

April Annual Meeting – Thursday April 23rd 2020 9:00 AM

WebEx

<http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=745325439&p=&t=c>

Conference Line Number: 1-877-596-0485

Participant Code: 5969256

AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:10a Call to Order (Adam Ringia)**
- 9:10 – 9:20a Secretary-Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)**
- 9:20 - 9:30a Chairman Report (Jacob Mazzone)**
- 9:30 – 9:40a Vice Chairman Report (Glenn Selby)**
- 9:40 – 9:55a Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Report**
- 9:55 – 10:15a Executive Director Report (Adam Ringia)**
- 10:15 – 10:35a Partner Updates**
- 10:35-10:45a Discussion**
- 10:45a Conclude**



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting – WebEx Teleconference April 23, 2020

Meeting Convened at 9:05 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Jacob Mazzone (Chairman)
2. Navajo Nation	Glenn Selby (Vice-Chairman)
3. Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer)
4. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Tori Marden
5. Zuni Pueblo	Nelson Luna
6. Taos Pueblo	Talisa Ortega
7. Laguna Pueblo	Raymond Lucero
8. Santa Clara Pueblo	Dino Chavarillo
9. Isleta Pueblo	Not present
10. Sandia Pueblo	Not present
11. San Carlos Apache Tribe	Not present
12. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Not present
13. Acoma Pueblo	Not present
14. Ohkay Owingeh	Not present
15. Cochiti Pueblo	Not present
16. Picuris Pueblo	Not present
17. Nambe Pueblo	Not present
18. San Ildefonso Pueblo	Not present
19. Ute Tribe (U&O)	Not present

Other Attendees:

Adam Ringia, SWTFC Executive Director
Shelly Belin, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
Ben Zimmerman, Southern Ute Tribe
Greg Mendez, US BIA Mescalero Agency
Norman Jojola, US BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
Chris Kitcheyan, US BIA Southwest Regional Office
Lawrence Abeita, US BIA Southwest Regional Office
Nate Caswell, USFWS – NM FWCO
Melissa Mata, USFWS – NM FWCO
Yvette Paroz, USFS Southwest Region
Arnold Atkins, Trout Unlimited
Toner Mitchel, Trout Unlimited
Harris Klein, Trout Unlimited

Welcome / Opening Comments (Adam Ringia)

Adam reviewed the attendance and welcomed the group
Eight member tribes are in attendance for this meeting; quorum is NOT reached for purpose of voting
Adam offered opening comments and encouragement during COVID19

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Steve confirmed attendance of member tribes at the meeting
Talisa motioned and Nelson seconded to appoint Steve as Sec-Treasurer; vote must be delayed until next quorum
Steve described COVID19 closures at Southern Ute, and how it has affected public fishing on tribal waters
Fishing closures (total or partial) have also been initiated at Zuni, Laguna, Isleta, and Mescalero
Mescalero continues to stock tribal-only lakes, but public areas have been closed to stocking
Lawrence indicates that the Southern Pueblos are closed to public fishing, at least until mid-May.
Fish stocking continues in many places

Steve reviewed the status of the Commission’s three accounts and changes since last report in January 2020
 Steve noted that the Investment Account took a substantial hit with COVID19, briefly dropping below \$500K
 However, markets have partially bounced-back in recent weeks, and our account value has recovered a fair amount

	Beginning Balance/Value	Period Revenues	Period Expenses	Ending Balance/Value	Net Change
General Account (1/20/20 – 4/21/20)	\$88,507.16	\$38,007.60	\$41,427.39	\$85,087.37	[\$3,419.79]
Grants Account (1/20/20 – 4/21/20)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Investment Account (1/21/20 – 4/21/20)	\$594,838.52	-	-	\$527,638.03	[\$67,200.49]

Chairman Report (Jacob Mazzone)

Jacob described general closure to non-member fishing and turkey hunting at Jicarilla Apache
 Jicarilla will be extending valid period of their fishing permits to compensate for COVID19 closures
 Jacob extends appreciation to USFWS hatchery staff for making deliveries to the tribes during COVID19
 Jacob was on a recent call with Desert Fish Habitat Partnership; 2020 grant RFP is expected in June timeframe
 Jacob recently participated in a major Three Species data-upload effort among all the partners
 The Three Species work will be important for the upcoming SSA for roundtail chub
 Any tribe that has updates on Rio Grande cutthroat trout, please provide that to the recovery group
 Steve inquired about the status of the two native suckers under the Three Species Agreement
 Jacob said there is concern about those species, but FWS seems focused mainly on roundtail chub
 Jacob doesn’t expect any listing-type action with suckers, despite drastically declining populations
 Jacob is only aware of three tribal participants in Three Species – Jicarilla, Southern Ute, Navajo
 Jacob expressed willingness to continue in his Chairman capacity
 Steve motions to re-elect Jacob Mazzone as Chairman, Nelson seconds; voting delayed until next quorum

Vice-Chairman Report (Glenn Selby)

Navajo has been hit hard by COVID19; Navajo government is mostly shutdown since mid-March
 Fishing is still being allowed at most tribal lakes; licenses are still being sold
 Navajo hatchery is still operating, producing fish; FWS fish stocking continues, including upcoming catfish
 NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum in Estes Park, CO; looking for applications for counselors

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Report (Tori Marden)

Tori gave a summary presentation on fish hatchery operations between January and April 2020
 A detailed report was provided in hard-copy, and a PowerPoint given. Both are attached to these minutes.

[BREAK 10:15 – 10:30]

Executive Director Report (Adam Ringia)

COVID-19

Adam continues to keep SWTFC engaged in partnership efforts, despite COVID-related closures

Tribal Youth Grants

USFS funding is again available for summer programs; Adam invites requests from interested tribes

Contact Adam with any questions about youth programs

National Fish Habitat Partnership

Adam is now the tribal representative to NFHP and is engaging in calls on behalf of tribes

Adam is evaluating how southwest fish habitat conditions are being evaluated/reported

Some reports indicate “great conditions” in the southwest, but this is probably not true

Adam is interested in hearing tribal perspectives so a regional report on tribal lands can be developed

Steve commented that evaluation methods should consider impact of declining flow (e.g., from climate change)

SWTFC Brochure

The brochure is essentially complete, but will need a vote of approval to move forward with printing
Adam will bring the prototype brochure to the next meeting for final approval/vote

Workshops

Adam presented a lengthy list of workshop ideas for the future and asked for feedback on preferred classes
Jacob spoke to his interest in a workshop on fish genetics
Yvette offered that she could possibly get assistance from USFS experts on genetics/eDNA
Steve suggested that a workshop on “fish stocking” could be helpful, esp. with warming conditions
Chris Kitcheyan concurred that some training on fish stocking evaluation could be very useful

Partnership Updates

- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Nate Caswell)*

Nate expressed thanks to tribes for bearing with hatchery operations during COVID19

Catfish deliveries from Inks Dam start in May

All of the FWS’ YCC programs in the southwest have been cancelled due to COVID19

There is a need to get FWS e-boat fixed so that tribal lake surveys can be carried-out; expecting fix soon

Process is underway to re-fill Chris Kitcheyan’s old position at FWS (Was GS12, changing to GS11-12)

Vacancy should be posted soon; anticipating a high level of interest with applicants

- *U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Chris Kitcheyan)*

BIA staff are mostly teleworking during COVID19

Tribes should be notified soon about grant programs: Youth, Hatcheries, Invasive Species, Endangered Species

COVID19 is affecting prioritization of budget allocations; no news to report on fish/wildlife related budgets

- *U.S. Forest Service (Yvette Paroz)*

Youth program funding is again available this year

eDNA is available to Santa Clara Pueblo, if interested – contact Yvette

Programmatic NEPA for riparian forests in three northern NM forests is out for review

Yvette is willing to assist with tribal grant applications under DFHP or WNTI

- *Trout Unlimited (Harris Klein, Toner Mitchell)*

TU CEO is offering free memberships to COVID first responders/health providers; Contact Chris.wood@tu.org

No in-person meetings happening with TU during COVID19; business to resume post-COVID19

TU is expanding its mission in New Mexico, and requests more partnerships with tribes; please contact TU

TU recently released a short film in March focused on Taos Pueblo efforts with Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

Checkout the YouTube video: “Querencia” about northern pueblos and Rio Grande cutthroat

- *Native American Fish & Wildlife Society: Southwest Region (Norman Jojola)*

Youth Practicum (June 15-19) will likely be cancelled due to COVID19; final decision to be made soon

Southwest Regional Conference (Aug 17-20), at Santa Ana Pueblo, is currently tentative due to COVID19

NAFWS national meeting has been cancelled for 2020; to be hosted by southeast in 2021

Adam closed the meeting by asking for feedback on how the teleconference went; generally supportive response

Next meeting may be WebEx or in-person, possibly in conjunction with NAFWS; depends on COVID19

Attendees seemed supportive of WebEx/Zoom meetings, as needed, in the future

Motion to adjourn by Jacob; Seconded by Glenn. Approved through unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM

Next Meeting:

SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – Late July or Early August

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer

Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SOUTHWEST TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
April 23, 2020

I. GENERAL ACCOUNT <i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>	
Balance on 1/20/2020	\$ 88,507.16
Balance on 4/21/2020	\$ <u>85,087.37</u>
Net Change:	\$ (3,419.79)
 <u>Revenues</u>	
Fish Purchases (x6)	\$ 38,007.60
Sub-Total:	\$ <u>38,007.60</u>
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Skretting - Fish food purchase	\$ 18,337.50
SWTFC Payroll (A. Ringia January - March 2020)	\$ 13,038.00
S. Belin Credit Card Payments (Delivery Truck Fuel, Oxygen, Misc. Travel)	\$ 9,314.87
Payroll Processing Fees (Payroll Department)	\$ 378.55
A. Ringia Credit Card Payments (Travel)	\$ 248.47
Lovvis Downs-Glass Accounting Services	\$ 100.00
New Mexico Secretary of State - Period Report	\$ <u>10.00</u>
Sub-Total:	\$ <u>41,427.39</u>
 II. GRANTS ACCOUNT <i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>	
Balance on 1/20/2020	\$ 500.00
Balance on 4/21/2020	\$ <u>500.00</u>
Net Change:	\$ -
 III. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT <i>Edward Jones 8000 Paseo del Norte NE Suite C9 ABQ 87122</i>	
Balance on 1/21/2020	\$ 594,838.52
Balance on 4/21/2020	\$ <u>527,638.03</u>
Net Change:	\$ (67,200.49)



REPORT TO THE SWTFC MEMBERSHIP MESCALERO TRIBAL FISH HATCHERY

DELIVERIES

For the reporting period of January 22, 2019 through April 22, 2020 we delivered 6,328 rainbow trout ranging from 10.5" and up in support of 1 Tribal Fisheries program: Pueblo of Isleta. This number of trout was equivalent to delivering 4,200lbs. All trout were provided at a rate of \$3.06 per pound, plus transportation costs.

HATCHERY BUSINESS

Hatchery staff consists of Tyner Cervantes, Director; Shelley Belin, Manager; Tori Marden, Asst. Manager; Shar Melendrez, Secretary; John Salazar, Houston Fatty, Fisheries Technicians and James Runningwater, Fisheries Tech/CDL Driver. We are happy to introduce our new Fisheries Technician Kenan Zuazua Jr. On April 6, 2020, three of our workers were put on furlough until further notice. Tori Marden will be acting Manager until furlough ends.

The winter deliveries went very well. We were able to accommodate one tribe. We will be prepping to get ready for our spring and summer deliveries. The 2019 Peterbilt 337 PX-9 truck is still performing very well.

We moved fish into the RTH and are now using all three systems. The fish are doing very well. Renovations that were scheduled to take place in the inside tankhouse has been push back, until further notice. Another raceway canopy was completed and now we have 4 installed. A huge " THANK YOU " to Trout Unlimited!! We are still having some issues with the Blue Herons getting into the canopies, but staff are doing their best to secure it more.

No updates on BIA funding, probably won't hear nothing till the end of June or July.

Along with continuing day to day operations and maintenance of the hatchery, we had other activities/events going on during this reporting period:

January 22nd –

- Work started up again in the shop area
- Did 2 winter deliveries
- Moved fish around outside and inside to make room in the inside tankhouse
- Some minor maintenance work on delivery truck

February

- NEW Fisheries Tech started

- Received Annual Interest Check from SWTFC and also a check from Trout Unlimited for construction of one canopy
- Mescalero Apache Schools 2nd Grade came for a tour
- Did our last winter delivery before disease testing
- Work started on the 4th canopy
- Disease Testing done by Southwestern Native Aquatic Resource and Recovery
- Site visit from Senator Martin Heinrich, Mescalero Apache Tribal President and Tribal Council
- Staff attended the Fisheries Management Plan Workshop

March

- 4th canopy structure complete
- 2 Fisheries Techs attended the Practical Electrofishing Course in Las Cruces, NM
- Majority of staff did their recertification for CPR/First Aid
- Started Disinfecting/Cleaned thoroughly all over the facility
- Closed facility down to visitor's/public due to COVID-19 and Tribal Presidents Executive Order 20-02
- Received 150K eggs from White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (WSSNFH)
- Asst. Manager made in charge of hatchery; due to Manager 14-day Quarantine
- Mescalero Apache Tribe Declared State of Emergency
- 2 staff took online Excel Training course

- April 22nd

- Moved fish around to make room, starting to get a little crowded
- Set down newly hatched sac-fry
- Received our BIG order of feed
- 3 staff members were put on furlough until further notice, only 4 staff will manage the hatchery (Shelley, Jimmy, and Sharlayne)
- Received hatchery test results back-Disease Free!!
- Still fighting with blue herons, securing raceways more
- In-Kind Stocking to make room for outside raceways

On April 06, 2020 MTFH received the disease testing results back from Southwestern Native Aquatic Resource and Recovery Center out of Dexter, NM. Our fish were found Disease-Free! MTFH maintains its normal Class-A status. Bio-security measures at the hatchery are continuing to be maintained.

Our primary mission at the hatchery is to serve our community and the many SWTFC member tribes to the best of our ability and to provide the best quality fish we can to support tribal fisheries programs. We will continue to do so.

Thank You,

Assistant Manager Tori Marden
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 tmarden@mescaleroapachetribe.com