



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting / April 3, 2018

USFWS New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office / ABQ, New Mexico

Meeting Convened at 9:00 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Jacob Mazzone (Chairman)
2. Laguna Pueblo	Adam Ringia (Vice-Chairman)
3. Southern Ute Tribe	Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer)
4. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Shelley Battiest
5. Navajo Nation	Glenn Selby
6. Zuni Pueblo	Nelson Luna
7. Sandia Pueblo	Cassandra Espinosa
8. Cochiti Pueblo	Kai-t Blue Sky (arrived 10:45am)
9. Santa Clara Pueblo	Gilbert Gutierrez
10. San Carlos Apache Tribe	Not present
11. Taos Pueblo	Not present
12. Ohkay Owingeh	Not present
13. Isleta Pueblo	Not present
14. Picuris Pueblo	Not present
15. Nambe Pueblo	Not present
16. San Ildefonso Pueblo	Not present
17. Ute Tribe (U&O)	Not present
18. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Not present

Other Attendees:

Stuart Leon, SWTFC Executive Director
Loren Gallerito, Mescalero Parks & Rec Dept
Percy Platta, Mescalero Parks & Rec Dept
Tori Marden, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
Jessica Rodriguez, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
Tom Sinclair, US Fish & Wildlife Service – NMFWCO
Chris Kitcheyan, US Fish & Wildlife Service – NMFWCO
Stuart Wilkins, US Fish & Wildlife Service – NMFWCO
Stewart Jacks, US Fish & Wildlife Service – AZFWCO
Jennifer Johnson, US Fish & Wildlife Service – AZFWCO
Wade Wilson, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Dexter NARRC
Barak Shemai, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Region 2
Richard Christian, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Fisheries Program (via telephone)
Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southern Pueblos Agency
Arnold Atkins, Trout Unlimited
Pete Stine, US Fish & Wildlife Service (retired)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Stuart Leon)

Stuart welcomed the group, introductions were made
Per bylaws, 1/3 of membership (=6) is required for quorum; quorum was achieved
With the amendment of bylaws in November 2017, the attendance requirement for elections is also 1/3 of members
Therefore, there is sufficient attendance for holding officer elections at this meeting

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Steve presented minutes from the prior meeting on November 7, 2017, held in Albuquerque, NM.
Cassandra motioned to approve the Nov 7 minutes, with second by Nelson; Minutes approved by unanimous vote

Steve provided the financial report for the SWTFC Discretionary, Feed/Fuel, and Investment accounts
 A more detailed report of financial activity was provided as a hand-out, but the accounts summary is as follows:

	Beginning Balance/Value	Period Revenues	Period Expenses	Ending Balance/Value	Net Change
Discretionary Fund (11/3/17 – 3/31/18)	\$27,774.22	\$23,251.11	\$24,254.96	\$26,770.37	[\$1,003.85]
Feed & Fuel Account (11/3/17 – 3/31/18)	\$129,881.77	\$58,251.60	\$48,032.03	\$140,101.34	\$10,219.57
Investment Account (11/3/17 – 3/31/18)	\$570,195.96	-	-	\$553,835.65	[\$16,360.31]

Chairman’s Report (Jacob Mazzone)

Jacob has recently been travelling to various inter-agency fisheries meetings, noticed the lack of tribal participants
 He is reaching out to various tribes to encourage participation in these meetings
 He also attended the FWS outreach meeting with tribes where the impact of ANS on catfish stocking was discussed
 Jacob has also prepared articles for the SWTFC newsletter in cooperation with Stuart
 He reminded the group about the upcoming Fisheries Techniques Workshop, and tomorrow’s planning meeting
 Jacob requests input from member tribes on topics of interest for agendas, trainings, etc.
 Jacob hopes to see more positive news shared at Commission meetings, good work happening on tribal lands
 Stuart followed Jacob’s remarks with news that the winter newsletter will be coming out soon
 Jacob also mentioned possible funding opportunities with ANS; stay tuned

Vice-Chairman’s Report (Adam Ringia)

Adam reiterates Jacob’s request for feedback on projects and activities on tribal lands, newsletter articles
 Laguna is considering a new water storage project and possible hatchery development
 Adam is very concerned about a large number of retirements in federal agencies, with no re-filling of positions
 It is likely that federal resources to help tribes will be even more limited, so tribes need to work together
 Drought conditions will exacerbate the challenges in the southwest this year

Partnership Updates

- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Southwest Region (Stewart Jacks)*
 Stewart apologizes to Jacob for not responding to a recent letter. Stewart invites tribes to contact him directly by phone at any time. Stewart addressed the ANS issues (Zebra + Quagga mussels), including at Inks Dam NFH. A stringent protocol and treatment process has been developed for hatchery-raised catfish leaving the facility. FWS is confident this process will prevent spread of ANS. Contact FWS with any questions or concerns about ANS – see Barak Shamie. FWS will consider proposals for ANS projects, including education and/or control measures. FWS budget was passed on March 23rd; funding to regions expected within 30 days. Stewart believes static-funding levels from last year; no changes to hatcheries and FWCOs. There have been multiple key retirements; many (not all) will be re-filled with priority for field positions. Stewart expects same funding level for habitat partnerships in 2018, but changes expected in 2019. Low spring inflows at WC/Alchesay NFH is forcing early stocking of fish. Stewart indicates that WC/Alchesay NFH is soon conducting health testing; notices will go out to tribes on results. Tribes interested in receiving fish should be prepared to immediately take fish in April/May.
- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Headquarters Office (Richard Christian)*
 Richard Christian has just retired from FWS (no re-hire planned), but will continue supporting FWS through volunteer work – including support for the Commission. Linda Friar at FWS will continue supporting tribal outreach efforts. There have been significant retirements at high-levels in FWS, resulting in significant losses of technical expertise.

- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Cons. Office (Chris Kitcheyan)*
Chris needs to hear back soon from tribes that need catfish (e.g., Zuni, Ohkay Owingeh, San Carlos, White Mt.). Barak Shemai recommends looking at the ANS plan and evaluating where tribes can fit in with early-detection efforts. Barak suggests a funding proposal from the Commission on behalf of tribes may be well received. Chris and others at FWS have been working on an implementation plan for the Native American Policy. The draft plan identifies action items under the policy. A draft will be shared with tribes for review/comment. Chris spoke about the cooperative youth program with FWS/USFS at Taos Pueblo; 4 weeks at Pueblo+4 weeks on forest lands.
- *U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Joe Jojola)*
Tribal funding proposals have been forwarded for review and selection. With a budget now in place, award announcements should be coming somewhat soon – perhaps end of May. Retirements continue to impact operations at southwest regional office. Still waiting on a climate change-related RFP. Stay tuned. Joe briefly addressed a USFS youth education program (Student Wildlands Adventure Program, “SWAP”) that is interested in recruiting 12-15 high school/college-level native youth for a week-long program in August. Contact Joe for more information.
- *Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (Norman Jojola)*
National conference May 8-10, hosted by Northeast Region in Newark, RI. Youth Practicum is June 18-22 at Rio Mora NWR; recruitment is currently underway. Contact Norman regarding application process. Southwest Regional Conference, August 13-16 hosted by Southern Ute Tribe. Planning meetings for the regional conference will start very soon.
- *Trout Unlimited (Arnold Atkins)*
TU met with USFS/NMGFD recently about re-stocking of native RGC in recent fire-impacted headwater streams in the Jemez region. Need to ensure that these fish are genetically pure. There are good candidate streams near Cochiti and Santa Clara Pueblos, and on Bandelier Nat’l Monument. Arnold discussed the challenges of salvaging and restoring pure RGC when wildfires are impacting headwater streams.

Executive Director Report (Stuart Leon)

- *Election of Officers*
There is a need for a special election for the Vice-Chairman position (1-year remaining) due to inadequate quorum in previous meetings. There is a need for a regular election for the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer positions (2-year terms). Jacob, Adam, and Steve all indicated a willingness to continue serving in their respective officer positions.
For Secretary-Treasurer, Adam nominates Steve, Nelson seconds. Unanimous approval.
For Vice-Chairman, Cassandra nominates Adam, Nelson seconds. Unanimous approval.
For Chairman, Kai-t nominates Jacob, Nelson seconds. Unanimous approval.
- *Planning Update - 2018 Fisheries Techniques Workshop*
July 23-26 at San Carlos Apache Tribe. Key partners are SWTFC, FWS, BASS Pro Shops, and NAFWS. NOW is the time for tribes to register interested staff in this workshop. Looking for 30 students; need many more to enroll. The workshop will include classroom time and field time on lake/stream techniques. Anticipating that the 2019 workshop will be “Standard Methods in Fisheries”
- *2018 Opportunities for Tribal Youth Programs*
Current fund balance is \$50k, soon expecting another \$16k under cooperative agreement with USFS. Stuart is currently working to implement summer youth programs with Zuni, Hopi, Navajo, Mescalero, and Southern Ute. Norman encouraged these programs to participate in the NAFWS Youth Practicum. Kai-t asked if eligible tribes should be Commission members; Stuart indicated that would be ideal, but should not be a rigid requirement.
- *Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Update (Tori Marden)*
Tori (Assistant Manager at MTFH) reviewed the summary operations report. See the attached report for details on fish production levels, deliveries, current stock on-station, staffing, construction projects, bio-security, etc. MTFH has just completed this year’s disease testing and returned to Class-A status. Working

toward establishing native RGC production capability; need to evaluate spring water supply and facility needs.

- *Awards Presentations (Stuart Leon)*

Stuart gave a brief bio on Joe Jojola, his career-contributions to fish and wildlife through work at FWS, White Mtn. Apache, and BIA. Stuart presented an award plaque to Joe, who is retiring one month from now. Stuart also gave a brief bio on Richard Christian and his work in fisheries through various federal agencies. Richard recently retired from FWS in Washington DC. Jacob read the plaque awarded to Richard for his contributions to fisheries conservation, including support for youth programming at the Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery. Richard's plaque will be mailed to him.

Presentations

- *Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout General Update (Chris Kitcheyan and James Gruhala)*

Chris gave a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of RGC life history characteristics, conservation challenges, listing statuses at federal and state levels. James addressed a current legal petition to list RGC under ESA. FWS has taken the position that listing is not warranted due to sufficient conservation actions underway. Currently waiting on a Court ruling on adequacy or conservation actions and whether the listing should occur.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Next Meeting:

***SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – Monday August 13th 2018
at Sky Ute Resort and Casino – Ignacio, Colorado***

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SOUTHWEST TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
March 31, 2018

I. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS		<i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>
Balance on 11/3/2017	\$	27,774.22
Balance on 3/31/2018	\$	26,770.37
Net Change:	\$	(1,003.85)
<u>Revenues</u>		
Edward D. Jones	\$	23,251.11
	\$	-
Sub-Total:	\$	23,251.11
<u>Expenses</u>		
Stuart Leon Payroll: November 1 - March 31, 2018	\$	16,960.67
Payroll Taxes Impounded	\$	4,569.33
Payroll Department Accounting Fees	\$	528.55
Stuart Leon Travel Expenses	\$	2,167.06
Credit Card Payments (Leon) Travel - See above	\$	-
New Mexico Secretary of State Filing	\$	11.13
Bank Fees + Wire Trans Charge of \$15.00	\$	18.22
Sub-Total:	\$	24,254.96
II. FEED & FUEL ACCOUNT		<i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>
Balance on 11/3/2017	\$	129,881.77
Balance on 3/31/2018	\$	140,101.34
Net Change:	\$	10,219.57
<u>Revenues</u>		
Fish Purchases (x 10)	\$	58,251.60
Sub-Total:	\$	58,251.60
<u>Expenses</u>		
Reimburse Mike Montoya - Auto C/C charge to his personal acct.	\$	746.45
Fish Food Purchase, Skretting (x2)	\$	41,375.16
Vehicle Repairs or parts & tires (x2)	\$	2,204.91
Bank Service Charges - Check Order	\$	16.40
Credit Card Pmts Gas & repairs	\$	3,638.86
Misc. - Home Depot & Walmart	\$	50.25
Sub-Total:	\$	48,032.03
III. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT		<i>Edward Jones 8000 Paseo del Norte NE Suite C9 ABQ 87122</i>
Account Value on 11/3/2017	\$	570,195.96
Account Value on 3/31/2018	\$	553,835.65
Net Change:	\$	(16,360.31)

REPORT TO THE SWTFC MEMBERSHIP
MESCALERO TRIBAL FISH HATCHERY

DELIVERIES

For the reporting period of November through March 2018, we delivered 24,451 rainbow trout ranging from 10.0" and up in support of 5 Tribal Fisheries program, the Pueblo of Sandia, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pueblo of Nambe, San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Pueblo of Isleta. This number of trout was equivalent to delivering 13,320lbs. 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 Battiest, Manager, Tori Marden, Asst. Manager, Jessica Rodriguez, Admin. Asst., John Salazar, Houston Fatty and Ian Murphy, Fisheries Technicians. For this reporting period we are happy to say our CDL Fish Truck driver Jimmy Runningwater has returned.

The FLD-17 Lot that hatched back in April 2017 are now 11 months old. ARD-17 Lot that hatched back in December 2017 are now 3 months old and SSD-18 Lot are 1.5 months old.

Our deliveries this fall dropped due to the unexpected spring and summer deliveries last year. We were able to accommodate several tribes with deliveries. We have increased our inventory and the amount of eggs that we receive. With spring and summer season approaching we hope to continue with our normal deliveries.

We have installed NEW incubation trays and this has led to a higher survival rate.

We just finished up with our Annual Disease Testing in March, which we retained our CLASS A STATUS!!

At the beginning of March, a new WIOA worker has started with us and he is continuing to take his GED courses.

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

November

- Construction began on office area and lab.
- New LED lightings were installed throughout tankhouse.

December

- Received 200K eggs from Erwin National Fish Hatchery.
- Grading/moving fish to make room for fingerlings inside tankhouse.
- Contractor installed 2 NEW garage doors in tankhouse.

January

- Kept up with regular hatchery operations
- Some of our crew members attended the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Range-wide Conservation Team Meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

February

- A contractor installed a new septic system for the tankhouse restrooms and lab room.
- The whole MTFH staff got CPR/First Aid Certified.
- Received 81K eggs from Ennis National Fish Hatchery.

March

- Started moving adult fish around in our raceways to make room for grow out.
- Tours are starting to pick up for the hatchery.
- Received 181K eggs from Ennis National Fish Hatchery.

On April 2nd (yesterday) MTFH received the disease testing results back from Southeastern Native Aquatic Resource and Recovery Center out of Dexter, NM. Our fish were found Disease-Free! MTFH has now obtain 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.