



# Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting / BIA Southwest Regional Office – ABQ, NM - April 18, 2019

## Meeting Convened at 9:00 AM

### Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Jicarilla Apache Nation    | Jacob Mazzone (Chairman)             |
| 2. Southern Ute Indian Tribe  | Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer) |
| 3. Mescalero Apache Tribe     | Shelley Belin                        |
| 4. San Carlos Apache Tribe    | Daniel Juan                          |
| 5. Navajo Nation              | Glenn Selby                          |
| 6. Zuni Pueblo                | Nelson Luna                          |
| 7. Laguna Pueblo              | Raymond Lucero                       |
| 8. Ohkay Owingeh              | Naomi Archuleta                      |
| 9. Cochiti Pueblo             | Kai-t Blue Sky (via phone)           |
| 10. Taos Pueblo               | Talisa Ortega                        |
| 11. Isleta Pueblo             | Michelle Keryte                      |
| 12. Sandia Pueblo             | Not present                          |
| 13. Picuris Pueblo            | Not present                          |
| 14. Nambe Pueblo              | Not present                          |
| 15. Santa Clara Pueblo        | Not present                          |
| 16. San Ildefonso Pueblo      | Not present                          |
| 17. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Not present                          |
| 18. Ute Tribe (U&O)           | Not present                          |

### Other Attendees:

Adam Ringia, SWTFC Interim Executive Director

Mescalero Apache Tribe, Council Members:

Sandra Platero

Eddie Martinez

Larry Brusuelas Jr.

Tammy Torres

Fernando Rocha

Shelley Belen, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery

Tori Marden, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery

Sharlayne Melendrez, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery

Scott Mabray, Acoma Pueblo Game & Fish

Jerrold Bowman, Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife

Anthony Begay, Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife

Claudine Flores, Isleta Lakes

Lawrence Abeita, US BIA Regional Office

Norman Jojola, US BIA Northern Pueblos Agency

Stewart Jacks, USFWS Fisheries ARD

Barak Shemai, USFWS

Chris Kitcheyan, USFWS NMFWCO

Nate Caswell, USFWS NMFWCO

Bobbi Barrera, USFS Southwest Region

Kirk Patten, NMGF Chief of Fisheries

Jill Wick, NMGF Native Fish Program Coordinator

Earl Conway, New Mexico Bass Nation

Harris Klein, Trout Unlimited

Arnold Atkins, Trout Unlimited

Pete Stine, USFWS (retired)

**Welcome / Opening Comments (Jacob Mazzone)**

Jacob welcomed the group and an invocation was offered by Sandra Platero, MAT Council  
Jacob explained the departure of Stuart Leon as Executive Doctor, and hiring of Adam Ringia on an interim-basis  
Adam will continue as interim, but advertising for the permanent Executive Director position should start soon  
Jacob introduced Adam, and Adam described his background, including time w/Laguna Pueblo and SWTFC  
Adam provided various updates, including staff changes at the BIA Regional Office that will affect 638 contracts  
Also, some BIA central office staff (e.g., Dave Wooten, Ira Newbreast) are re-locating to ABQ. Stay tuned.  
Adam also thanked the Mescalero Natural Resources Committee, and Council Secretary for their attendance  
The MAT officials were provided an opportunity to address the group but declined to offer any comments

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

Steve presented minutes from prior meeting on November 13, 2018, held in Albuquerque, NM.  
Nelson motioned to approve the Nov-13 minutes, Jacob seconded; Minutes approved by unanimous vote  
Steve provided the financial report for the SWTFC Discretionary, Feed/Fuel, and Investment accounts

	<b>Beginning Balance/Value</b>	<b>Period Revenues</b>	<b>Period Expenses</b>	<b>Ending Balance/Value</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
<b>Discretionary Fund</b> (11/13/18 – 4/14/19)	\$17,319.62	\$41,072.74	\$45,781.75	\$12,610.61	[\$4,709.01]
<b>Feed &amp; Fuel Account</b> (11/9/18 – 4/14/19)	\$100,458.50	\$68,321.64	\$52,134.79	\$116,645.35	\$16,186.85
<b>Investment Account</b> (11/13/18 – 4/15/19)	\$547,997.29	-	-	\$562,564.97	\$14,567.68

Steve indicated that several past officer names need to be removed from SWTFC Wells Fargo bank accounts  
The former officers are identified on the accounts as key executives/signers and are hold-overs from the past  
They include: Arthur Blazer, Michael Montoya, Jim White, and Stuart Leon  
Steve requested concurrence from the group on removing these past officials from the accounts. No objections.

**Chairman’s Report (Jacob Mazzone)**

Jacob gave an overview of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Jacob is the chair of the Biological Committee, and is currently working on the annual work plan, program goals, etc  
The San Juan River RIP is preparing for anticipated the scheduled end-of-program in 2023  
Steve inquired about Navajo stocking of razorback sucker in McElmo Creek  
Jerrod confirmed stocking has been completed and Navajo Nation will monitor for successful recruitment  
Jacob also updated on Rio Grande Cutthroat Working Group; Jicarilla, Taos, Santa Clara, and Mescalero participate  
The group is cooperating in order to alleviate any need for federal ESA listing of RGC  
The next RGC annual meeting will be in Santa Fe in January 2020  
Jacob appreciates the memberships’ understanding and patience with the SWTFC’s transition to new Executive

**Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Report (Tori Marden)**

Tori presented a detailed report with updates on hatchery staffing, fish production, fish deliveries, mortalities, etc.  
Staffing at the hatchery has remained the same, under leadership of Tyner Cervantes and Shelley Belin  
The hatchery report is attached to these minutes

**Partnership Updates**

- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Southwest Region (Stewart Jacks)*  
Trout and catfish production for tribes is moving forward as planned  
Looking for ways to expand catfish production at Inks Dam NFH; also concerns with bird predation there  
No federal budget allocations have been approved yet for FY19  
There is a new FWS Deputy Regional Director and FWS Manager at NM FWCO  
FWS SW Region leadership is very supportive of renewing its cooperative MOU with SWTFC  
Adam commented there is some interest in a multi-agency agreement w/USFWS, USFS, BIA and SWTFC.  
Barak Shemai updated the group on zebra mussel threats to Inks Dam NFH and catfish production

Surveying for mussels continues, and hatchery water supply is currently clear  
Barak also spoke of NZ mudsnail concern near Alchesay NFH; hatchery water supply is currently clear  
Chris will reach out to various tribes to identify annual catfish needs; trout stocking has resumed  
Chris reminds the group that water quality of receiving water needs to meet FWS standards to stock fish  
Kai-t inquired about possible excess trout; Chris indicates probably no excess fish expected this year

- *U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Lawrence Abeita)*  
Central office staff is moving from DC to ABQ; Mr. Dave Wooten oversees BIA Fish, Wildlife, Parks  
The Hatchery Maintenance Funds proposal by Mescalero Apache Tribe is still in-process  
The Regional Wildlife Biologist position is still vacant but hoping to re-fill by end of federal fiscal year  
Norman recommends that SWTFC send letter advocating for re-filling regional biologist position promptly  
Due to high turnover in regional staff, expect delays at BIA with various functions like 638 contract matters
- *U.S. Forest Service (Bobbi Barrera)*  
The SWTFC-USFS agreement on Youth Programs expires at end of this year; currently \$50,000 available  
Also, there is an agreement with FWS for a Cons. Corp Program; would like to expand with more tribes  
A new USFS initiative is underway: Riparian and Aquatic Strategy, focused now on 3 northern NM forests  
NEPA is being prepared for a 10-year project in these three forests  
Kai-t inquired about USFS aquatic projects planned near Cochiti Pueblo lands; consultation is required  
USFS/Yvett Paroz will contact Kai-t to answer questions regarding coordination with the Pueblo
- *Native American Fish & Wildlife Society: Southwest Region (Norman Jojola)*  
National Conference scheduled for May 20-23 at Wild Horse Pass Casino in Phoenix, AZ  
If interested in attending, contact the resort soon for discounted room rates; discounts while rooms last  
The annual NAFWS – SW Youth Practicum is scheduled for June 17-21 at Rio Mora NWR  
Please share information with others; need to recruit more interested native youth  
The Eight Northern Pueblos youth program will combine with NAFWS Youth Practicum in 2020  
Kai-t offers his help in presenting TEK information as an instructor
- *Trout Unlimited (Arnold Atkins)*  
Arnold spoke of two new pure-RGC streams in NM; Animas Creek and Canones Creek  
A number of streams have been sterilized by wildfire, creating RGC re-introduction opportunities  
WNTI funds are being pursued by TU to support certain RGC restoration projects
- *New Mexico Bass Nation (Earl Conway)*  
Group is working with Congressional staff on issues affecting bass in Elephant Butte Reservoir  
The group wants to provide suitable water level management in the reservoir, but not impact water users  
They are also concerned about Rio Puerco sedimentation that impacts Elephant Butte  
There is also a need for better mussel decontamination measures at the reservoir  
An Urban Youth Fishing Program is being started; Kids Hooked on Fishing – ABQ  
Earl is concerned about the pending sale of Shady Lakes in ABQ, important for youth fishing programs  
Earl would like to find a buyer/funder who would support Shady Lakes continuing for youth fishing  
The organization would like to learn more about partner opportunities with Acoma, Zia, and Cochiti

#### **Executive Director Report (Adam Ringia)**

- *Regular 2-Year Election: SWTFC Vice-Chair*  
The annual officer election needs to be conducted to fill the vacant SWTFC Vice-Chairman position  
Steve confirmed we have a simple majority of SWTFC members present and can hold election per bylaws  
Steve nominates Shelley Belin for the position; Raymond nominates Glenn Selby for the position  
Naomi motioned to close nominations; Steve seconds; Unanimous vote to close nominations  
A closed vote was taken (i.e., via paper ballot). 6 votes in favor of Glenn, 5 votes in favor of Shelley  
Glenn accepted the 2-year Vice-Chairman position with the SWTFC
- *2019 Fisheries Workshop*  
Adam envisions a 2-day Aquatic Invasive Species workshop in late July or August  
Adam is considering 1 day for classroom presentations and 1 day for field or laboratory exercises  
Adam discussed various logistics, planning related to the workshop, which will be coordinated with FWS

- *2019 Tribal-USFS Youth Programs*  
Approx. \$50k is available to support youth programs at cooperating tribes/forests  
Only proposal received so far is from Hopi; Adam and Steve encourage more tribes to participate  
Mescalero indicated their intent to submit a proposal, and Sandra asked about the review process  
We currently have much more funding than demand, so there is essentially no competition for programs
- *SWTFC Financial Policies and Fish Delivery SOP Under Development*  
Expect draft proposals for review before our next meeting, expected as a full-day in August  
Adam mentioned that although fish price has been updated, delivery costs have not  
The Fish Delivery SOP will address delivery costs as well.  
Jacob provided copies of the SWTFC's latest approved Strategic Plan
- *SWTFC Needs Survey*  
The SWTFC officers would like member feedback on what our priorities should be as an organization  
Please respond to the survey that Adam developed, handed-out and turn in to one of the officers  
Results will be compiled and summarized at the next meeting
- *BIA Regional Biologist Position*  
Adam confirmed he will draft a letter to BIA Regional Director requesting prompt action on hiring  
A copy of the final letter will be circulated
- *USGS Climate Change Fisheries Research Questions*  
USGS would like to know climate-related fisheries research needs of the tribes;  
If tribes are interested in assistance from USGS, let Adam know. He will provide contact at USGS
- *SWTFC Website Update Project*  
The officers completed an RFP process for a web developer; Rezo Systems out of Taos was selected  
Adam requests photos/info from members that can be incorporated into the new website  
Hoping to have the new and improved SWTFC website ready in time for August meeting

#### **New Mexico Game & Fish Presentation (Kirk Patten)**

Kirk gave a PowerPoint overview of Rio Grande Chub and Sucker Conservation Agreement and Strategies  
The working group would like to increase tribal/pueblo participation in conservation activities  
Conservation Team consists of signatories to cooperative agreement. Tribes include Jicarilla and Santa Ana  
Others include CO, NM, various federal agencies, and various NGOs  
Agreement is NOT a funding commitment; funding of projects is always subject to legislative decisions  
The group is currently developing its conservation strategies for pro-actively addressing threats to species  
The SWTFC is invited to join the Conservation Team if interested

The next SWTFC meeting may be held in conjunction with the AIS workshop in ABQ in August  
Scott Mabray indicated Acoma's interest in joining SWTFC. Adam to provide resolution template.  
Steve made a motion to adjourn, second from Shelley. Consensus to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

#### **Next Meeting:**

*SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – August 2019  
At BIA Headquarters – Albuquerque, New Mexico*

#### **Meeting Minutes taken by:**

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission  
[swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**SOUTHWEST TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**April 18, 2019**

<b>I. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS</b>		<i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>
Balance on 11/13/2018	\$	17,319.62
Balance on 4/14/2019	\$	12,610.61
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(4,709.01)</b>
 <i>Revenues</i>		
Transfer from Feed & Fuel Account	\$	20,000.00
Edward Jones Account	\$	21,072.74
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41,072.74</b>
 <i>Expenses</i>		
Payroll for Stuart Leon: November 2018 - February 2019	\$	11,179.81
Payroll Taxes Impounded	\$	2,930.78
Payroll Department Accounting Fees	\$	467.20
Bank charges - Wire Trans Fee	\$	16.18
Sammy Johnson, CPA	\$	1,200.00
Payment to Mescalero Apache Tribe	\$	20,019.10
Payments to Adam Ringia	\$	7,045.92
Computer Purchase - Laptop	\$	1,263.59
Stuart Leon Conference Travel Expenses (Fuel, Food)	\$	216.85
Credit Card Payments (Leon)	\$	1,442.32
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>45,781.75</b>
 <b>II. FEED &amp; FUEL ACCOUNT</b>		<i>Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103</i>
Balance on 11/09/2018	\$	100,458.50
Balance on 4/14/2019	\$	116,645.35
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>16,186.85</b>
 <i>Revenues</i>		
Fish Purchases (x 11)	\$	68,321.64
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>68,321.64</b>
 <i>Expenses</i>		
Transfer to Discretionary Account	\$	20,000.00
Fish Food	\$	16,328.00
Vehicle Repairs	\$	10,497.70
Credit Card Payments (Battiest)	\$	5,309.09
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>52,134.79</b>
 <b>III. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT</b>		<i>Edward Jones 8000 Paseo del Norte NE Suite C9 ABQ 87122</i>
Account Value on 11/13/2018	\$	547,997.29
Account Value on 4/15/2019	\$	562,564.97
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,567.68</b>

REPORT TO THE SWTFC MEMBERSHIP  
MESCALERO TRIBAL FISH HATCHERY

**DELIVERIES**

For the reporting period of November 2018 through March 2019, we delivered 22,944 rainbow trout ranging from 13" and up in support of 5 Tribal Fisheries program, the Pueblo of Sandia, Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort, Pueblo of Nambe, San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Pueblo of Isleta. This number of trout was equivalent to delivering 21,384lbs. All trout were provided at a rate of \$3.06 per pound, plus transportation costs.

**HATCHERY BUISNESS**

Hatchery staff consists of Tyner Cervantes, Director, Shelley Belen, Manager, Tori Marden, Asst. Manager, Shar Melendrez, Secretary, John Salazar, Houston Fatty, Ian Murphy, Fisheries Technicians and Jimmy Runningwater, Fisheries Tech/CDL Driver.

Some of our older fish lots that hatched back in 2017 and 2018 range from 23 to 13 months. Our new addition ARD-18 which hatched back in December 2018 are 4 months old and newly hatched SHA-19 are 1 one month old.

Our fall deliveries went very well this year with the exception of the fish truck needing some maintenance work. We were still able to accommodate several tribes with deliveries. Just recently the fish delivery truck passed its annual inspection so we good to go for our spring and summer deliveries. Also we have just received disease free status from the USFWS.

We are nearing the completion of our Recirculation Tanks installation. As a test we added 100 fish to 3 of the tanks. Fish are doing well.

For the raceways covers, we still just have the 2 covering on the top raceways. We are still waiting to hear back from BIA about the Modification so we can get the other 4 coverings installed.

We have submitted our 2019 BIA Hatchery Maintenance funding request and still waiting to hear back as well.

Our Work Force Initiative Opportunity Act (WIOA) worker still comes in on weekends and holidays to help us out. Sometimes we get volunteers from the local schools. Our tours have also picked up with neighboring schools and youth clubs.

The water supply for the hatchery is still doing pretty good. We receive 367gpm for inside tankhouse and with that combined water going into the raceways we have almost 3,000gpm. Over the past years we have noticed that water levels have dropped. But we are still getting a very good amount for the hatchery.

Along with continuing day to day operations and maintenance of the hatchery, we had other projects going on during the reporting period:

**November 2018**

- Received eggs from Erwin National Fish Hatchery (150K)

- Some crew member finishing up work training at Mora National Fish Hatchery
- Several crew members took Excel training
- New Secretary started Ms. Shar Melendrez
- More work started in the Recirculation Tankhouse (RTH), especially when the crew members returned from Mora.

#### December

- More work continued in RTH
- Participated in Christmas parade in Alamogordo, NM

#### January

- Tours started to pick up
- More work done in RTH

#### February

- Started landscape work around hatchery
- Disease Testing took place on February 13<sup>th</sup>
- More RTH work
- In-House training for staff

#### March

- Work in RTH; add 100 fish to 3 tanks. (Doing very good)
- Participated in Family Fun Day Event
- More tours due to Spring Break

On April 15, 2019 MTFH received the disease testing results back from Southeastern Native Aquatic Resource and Recovery Center out of Dexter, NM. Our fish were found Disease-Free! MTFH maintains its normal Class-A status. Bio-security measures at the hatchery are continuing to be maintained.

Our primary mission at the hatchery is to serve our community and the many 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.