth Conservation Corp (MAYCC)
MAYCC is funded through a combination of State of New Mexico and U.S. FWS sources
MAYCC has been critical in supporting various operations at MTFH
AmeriCorps has also been very helpful at MTFH, especially with cleanup/restoration from the 2008 floods
Mike went through a series of photos showing youth at work on various projects at MTFH
Mike would like to see sharing of native youth crews between tribes to provide new experiences
Federal YCC grants are available to all tribes; can be used for many different kinds of project (not just nat. res.)
Approximately \$4M annual program, with individual grants up to \$150K
Stuart Leon (FWS) visited MTFH recently to observe and evaluate the MAYCC; was very impressed
Stuart will work with Interior Secretary to ensure tribal and minority-oriented YCC programs continue to be funded
Mike discussed the tribal fish supply/demand situation, and the need for SWTFC policy to address potential shortage
Steve worked with Kevin and Mike to draft a policy covering allocation of MTFH fish, and receiving waters
Butch suggested holding off on the policy discussion until after the emergency at FWS-Alchesay NFH is addressed
The draft policy was set aside for discussion at the next SWTFC meeting

FWS Alchesay Facility Update (Phil Hine)

Phil is the manager of the FWS hatchery complex at Pinetop, AZ (Williams Creek-Alchesay Nat'l Fish Hatchery)
Largest Indian trust inland rec fishing program; 19 tribes served; 1.2 million trout raised annually
William's Creek facility is in good condition; no risk to Apache trout or operations at *this* facility
Water line at Alchesay has been leaking for very many years, but rapid deterioration occurring in recent years
Engineers estimate roughly half of water supply is currently lost to leaks in supply line; reduces fish production
Phil presented statistics showing economic importance of fish production
Tribal impacts (esp. WMAT):
 Decrease in number or size of fish stocked
 Decreased revenues generated by license sales (and funding for tribal dependent programs)
 Lower economic return to local economies
Future stocking will be based on water availability; Until line replacement occurs, there will be reductions
Cost estimate for total pipeline replacement is at \$3.5M (replacement is the only long-term solution);
Options are being investigated now for funding complete replacement; probably 2-years out (FY12 construction)
Pipeline could break at anytime now. Worst Case: Line breaks now, production completely stopped for 1+ years
An emergency plan is in place to pump river water to facility if/when pipeline breaks; dispersal of fish immediately
Phil emphasizes that FWS can't lobby Congress for funding to replace pipeline, but tribes can
Mike emphasizes that capacity is available at MTFH to help meet shortage problem resulting from emergency
Mike wants to help FWS to meet tribal stocking needs; just need to address basic costs for using MTFH
Butch indicated that SWTFC needs to support WMAT's efforts to identify/secure funding; shouldn't act alone
Additional discussion will be held at NAFWS conference to discuss impacts to tribes, options, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Next Meeting:

SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – November 2009
Specific time and location to be determined.

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
swhitema@southern-ute.nsn.us