



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA Southwest Regional Office – ABQ, NM / Aug. 25 2011

Meeting Convened at approx. 9:20 AM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Laguna Pueblo | Adam Ringia (Vice-Chairman) |
| 2. Southern Ute Tribe | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 3. Sandia Pueblo | Ben Martinez |
| 4. Mescalero Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 5. Jicarilla Apache Nation | Not present |
| 6. Santa Clara Pueblo | Not present |
| 7. Ohkay Owingeh | Not present |
| 8. Zuni Pueblo | Not present |
| 9. Isleta Pueblo | Not present |
| 10. Nambe Pueblo | Not present |
| 11. Cochiti Pueblo | Not present |
| 12. Picuris Pueblo | Not present |
| 13. Navajo Nation | Not present |
| 14. Ute Tribe (U&O) | Not present |
| 15. San Carlos Apache Tribe | Not present |
| 16. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present |

Other Attendees:

- Mike Montoya, SWTFC/Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery (MTFH)
- Sylvia Rains-Dennis, Taos Pueblo
- Arthur “Butch” Blazer, Blazer Conservation Connection
- Mike Oetker, FWS Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries
- Chris Kitcheyan, FWS NM Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
- Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office
- Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
- Pete Stine, USFWS (retired)

Welcome / Opening Comments (Mike Montoya)

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Past Minutes and Financial Status:

Steve provided the financial report for the SWTFC Discretionary and Feed/Fuel accounts, as follows:

	Discretionary Account	Feed & Fuel Account
Last reported Balance (as of 4/5/11)	\$30,134.11	\$514,310.37
Period Expenses	\$2,322.25	\$22,058.70
Period Revenues	\$280.00	\$30,626.35
Ending Balance (as of 8/18/11)	\$28,091.76	\$522,878.02

All activity in the Feed/Fuel Account is related to a feed purchase (expense) and tribal fish purchases (revenue) Expenditures in the Discretionary Account include: tax prep service, bank service charges, and NAFWS travel The NAFWS travel expenses were for former Chairman John Antonio to attend Nat’l Conference in S. Dakota However, John had a medical emergency and was not able to attend; expenditures are now being reimbursed Discretionary revenue is a reimbursement from John Antonio for per diem at the NAFWS conference

Steve has just received the \$250 NAFWS reg fee refund, and is waiting on the \$838.30 United Airlines refund
Mike explained to the group the establishment and purpose of the Feed & Fuel Account (i.e., MTFH “endowment”)
Pete suggests the bank service charge seems wrong; at approx. \$30K balance, there should not be a monthly fee
Steve will follow-up with Wells Fargo on this; Sylvia suggests looking into a “low-activity business account”
Steve presented the April 7th 2011 quarterly meeting minutes for approval
There were no questions or edits for the minutes. There is no quorum, so no formal approval of minutes.

Cota Holdings Proposal (Steve Whiteman, Adam Ringia)

Steve and Butch spoke regarding the Cota Holdings proposal to assist the Commission
Cota is a private firm that facilitates business partnerships in Indian Country via services such as strategic planning
SWTFC has a Strategic Plan but is having much difficulty with implementation due primarily to lack of funding
Cota may be able to help us re-evaluate our plan, and possibly formulate new, more feasible strategies to help tribes
Cota proposes a day-long facilitated strategic planning meeting with SWTFC member reps, followed by a report
The cost for Cota’s services, as provided in the proposal, is approximately \$7,600
Butch recommends that the SWTFC officers meet with Roger Fragua (with Cota) to discuss the proposal and decide
Steve to follow up with Roger, Adam, and Mike about scheduling a meeting in ABQ
Adam re indicated his desire to better understand needs of member tribes; our vision is not being realized
Need to meet with tribes to determine their needs

Executive Director Report (Mike Montoya)

Mike M. requested that Mike O. give an overview of the recent FWS (Tuggle) letter to the Commission
The letter was distributed mainly as an informational update to tribes, pueblos, and Commission about A-WC
The letter describes status of repair work and anticipated outcomes at the Alchesay-Williams Creek facilities
Although repairs are progressing well at Alchesay, there are low water supply challenges ahead for Williams Creek
The low water supply at Williams Creek will likely impact production of trout used for grow-out at Alchesay
Therefore, without an alternative plan, the supply of trout for tribal stocking may be significantly diminished
FWS does not know if the water supply issue will be short-term (1 year) or long-term (5+ years)
FWS would like to work with tribes on exploring creative alternatives for meeting tribal fish stocking needs
Mike M. indicated desire to work cooperatively with FWS, to use MTFH to help alleviate the fish shortage issue
Mike M. may be able to create more space in the future for growing-out FWS fish; would need to discuss a plan
Butch asked about effects of recent wildfires on pueblo fisheries
Chris K. indicates that Nambe and Santa Clara fisheries have been wiped out; may not be stock-able for years
General weather patterns this summer are also impacting water quality and preventing fish stocking region-wide
The poor condition of tribal waters is creating a serious challenge for MTFH not being able to stock out fish
Water supply at MTFH is declining and water quality is a major concern; strong possibility of fish kill
It is imperative to relieve crowding of large trout on-station at MTFH to prevent fish kill
Also, there was discussion about the possibility of MAT pursuing TWG funding for new youth programming
Concept: approx. \$150K request; would allow for two years of fish production labor at MTFH to be paid by TWG

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) Representation

Steve indicates that Kevin Terry is our official rep to DFHP, by Commission vote in April 2011
The letter of appointment has not been sent yet, but Steve indicated he will prepare and send the letter
Kai-T Blue Sky is also interested in a DFHP position representing southwest regional tribal fisheries interests
Kai-T has recently requested a letter of endorsement from SWTFC
There is uncertainty about the two tribal-oriented DFHP positions and whether or how the roles overlap
SWTFC supports both Kevin and Kai-T as qualified and capable reps of southwest tribal fisheries programs
However, we would like clarification/confirmation on the actual existence and roles of the two different positions
Adam will contact DFHP for clarification re: Native American representation

Other Business

Sylvia Rains is interested in formal Taos representation on the Commission; a resolution from Taos is needed
Sylvia is also interested in native fisheries and stream habitat, and is wondering if the Commission can help
The group discussed possibility of the Commission meeting to further discuss watershed issues and opportunities
Travel to meetings in ABQ is a challenge, as is meeting facility availability in Taos area
Norman would like to see more tribal participation in NAFWS regional conferences
Perhaps SWTFC can help provide more presenters with on-the-ground projects to share

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Next Meeting:
SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting
Friday October 14 2011
BIA Northern Pueblos Agency

Meeting Minutes taken by:
Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
swhitema@southern-ute.nsn.us