



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting – Teams Teleconference August 27, 2020

Meeting Convened at 9:35 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	Shelley Belin
5. Zuni Pueblo	Cody Lanyate
6. Taos Pueblo	CJ Vialpando
7. Laguna Pueblo	Raymond Lucero
8. Acoma Pueblo	Scott Mabray
9. Santa Clara Pueblo	Garrett Altmann
10. San Carlos Apache Tribe	Blanche Hook
11. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Dan Mosley
12. Sandia Pueblo	Not present
13. Isleta 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
Tyner Cervantes, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
James Runningwater, MTFH
Sharlayne Melendrez, MTFH
Kenan Zuazua, MTFH
Houston Fatty, MTFH
John Salazar, MTFH
Aaron Cajero, Jemez Pueblo
Ben Zimmerman, Southern Ute Tribe
Lovvis Downs-Glass, Southern Ute Tribe
Lawrence Abeita, US BIA Southwest Regional Office
Yvette Paroz, USFS Southwest Region
Harris Klein, Trout Unlimited
Earl Conway, NM Bass Nation
Cynthia Naha, Santo Domingo

Welcome / Opening Comments (Adam Ringia)

Adam convened the meeting and welcomed the group
Dan Mosley offered a prayer to start the meeting
Eleven (11) members are present at the start of the meeting; Quorum is reached for purposes of voting
Adam offered opening comments and encouragement during COVID19
Adam requested more pictures, stories and topics for the weekly digests.

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Steve gave the financial update, reflecting changes in finances since last report on April 21
Steve also pointed out the amazing recovery of the Commission's Investment Fund since the March "crash"
The fund is now fully recovered to its pre-pandemic value. A chart of fund values since start in 2012 was shared
Steve acknowledged the assistance of Lovvis Downs-Glass at Southern Ute with assisting with bookkeeping

	Beginning Balance/Value	Period Revenues	Period Expenses	Ending Balance/Value	Net Change
General Account (4/21/20 – 8/26/20)	\$85,087.37	\$5,664.00	\$27,240.52	\$63,510.85	[\$21,576.52]
Grants Account (4/21/20 – 8/26/20)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Investment Account (4/21/20 – 8/25/20)	\$527,638.03	-	-	\$603,153.32	[\$75,515.29]

Steve indicated that, due to lack of quorum at several of our last meetings, we've been un-able to approve minutes. Per usual procedure, draft minutes were shared with the group via email and minimal corrections were made. There was a motion from Glenn to approve minutes from January 23, April 23, and June 29; second from Dan. There were no objections, and the minutes were approved by consensus of the group. Steve and Ben gave a brief review of activities at Southern Ute and COVID19 status there. Southern Ute Reservation continues to be under a stay-home order, with essentially no non-member fishing allowed. Ben continues with various projects, including olive/tamarisk removal and native fish tracking. Drought impacts on stream flows and temperatures are severe at Southern Ute now.

Chairman Report (Jacob Mazzone)

Recommends tribes follow Adam's weekly digest, which includes very helpful information. Jicarilla is still under a stay-home order, and non-member fishing is shutdown – causing frustration for anglers. Ben requested an update on roundtail chub Species Status Assessment (SSA). FWS letters are currently going out to notify partners of SSA process, and invite participation in drafting SSA. Goal is to have a draft SSA by June 2021, which seems an ambitious goal.

Officer Elections (Adam Ringia)

Adam explained how officer elections planned for annual meeting in spring were delayed due to lack of quorum. The positions of Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer expired, but Jacob and Steve have continued on an interim-basis. Also, Jacob and Steve were both previously nominated to continue in their respective positions for new 2-year terms. Adam and Steve indicated that no new nominations have been received. Dan motioned to close nominations; second by Glen; nominations closed through consensus. Adam entertained motions for re-electing Jacob and Steve to Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. Motion from Steve; second from Shelly to re-elect Jacob as Chairman; Unanimous vote of approval. Motion from Jacob; second from Glenn to re-elect Steve as Secretary-Treasurer; Unanimous vote of approval.

Vice-Chairman Report (Glenn Selby)

COVID19 conditions have improved dramatically at Navajo Nation, with most employees back at work. Most offices are still closed to public entry, but staff are mostly in-office. Fish stocking and surveys are underway, and a stream crossing project. Navajo has received BIA funding for hatchery maintenance and invasive species.

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Report (Shelly Belin)

Shelly gave a brief overview of recent hatchery activities, including fish deliveries. There was a small outbreak of "ich" at the hatchery, but treatment was successful. Recent rains have caused murkiness in water supply, but fish are holding fine. There is one summer intern who has assisted with hatchery operations; completed. Authorization has been given to make off-reservation deliveries; limited supply available (2 deliveries-worth). Some problems with predators (e.g., herons), but not excessive. Mescalero has increasing COVID19 cases, causing challenges for MAT staff.

Member Tribe Updates

Santa Clara Pueblo (Garrett Altmann)

Proceeding on a major stream restoration project (FEMA-funds); in the contracting phase with WCA and Riverbend. Garrett spoke about other WNTI-funded habitat improvement work, and barrier removal.

Pueblo is still on lock-down, but gradually increasing staffing and administrative capacity

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (Dan Mosley)

Still shutdown, with no fishing allowed. Many staff are still furloughed
Tribal Council is currently evaluating when the lake might be re-opened
Depending heavily on natural recruitment of native Lahontan cutthroat trout and cui-ui
New fish tanks arriving very soon, imported from Germany
There was a recent “whiting” event in Pyramid Lake.
Also, wildfire smoke is creating toxicity (ammonia) in hatchery water supply

Taos Pueblo (CJ Vialpando)

Taos lands are till closed to the public.
CJ is new and still learning ropes at Taos
Some electrofishing survey work is being carried out

Zuni Pueblo (Cody Lanyate)

Zuni is on partial-lockdown, but COVID19 conditions are improving; no new cases
There are challenges with drought conditions and declining lake levels; last fish stocking in May

Laguna Pueblo (Adam Ringia)

Some staff have returned to work; majority are in the field or in distanced-office conditions
Hunting will be opening soon, including non-member hunts

San Carlos Apache Tribe (Blanche Hook)

COVID19 has around 90 positive cases; the Tribe is closed-down; many staff are in stay-home
Only tribal member hunting and fishing is allowed
Some catfish stocking is underway, as well as stream surveys
There have been multiple large wildfires on San Carlos that have impacted streams

Acoma Pueblo (Scott Mabray)

Acoma Lake is drying up.
Pueblo is still on lock-down, with only essential Game&Fish staff working

Pueblo of Jemez (Aaron Cajero)

POJ is still on lockdown and has no active cases. NRD is continuing with projects as best as it can.
Planning to implement inventory and monitoring project on the Jemez river this fall.

Pueblo of Santo Domingo (Cynthia Naha)

PSD doesn't have a fisheries mgmt. program, but Cynthia briefly described other natural resources and programs
Cynthia is teleworking from home, overseeing natural resources management activities at PSD
PSD reservation is closed and there are zero COVID19 cases there

Executive Director Report (Adam Ringia)

Adam indicated he has been working on a part-time basis since approval at last meeting; also working FT at Laguna
There is a draft federal invasive species plan – aquatic and terr.; tribal consultation call is planned in mid-September
Adam encourages tribes to review this plan and get involved if they have any concerns
Adam explained his interest in getting increased membership involvement and participation, eg., via committees
Jacob feels that increasing participation is a great idea and supports the small committee approach
Adam is working to close-out USFS youth programs at Mescalero and Hopi; COVID has impacted close-out
Adam is also in-touch with Mescalero and Santa Clara about new youth programs at those tribes
These USFS funds are NOT limited just to summer work; Adam encourages tribal participation with this program;
SWTFC has funding for 2020 youth projects as well.
Adam spoke about the strong interest of AFS and NFHP to get more Native American participation
Please contact Adam to share thoughts on opportunities, barriers, etc. to more Native American participation

Partnership Updates

• *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Westley Foster)*

Adam introduced Westley Foster as the new USFWS Tribal Liaison for the SW Region
Westley described how USFWS is currently working on official definitions for “habitat” or “potential habitat”
There is currently a belief that tribes are not impacted, and therefore tribal consultation is un-necessary

However, if any tribe is interested in commenting on this, Westley is very interested in hearing those concerns
Nate Caswell thanks all tribes for coordinating well on fish stocking activities
Thanks to cooperative work with Zuni Pueblo on Zuni bluehead sucker
Still working to fill Fish Biologist position (formerly held by Chris Kitcheyan)
Westley expressed his desire to build positive working relationships with southwest tribes
Westley will be the point-person for tribes interested in the TWG program, but will not be on the review board to avoid conflicts of interest.

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

RFPs are going out on USFS funding programs

WNTI will be posting their RFP soon

Most USFS staff are teleworking from homes

Most forests are at high-risk of wildfire right now

Northern NM Riparian EA comment period closed; working through comments now

Yvette is hoping to do eDNA work at Santa Clara Pueblo

A rotenone project is currently being planned (contact Yvette if interested in learning more about these projects)

- *U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Lawrence Abeita)*

Waiting for return-to-work orders; in-office work only on as-needed basis; staff are mostly teleworking

Lawrence is working on administration of tribal grant programs (e.g., youth, invasive species, etc.)

No news to report at this time with NAFWS (per Norman)

- *New Mexico Bass (Earl Conway)*

Working on a project at Cochiti Lake (which is still closed) to assess extent of Eurasian milfoil infestation

This Eurasian milfoil has mostly wiped-out other aquatic plants in the lake

NM Bass hopes to develop a plan for controlling this invasive plant

NM Bass invites inquiries from tribes if help is needed with AIS or other aquatic health issues

- *Trout Unlimited (Harris Klein)*

TU has substantially reduced field work this year due to COVID19 impacts

TU is assisting NMGF with new fish barrier construction on the Pecos River (cutthroat restoration)

Gila trout have been re-stocked in Whitewater creek, which has been restored

TU is working with Jemez Pueblo to reduce livestock impacts in San Antonio watershed

TU is also working on fish barrier removal in Taos area streams

TU continues its support for “Fish in Classroom” projects, and looks forward to partnering with interested tribes

Adam invites reaching out to him on any fisheries issues/concerns, including interests in WNTI, NFHP, AFS

He also invites any tribal inquiries on USFS youth program funding opportunities

He also invites comments and suggestions regarding the creation of SWTFC committees

Motion to adjourn from Steve, second from Jacob. Approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.

Next Meeting:

SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – November (Exact date TBD)

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer

Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov



SOUTHWEST TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION

Annual Meeting – August 27, 2020 9:30 AM

[Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting](#)

[Click to join meeting](#)

AGENDA

- 9:30 – 9:40** Call to Order (Adam Ringia)
- Invocation
 - Welcome
 - Overview
- 9:40 – 9:50** Secretary-Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)
- Roll call
 - Approval of Past Minutes
 - Financial Report
 - Southern Ute Coronavirus update
- 9:50 – 10:10** Chairman Report (Jacob Mazzone)
- Meeting Updates
 - Jicarilla Coronavirus update
 - Elections – Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer
- 10:10 – 10:20** Vice Chairman Report (Glenn Selby)
- Navajo Coronavirus update
- 10:20-10:35** Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Report
- BIA funding updates; budgets and projections; pipeline/piping update; fish health; deliveries; youth updates; other news; issues and challenges; coronavirus
- 10:35 – 10:55** Member/Partner Coronavirus Updates
- 10:55-11:15** Executive Director Report (Adam Ringia)
- Reminder – part time – impacts
 - USFWS Critical Habitat Definition Change
 - Federal Draft Invasive Species Plan
 - Tribal Hunting and Fishing impacts and solutions
 - USFS Grant – 2020 edition
 - Committees – other ideas for member involvement
- 11:15 – 11:45** Partnership Updates
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - NAFWS/TU/NMBass/Others
 - Other Agencies and Partners
- 11:45-12:00** Discussion / Schedule next meeting

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SOUTHWEST TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
August 27, 2020

I. GENERAL ACCOUNT <i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>	
Balance on 4/21/2020	\$ 85,087.37
Balance on 8/26/2020	\$ <u>63,510.85</u>
Net Change:	\$ (21,576.52)
 <u>Revenues</u>	
Fish Purchases (x4)	\$ 5,664.00
Sub-Total:	\$ <u>5,664.00</u>
 <u>Expenses</u>	
SWTFC Payroll (A. Ringia April - July 2020)	\$ 15,209.00
S. Belin Credit Card Payments (Delivery Truck Fuel, Oxygen, Misc. Travel)	\$ 10,453.20
A. Ringia Credit Card Payments (Travel & Misc.)	\$ 1,276.42
Payroll Processing Fees (Payroll Department)	\$ <u>301.90</u>
Sub-Total:	\$ <u>27,240.52</u>
 II. GRANTS ACCOUNT <i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>	
Balance on 4/21/2020	\$ 500.00
Balance on 8/26/2020	\$ <u>500.00</u>
Net Change:	\$ -
 III. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT <i>Edward Jones 8000 Paseo del Norte NE Suite C9 ABQ 87122</i>	
Balance on 4/21/2020	\$ 527,638.03
Balance on 8/25/2020	\$ <u>603,153.32</u>
Net Change:	\$ <u>75,515.29</u>

Quarterly Investment Account Values

Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission





REPORT TO THE SWTFC MEMBERSHIP MESCALERO TRIBAL FISH HATCHERY

DELIVERIES

For the reporting period of July 1st through August 26th, 2020, we delivered 2,096 rainbow trout in support of 1 tribal fisheries program, the Mescalero Apache Tribe. This number of trout was equivalent to delivering 720 lbs. 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. Mgr.; Sharlayne Melendrez, Secretary; John Salazar, Houston Fatty and Kenan Zuazua, Fisheries Technicians. James Runningwater is a Fisheries Technician and also our CDL Fish Truck driver.

The Shasta Domestic LOT, identified as SSD-20, are now almost 5 months old. After a Formalin treatment and then salt treatments, the trout fry recovered from a case of "Ich". Mortalities dropped to near 0 per day. The overall survival rate for this LOT is 74%.

For this reporting period, we were in the middle of monsoon season. On some days the rains we received caused flash flooding. The rains only affected the hatchery in creating murky water, in which we had to with-hold feedings for fish.

We had an intern working alongside our regular staff this summer. Her name is Jacali Baeza. She is a Mescalero Apache tribal member. She is in her 2nd year of college at New Mexico State University – Las Cruces, studying Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology. She gained a lot of hands on experience with the fish, water quality and overall hatchery operations.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to develop, we are closely monitoring updates from government and health officials to inform our decisions in the best interest of the hatchery facility. MAT has continually kept the community informed about COVID-19 with video updates and web-page reports. At the hatchery, we are daily following social distancing guidelines. Sanitizing/disinfecting has become the norm for us. Temperature checks for all staff and anyone entering the facility are recorded daily.

We have been given the authorization to begin off-reservation fish deliveries. We will follow a strict protocol for deliveries to other Tribes/Pueblos. We will not be doing any out-of-state fish deliveries at this time.

JULY

- Jacali Baeza, summer intern, began work at the hatchery.
- RTH-System 3 (4 tanks) were shut down. Fish were moved to an outside raceway. Only System 1 (3 tanks) and System 2 (4 tanks) are in operation.
- Staff finished pipe repair work for Villa Springs.
- Hatchery Manager, along with the SWTFC's Vice-Chair, was interviewed on KUNM talk radio on a show about Tribal Fisheries Programs.

- Renovation work to pipe system for the inside tank house tanks.
- Raccoons at raceways.

AUGUST

- Continued work on pipe system for inside tanks.
- Routine maintenance work to heavy equipment. New tires for skid steer.
- Herons beginning to show up more at raceways.
- Assisting BIA with carp removal at Mescalero Lake.
- In-Kind deliveries.
- In the works...erecting one more canopy covering...renovation of 8 inside tanks.

MTFH holds its Class-A fish health status. We continue to maintain our bio-security measures by disinfecting the hatchery and equipment as safely and as often as possible.

Our primary mission is to serve our community and the 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.

Summer Intern – Jacali Baeza



We had an intern working alongside our regular staff this summer. Her name is Jacali Baeza. She is a Mescalero Apache tribal member. She is in her 2nd year of college at New Mexico State University – Las Cruces, studying Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology. She gained a lot of hands on experience with the fish, water quality and overall hatchery operations.





August Board Meeting

Thursday, August 27th, 2020

9:30 AM-12:00 Noon

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

9:30 – 9:40a	Call to Order (Adam Ringia)
9:40 – 9:50a	Secretary-Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)
9:50 - 10:10a	Chairman Report (Jacob Mazzone)
10:10 – 10:20a	Vice Chairman Report (Glenn Selby)
10:20 – 10:35a	Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Report
10:35 – 10:55a	Member updates
10:55 – 11:15a	Executive Director Report (Adam Ringia)
11:15 – 11:45a	Partner Updates
11:45-12:00	Discussion-Conclude



Call to Order

9:30 – 9:40

- Invocation
- Brief Overview of Meeting
- Needs from members
 - Feedback
 - Photos
 - Stories

Secretary Treasurer Report 9:40 – 9:50

- Role Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Financial Report
- Southern Ute Updates





Chairman's Report 9:50 – 10:10a (Jacob)

- Meeting Updates
- Jicarilla Coronavirus update
- Elections
- Chairman of the Board (2-year term)
 - Nominations: Jacob Mazzone (from April meeting)

Secretary-Treasurer (2-year term)

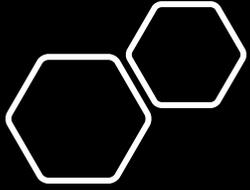
- Nominations: Steve Whiteman





Vice Chair Report 10:10-10:20

- Updates
- Navajo Coronavirus Update



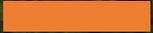
MTFH updates 10:20-10:35

- COVID-19 Impacts to operations, furloughs, travel, etc...
- MATFH Budgets, Spending and Projections – O2/Utilities costs
- Recent, Current, and Upcoming repairs
- Pipelines and water issues
- Interns
- Other Issues and challenges





Member/Partner Coronavirus
Updates/Impacts
10:35 – 10:55



Executive Director Business

10:55 – 11:15a

Exec Director - Outside Employment- updates

- Laguna – Water Rights Office

USFWS – Critical Habitat definition revision

Federal Draft Invasive Species Plan

Committees?

USFS Grant – Youth – Not just for summer anymore..

Partner
Updates
11:15-11:45



Discussion/Next Meeting
11:45-12:00

