



# Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA SW Regional Headquarters - ABQ, NM / Jan. 25, 2008

**Meeting Convened at approx. 10:15 AM**

## **Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)**

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mescalero Apache Tribe    | Butch Blazer (Chairman)              |
| 2. Southern Ute Tribe        | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 3. Jicarilla Apache Nation   | Kevin Terry                          |
| 4. Isleta Pueblo             | Jeremy Hale                          |
| 5. Sandia Pueblo             | John Hulkonen                        |
| 6. Cochiti Pueblo            | Kai-T Blue Sky                       |
| 7. Santa Clara Pueblo        | Gilbert Gutierrez                    |
| 8. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present                          |
| 9. Zuni Pueblo               | Not present                          |
| 10. Laguna Pueblo            | Not present                          |
| 11. Navajo Nation            | Not present                          |
| 12. Okay Owingeh             | Not present                          |
| 13. Picuris Pueblo           | Not present                          |
| 14. San Carlos Apache Tribe  | Not present                          |
| 15. Ute Tribe (U&O)          | Not present                          |

## **Other Attendees:**

Mike Montoya, SWTFC Executive Director / MAT Fisheries  
Ernest House, Sr. (Chairman, Ute Mt. Ute Tribe)  
Gilbert Gutierrez, Santa Clara Pueblo  
Joseph Chavarria Santa Clara Pueblo  
Alex Puglisi, Sandia Pueblo  
Jeremy Quintana, Cochiti Pueblo  
Aaron Pecos, Cochiti Pueblo  
Jacob Pecos, Cochiti Pueblo  
Jennifer Smith, BIA Mescalero Agency  
Lawrence Abeita, BIA SW Regional Office  
Joe Jojola, BIA SW Regional Office  
Chris Kitcheyan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
James Sandoval, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Pete Stein, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (retired)  
Jason Wiebenga, Aquatic Consultants

## **Welcome / Opening Comments (Butch Blazer)**

Group was welcomed and introductions made  
Recognition of distinguished guest, Chairman Ernest House, Sr. of Ute Mt. Ute Tribe

## **Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)**

### Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Steve presented December 13<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes for approval  
Only 1 minor edit to minutes was requested concerning the Santa Clara rep who provided an update on RGC project  
Motion to approve the edited minutes was made by Jeremy Hale, with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gilbert Gutierrez (?)  
Minutes were approved by unanimous vote of all members present  
Last reported bank account balance (from Oct 24 bank statement) was \$20,993.67  
Current balance (from most recently received bank statement, Dec. 26 2007) is \$21,393.67, for a \$400 net increase  
No expenditures to report; \$400 is in membership dues: \$200-Jicarilla (07-08), \$100-Cochiti (08), \$100-Isleta (08)

### 501c(3) Status Update:

The required modification to the Articles of Inc. were submitted to and approved by the NM Public Reg. Comm. Many thanks to Chris Montoya (Mike's wife) for help with last-minute paper processing at NM PRC in Santa Fe. The updated Articles and Bylaws, and NM PRC approval cert., have been submitted and received by federal IRS. SWTFC should be notified very soon regarding the IRS' final determination of SWTFC's non-profit/501c(3) status. Copies of SWTFC's recently updated bylaws (12/13/07 revision) were provided to the group; contact Steve for copy.

### FWS-Tribal Training Opportunity:

Stewart Jacks (AZFRO) has notified SWTFC of a FWS plan to provide training to tribal resource professionals. Stuart expects that 1 to 2 FWS training programs per year will be offered, starting in April 2008.

The April program will be "Preventing and Controlling the Spread of Invasive Species" (terrestrial and aquatic). Program is a 2 day course with enrollment and all materials provided *at no charge*.

Training will be at FWS facility in Pinetop, AZ and discount lodging will be setup at WMAT's Hon-Dah Casino. Program is planned for sometime around April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – this still needs to be finalized.

Enrollment is limited to approximately 25-30 students.

For more information, contact Stewart Jacks at (928)-338-4288 ext. 20.

An official announcement of the program is expected to go out when the course dates are finalized (soon!).

### **Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)**

Mike advised the group of upcoming SWTFC elections at annual meeting in April (for Chairman and Sec.-Treas). Steve and Butch expressed their willingness to continue on in current capacities with SWTFC.

However, both – having served many years in current roles – encourage other members to step up to leadership.

Butch is encouraged with the progress SWTFC and members continue to make, even with SWTFC's lack of funding.

Mike commented that the lack of paid SWTFC staff makes the work of officers much more important.

### MTFH Operations:

Mike gave a brief update on Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH) operations.

Operations are currently "as good as possible" with current resources, manpower.

However, the operating budget is insufficient to run the hatchery at optimum level.

Mike thinks that SWTFC support for additional BIA maintenance funding may be very important to MTFH.

Joe Jojola thinks short-term funding may be possible to obtain, particularly with strong Tribal support.

Other BIA regions could also be approached for hatchery funding support.

Short of major changes in Washington D.C., Joe does not anticipate any significant new funding to BIA.

Mike acknowledged Santa Clara efforts to secure grants for native fish restoration; helps with SWTFC continuity.

MTFH is still committed to supporting other SW tribes with fisheries programs, including native restoration projects.

MTFH will temporarily close Feb 5 for annual inspection by FWS; test takes place over an approx. 1-month period.

Mike expects to resume fish deliveries to tribes in early March 2008.

### Cooperative Agreements Update:

We continue to wait on a response from NMGF on the MAT-NM-SWTFC agreement on RGC production/trading.

Butch discussed an email message from the NMGF assistant director; NMGF expects to respond to SWTFC soon.

An important RGC restoration team meeting will be held on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>; to be attended by Mike.

There have been no new developments with the long-stalled SWTFC-FWS Cooperative Agreement.

The draft Agreement is currently w/DOI solicitor Janet Spaulding for review.

### **Chairman Report (Butch Blazer)**

Butch spoke with BIA SW Regional Director Larry Morrin about improving contact with BIA Assistant Secretary.

Jeremy Quintana provided some additional helpful suggestions to Butch on contacting this individual (?).

Jeremy indicated a Santa Clara Pueblo trip to D.C. soon; will talk with Governor about requesting SWTFC support.

Shenan Atcitty will also be asked for assistance with contacts within the BIA Asst. Secretary's office.

Butch plans to re-visit FWS SW Regional Director Tuggle about SWTFC funding support.

The NAFWS National Conference is planned for Yakama, WA in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May.

Also, planning for the SW Regional Conference is still underway – expect the regional conference in early August.

Conference planners should look at scheduling of Pueblo ceremonies in August to minimize schedule conflicts.

A suggestion has been made that the regional conference could be in AZ; however nothing has been decided yet.

Some other possible locations: Isleta in Albuquerque, Hopi in Flagstaff, Laguna in Albuquerque.

NAFWS SW Region tries to have a good geographic rotation of annual meetings throughout the region.

Mike asked about status of NAFW Foundation funding. Butch gave a brief summary of the contentious history.

No new progress with NAFWF to report at this time, but Butch will contact NAFWS President Mat for an update.

**Update from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Chris Kitcheyan)**

The FWS “Fisheries Resource Offices” have been re-named as “Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices”  
Rainbow trout distribution to start in March; Chris will contact tribes soon about receiving water conditions  
Tribes that want to change stocking plans need to notify Chris ASAP with requested changes  
Phil Hines is to be the new Project Leader/Hatchery Manager at Williams Cr-Alchesay NFH – supportive of tribes!  
Catfish stocking is to begin in May; Chris will follow up with receiving tribes about catfish stocking  
There are no funding decisions to report from the Western Native Trout Initiative – decisions possibly in March

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Outreach (James Sandoval)**

James gave a detailed presentation on the spread of two exotic mussel species in the U.S. and related challenges  
“Eradication” is not possible where they occur, but measures can be taken to stop or slow the spread to new areas  
Education and outreach are the best tools; focus is on cleaning boats, trailers, equipment used in infected waters  
James has access to mussel experts who could come to the region if sufficient interest in a program is generated  
James expressed willingness to “go anywhere” for educational programs; contact him at [James.Sandoval@fws.gov](mailto:James.Sandoval@fws.gov)

**Proposal: SWTFC Fundraising Fishing Stamp (Kevin Terry)**

Kevin presented a fundraising concept for SWTFC to consider  
A stamp-option would be available at points-of-sale for tribal fishing permits – similar to “habitat stamps”  
As an example, \$1 could be donated to support SWTFC and this would be noted with an SWTFC stamp  
Kevin passed around a sample-stamp that could be used; can be inexpensively produced by a printer in ABQ  
The plan could generate needed funding for SWTFC, as well as awareness of its purpose/goals  
An informational poster or low-cost flier would be good to provide at points-of-sale (but not an expensive brochure)  
Another idea is produce small trash bags or other materials with SWTFC name/logo for handout at point-of-sale  
Butch encouraged members to think creatively about ways to utilize our present SWTFC funds – including website  
Mike suggests that an informational poster/flier should be designed and presented at our April meeting  
Member tribes may need to research what Tribal approvals would be required to collect and submit stamp funds  
Another suggestion is to provide SWTFC fliers at the ABQ outdoor show – Kevin is willing to do this

**Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM**

**Next Meeting:**

*Annual BOD Meeting – Elections for Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer  
April 2008 (Details to be determined)*

**Meeting Minutes taken by:**

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission  
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