



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Special Meeting Minutes / Aug. 4, 2005 / Hon-Dah Resort - White Mtn. Apache, AZ

- **Meeting Convened at 12:00PM (earlier than scheduled, in order to maintain quorum)**

- **SWTFC member tribes / representatives in attendance:**

1. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Jim White
2. Laguna Pueblo	Chuck Schultz
3. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Freddie Chino
4. Northern Ute Tribe	Jay Groves
5. Sandia Pueblo	Paul Holmes
6. Southern Ute Tribe	Steve Whiteman

(Members not present: San Juan Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Navajo Nation)

Butch started the meeting with opening remarks on recent favorable developments for SWTFC. Butch briefly described his visits in D.C. with private, Congressional, and Federal Agency officials. Shenan discussed funding requests to BIA and FWS leaders in D.C., and the encouraging response. Shenan indicated that language in a forthcoming Senate bill directs BIA to evaluate Tribal hatchery needs. The bill represents an important opportunity to make the Mescalero hatchery support needs known. Also, John Berry, Exec. Director of NFWF, indicates \$150K may be coming from NFWF in the future. Butch emphasized the momentum of support for SWTFC, and expects this will continue to expand.

- **Approval of past minutes (Steve Whiteman)**

Steve presented the minutes from the previous SWTFC meeting held in Laguna, NM. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Paul Holmes and seconded by Freddie Chino. The vote was taken and there was unanimous approval of the June 15 minutes.

(Note: John Antonio had previously submitted a recommended edit to the June 15 minutes concerning the reported number of TLIP and TWG grants submitted by the southwest region (28, not 14). Also, Paul Holmes suggested strengthening the language used to describe the level of Tribal concern on a possible merger of FWS Fisheries Program into FWS Ecological Services. The statement, "ES focus on ESA issues, and frequent lack of recognition of tribal sovereign authority, would be a major issue" was inserted. The requested changes were incorporated into the approved minutes.)

- **Financial Status (Steve Whiteman)**

Steve gave a brief summary of the SWTFC Service account status, as follows:

Starting Balance:	\$11,380.89 (as of May 24 th , reported at Laguna meeting)
Total Deposits:	\$27,884.53 (primarily fish purchases by member tribes)
Total Withdrawals:	\$11,006.33 (primarily feed and delivery expenses)
Ending Balance:	\$28,259.09

Detailed statements are available upon request by any member tribes, contact Steve Butch anticipates contacting Tribes directly for additional financial support.

- **Amendment of Bylaws: Dissolution Clause (Shenan Atcitty)**

Shenan explained SWTFC's need to amend the bylaws to meet a requirement for Federal 501c status. Amendments to bylaws require a 2/3 vote of member tribes (6 members present, quorum satisfied). Shenan read and explained the dissolution language, which follows standard language from IRS code.

A motion to approve the proposed bylaws amendment concerning dissolution was made by Jim White and seconded by Steve Whiteman

The vote was taken and there was unanimous approval of the bylaws amendment

- **Update on TWG Proposal (Jim White)**

Jim indicated that a MAT-SWTFC “grant award looks very favorable”; No official announcement yet. Paul suggested that SWTFC “springboard” from the grant award with funding requests to member tribes *(Prior to publication of these minutes, an official award of the MAT-SWTFC grant HAS in fact been made!)*

- **Clarification of Fisheries Program Facility Changes (Lynn Starnes)**

FWS is paying in excess of \$50 million in rent/lease for various facilities across the country

Monies are coming out of the FWS base operating budget

A plan was made to re-locate federal facilities to federal lands for rent savings, where feasible

The FWS AZFRO and NMFRO have been under consideration for re-location

The Plan: Pinetop Fish Health Center will move to Dexter

Re-location to Dexter would greatly improve efficiency for Region, Also advantageous to MTFH

For the AZFRO office – Remove the Tribal portion and retain in AZ, under supervision of C. Ketchiyan

Also under consideration: Establish new TX/OK FRO to bring more funding to Region

*** Lynn wants to dispel the rumor that AZFRO will be closed and Tribal program will be abandoned **

For more info, contact Lynn: (505) 248-6620 or email to Lynn_starnes@fws.gov

- **MTFH Update (Mike Montoya)**

Mike encourages fall stocking of smaller fish vs. raising in hatchery; efficient and cost-effective

Mike is prepared to visit with Tribal leaderships to discuss SWTFC, MTFH operations

Mike emphasized Tribes being in the “driver’s seat” with SWTFC services

Paul inquired about SWTFC need for financial assistance from Tribes

Butch acknowledged that Tribal assistance may be requested soon

Butch announced next meeting on Friday Sept. 23rd at Inn of Mtn. Gods in Mescalero

(Prior to publication of these minutes, the date of the next meeting was changed to October 20)

- **Motion to adjourn by Jim White; 2nd by Freddie Chino; Unanimous Approval**

Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer

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