



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / Mescalero Apache Reservation – I.M.G. / August 3, 2006

Meeting Convened at 11:45AM (immediately following NAFWS conference adjournment)

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- 1. Mescalero Apache Tribe Butch Blazer
- 2. Southern Ute Tribe Steve Whiteman
- 3. Navajo Nation Jeff Cole
- 4. Isleta Pueblo Jackie Keryte
- 5. San Carlos Apache Tribe Anna Tryfonas
- 6. Ute Tribe Jonas Grant
- 7. Pyramid Lake Tribe Don Fairbanks
- 8. Zuni Pueblo Nelson Luna
- 9. Sandia Pueblo Paul Holmes
- 10. Okay Owingeh Lawrence Catta
- 11. Cochiti Pueblo Don Suina (arrived after votes)
- 11. Jicarilla Apache Nation not present
- 12. Laguna Pueblo not present
- 13. Santa Clara Pueblo not present
- 15. Picuris Pueblo not present

Approval of past minutes / Financial Status (Steve Whiteman)

As per usual procedure, past meeting minutes were mailed out for review/comment
 Steve presented the April 28th 2006 meeting minutes for consideration and approval
 A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Cole, with 2nd by Paul Holmes
 The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous in favor
 Steve gave the financial status, with an explanation of the “Service Account” and balances/activity
 Steve also provided a handout showing account activity/summary since last meeting

Previous Balance: **\$41,781.93**
 Current Balance of Service Account: **\$76,952.44**

| <u>Activity (since 4/28 meeting)</u> | <u>DEP</u> | <u>WDL</u> |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Tribal fish orders (MAT, SUIT, San I., Sandia, Okay Owingeh) | +29,193.00 | |
| Fish Delivery Payments | +5,079.75 | |
| MAT IMG Stipend Funds (“Grant”) | +3,000.00 | |
| Montoya “Loan” Payback | +5,000.00 | |
| Montoya “Loan” | | -5,000.00 |
| Student Housing Furniture | | -1,142.24 |
| MTFH Student Stipend Payments | | -960.00 |
| Totals: | +42,272.75 | -7,102.24 |

Mike Montoya requested approval of the financial report; The group approved the report through consensus

Vice-Chairman Election (Mike Montoya)

Don Fairbanks (Pyramid Lake) nominates Albert John (Pyramid Lake) to be Vice-Chair
 Albert spoke briefly about his experience, willingness to take on vice-chair responsibilities
 Jeff Cole (Navajo) nominates Paul Holmes (Sandia) - Paul declines nomination
 Paul Holmes nominates Jeff Cole - Jeff talked about his willingness to serve in position
 John Antonio moved to close nominations; Motion by L. Catta and 2nd by J. Grant

Unanimous vote of approval to close nominations

Mike Montoya conducted vote; ballots counted by Steve, Shenan and Mike (1 vote per member tribe)

Albert John received 6 votes; Jeff Cole received 4 votes

Albert John assumes remaining term of Vice-Chair position (i.e., through SWTFC April 2007 annual meeting)

Chairman Update (Butch Blazer)

Butch congratulated Albert, expressed appreciation for Jeff's willingness to serve as VC

Butch discussed recent successes with BIA funding allocation (i.e., \$78,000 supplement to MAT 638 contract)

Mike Montoya's efforts with local media may have been very important in generating attention to the funding need

Continued funding will be extremely important for operations – this is *not* a permanent/ongoing allocation

Butch expressed optimism about his new role as a BOD member with the NAFWS – SW Region

The possibility may exist in the future to expand SWTFC to include wildlife, but focus is on fisheries for now

Butch sent out letters of request for funding support to member tribes - Mescalero, Jicarilla, S. Ute already donated

Butch commented on the importance of cooperative work with NCAI in order to move SWTFC forward

National Fish Habitat Initiative (Don Fairbanks, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe)

Mike Montoya asked Don for an introduction and status check of this project

Don recently attended a Western Assoc. of Fish & Game Agencies – first tribal rep in attendance!

When Don mentioned SWTFC affiliation, state reps gave full attention

Don believes an opportunity may exist to tap into funding through the Initiative

Albert John will be presenting additional info on funding opportunities at SWTFC's next meeting

Butch stated his desire to see tribal representation with the Initiative – has been communicated to FWS Dale Hall

Cooperative Partnerships (Pat Durham, USFWS)

Pat Durham commented on his strong access to Dale Hall regarding tribal f&w issues

Pat feels a problem is that agencies look for 1 person to represent all tribes

Credibility needs to be built at regional levels and networking is very important

There is also need to develop capacity within NAFWS to better represent tribes with a “national voice”

Pat offered full FWS assistance to develop strong educational programs to benefit tribal youth

One catch – The initiative needs to be taken by tribes, not by FWS – Pat will assist Mike Montoya

A proposal may be submitted at next meeting

Legislative Update (Shenan Atcitty)

EDA funding for MTFH renovation looks favorable for initiating construction in FY07

Shenan acknowledged efforts of MAT President Chino to work with Congressmen on behalf of MAT, SWTFC

Shenan discussed bleak funding situation facing tribes at national level

Fortunately, we have good relations w/Congressional reps from the southwest (esp. Domenici)

Shenan is optimistic that SW tribes can take lead with new fish and wildlife initiatives

Shenan acknowledged strong support from FWS reps, including Director Dale Hall

Butch suggested EDA funding will be extremely important for water quantity/quality improvement at MTFH

Funding environment is very discouraging, but persistence will be critical

Additional Discussion (Mike Montoya)

Mike said there will be NO SURCHARGE on MTFH fish purchasing in FY07 (due to new BIA funding)

New BIA funding is not a “permanent source”, but Larry Morin (BIA Regional Director) will continue the search

Mike commented on the growth of SWTFC and MTFH and the need for planning by Executive Committee

Mike is no longer SWTFC Exec. Director due to (1) lack of SWTFC funding, and (2) direct employment by MAT

Mike believes another SWTFC Executive Director will be needed due to his commitment to MAT

Mike will continue to assist SWTFC as much as possible, especially in regard to operation of MTFH

Paul Holmes asked about status of RGC program

Much difficulty with locating pure RGC source; Conversation will have to take place with State on RGC sourcing

FWS Regional Director Ben Tuggle is *very* supportive of Tribal RGC plan, and will weigh in with NMGF

Fundraising Committee (Jeff Cole)

Jeff explained the Committee, which is being established to look at short and long-term funding for SWTFC

One priority is to fund the SWTFC Executive Director position

We need to develop a written plan that lays out goals, how money will be generated and expended, etc.

Current members: Jeff, Butch, Steve, Shenan; New: Norman Jojola, Albert John, Anna Tryfonas

Butch says a meeting of the Committee will be needed soon

Butch anticipates a major fundraiser in Reno next year (i.e., in conjunction with the National NAFWS meeting)
SWTFC just generated \$3,800+ at the auction (in conjunction with SW Regional NAFWS conference)
A re-write of the SWTFC Strategic Plan needs to happen (esp. because of recent funding delay, loss of Exec. Dir.)
Butch will be discussing with Thora the \$78K recently awarded for the MAT-SWTFC 638
Tribes will need to come together with ways to help with fund raising; e.g., hunting and fishing donations, etc.
Butch suggested possibly taking fund raising effort to national Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership meeting
Pat Durham suggested developing a “needs assessment” report, then pursuing federal year-end dollars
Dollars won’t materialize unless it is clear what the money is needed for, how it will be used
Pat offered to help with fund raising, although indirectly due to his federal role and associated constraints

Next meeting of full SWTFC will be planned for October
Suggestion was made to hold the meeting in Reno, in conjunction with NAFWS conference planning
Lawrence Abeita will look into conference call options at BIA/Albuquerque office
Butch indicated more consideration will be given to next meeting location; the group will be notified accordingly

Next meeting of the SWTFC Fundraising Committee is set for:
Friday, August 18th, 10:00AM – BIA Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM
Room to be determined – Jeff Cole to follow-up with group

Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM