



# Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / BIA Southwest Regional Office – ABQ, NM Nov 7, 2017

Meeting Convened at 8:45 AM

## Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Jacob Mazzone (Chairman)
2. Laguna Pueblo	Adam Ringia (Vice-Chairman)
3. Southern Ute Tribe	Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer)
4. Zuni Pueblo	Nelson Luna
5. Sandia Pueblo	Cassandra Espinosa
6. Navajo Nation	Glenn Selby
7. Santa Clara Pueblo	Gilbert Gutierrez
8. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Tori Marden
9. San Carlos Apache Tribe	Daniel Juan
10. Cochiti Pueblo	Not present
11. Taos Pueblo	Not present
12. Ohkay Owingeh	Not present
13. Isleta Pueblo	Not present
14. Picuris Pueblo	Not present
15. Nambe Pueblo	Not present
16. San Ildefonso Pueblo	Not present
17. Ute Tribe (U&O)	Not present
18. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Not present

## Other Attendees:

Stuart Leon, SWTFC Executive Director  
Jeff Cole, Navajo Nation  
Jennifer Fowler-Propst, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Barak Shemai, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chris Kitcheyan, US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Richard Christian, US Fish & Wildlife Service (via telephone)  
Joe Jojola, BIA Southwest Regional Office  
Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency  
Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southern Pueblos Agency  
Yvette Paroz, US Forest Service  
Earl Conway, Bass Anglers – NM Bass Nation  
Pete Stine, US Fish & Wildlife Service (retired)

## Welcome / Opening Comments (Stuart Leon)

Stuart welcomed the group, introductions were made

Per bylaws, 1/3 of membership (=6) is required for quorum; quorum was achieved with 9 members present

Barak introduced himself to the group as new AIS Coordinator; will work with tribes on various AIS going forward

Barak spoke about recent concerns with zebra mussels at or near Inks Dam Natl Fish Hatchery

There was discussion about the impact of a recent wildfire at Santa Clara Pueblo to a cutthroat restoration project

Pete was pleased to announce that a Cabela's outlet (now owned by BassPro) is now located in Albuquerque

Stuart commented on the passing of Josh Parker and Mike Perry with White Mtn. Apache Game & Fish

## Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Steve presented minutes from the prior SWTFC meeting on August 7, 2017, held in Mescalero, NM.

Nelson motioned to approve the August 7 minutes, with second by Cassandra; Minutes approved by unanimous vote

Steve provided the financial report for the SWTFC Discretionary, Feed/Fuel, and Investment accounts

	<b>Last Reported Balance</b>	<b>Period Revenues</b>	<b>Period Expenses</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
<b>Discretionary Fund</b> (8/5 – 11/3)	\$21,853.52	\$21,462.55	\$15,541.83	\$27,774.22	\$5,920.70
<b>Feed &amp; Fuel Account</b> (8/5 – 11/3)	\$144,633.46	\$11,212.20	\$25,963.89	\$129,881.77	[\$14,751.69]
<b>Investment Account</b> (8/4 - 11/3)	\$558,235.16	-	-	\$570,195.96	\$11,960.80

### **Chairman’s Report (Jacob Mazzone)**

Jacob reminded the group about the afternoon Tribal ESA meeting with USFWS  
 Also on Thursday the FWS Fisheries Program will visit with interested southwest tribes on various outreach/updates  
 A “Three Species Agreement” meeting is coming up in November in Salt Lake City (relevant to Colorado drainage)  
 Southern Ute and Jicarilla Apache are currently the only tribal signatories to the Three Species Agreement  
 The meeting is public; unfortunately there has been limited participation by tribes  
 No news on Rio Grande cutthroat/chub/sucker conservation agreement; still waiting for revised draft from NMGF  
 Next meeting on Rio Grande cutthroat/chub/sucker will be in January 2018 in Santa Fe

### **Vice-Chairman’s Report (Adam Ringia)**

USFS (Cibola NF) is presently meeting with various tribes on obtaining cultural input on natural springs protection  
 Amy Lueders – new FWS R2 Director – recently met with tribes on Mexican wolf, plus outreach to individual tribes  
 Due to ongoing BKD concerns, Laguna is purchasing its rainbow trout from commercial vendors in Colorado  
 Tori indicates that tribal purchasing from MTFH has been strong, with prices far better than commercial growers  
 MTFH’s BKD “suspect” status is expected to be dropped in March 2018, assuming clean test results  
 Stuart requests tribes to review Nate Wiese’s BKD white paper; if tribe’s have comments send to Stuart or Steve

### **Partnership Updates**

- *B.A.S.S. (Earl Conway, Bass Anglers Sportsman’s Society – NM Bass Nation)*  
 Earl spoke about his conservation club, SW Adapt-a-Cove, re: projects and interest in partnering with tribes  
 Club has been involved in significant warm-water habitat improvement projects in various NM reservoirs  
 Club is willing to assist tribes with various technical aspects of lake/pond evaluations and rehab for fishing  
 The club is also able to provide grant support for warm-water habitat projects (focus on bass)  
 Earl reviewed various projects, including at: Morgan Lake, Cochiti Lake, others  
 The club also offers clinics for people to learn how to fish, especially for warm water fish
- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office (Jennifer Fowler-Propst)*  
 There is ongoing uncertainty about future budget allocations; hoping to maintain last year’s level  
 There is growing concern about aquatic invasive species (AIS) in various FWS hatchery facilities  
 Jennifer hopes to see tribes at this Thursday’s meeting with Stewart Jacks, R2 Fisheries ARD  
 Chris provided information on zebra mussel occurrence near Inks Dam NFH
- *U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Joe Jojola)*  
 Like USFWS, there is ongoing uncertainty about future budgets; hoping for last year’s levels  
 BIA is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR) until December  
 No news about RFPs for BIA programs; budgets are wiped-out then restored – difficult to predict  
 Hoping that usual BIA programs available to tribes get funded, but there is too much uncertainty
- *U.S. Forest Service (Yvette Paroz)*  
 Yvette spoke about USFS funding available for youth engagement in Indian Country  
 No new funding this year, but funding has carried over from last year. Other programs are available, too.  
 There has been a successful partnership w/a student working at Hopi/Kaibab, as well as FWS NMFWCO  
 Would like to see more tribal participation; if interested please contact Stuart or Yvette

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership call on November 21<sup>st</sup>; tribes can call-in too  
Western Native Trout Initiative call on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> ; tribes welcome  
USFS has an agreement with BOR on researching “eDNA” markers on various fish and other species  
Yvette is available to assist tribes with the use of “eDNA” technology in fisheries/aquatics management  
There is a new USFS National Fish Strategy to be released soon; contact Yvette for more info  
The USFS SW Region is working on a riparian/aquatics strategy document to improve riparian mgmt  
A NM Environment Department coordination meeting with USFS is being held 11/8 at Cibola

- *Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (Norman Jojola)*  
The 2017 regional conference at Mescalero was a great success; approx. 120 people registered  
Norman thanked all the conference planners/organizers  
The next SW regional conference is expected to be hosted in August 2018 at Southern Ute  
The upcoming Youth Practicum will be held at Rio Mora NWR, near Las Vegas, NM June 18-22, 2018  
Practicum is open to tenth- through twelfth-graders; No cost to students  
Advertising will happen earlier this year, to ensure there are enough students enrolled  
There is a challenge with bringing kids to the practicum who are already employed at tribes

#### **Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Update (Tori Marden)**

Tori reviewed her update report for the group (hard-copy hand-out – see attachment)  
There have been recent deliveries of rainbow trout to Nambe, Sandia, and Mescalero Apache  
No staffing changes recently, however, James Runningwater (with CDL) is returning to hatchery assignment  
Shelley will be presenting information on feed efficiencies at next meeting  
Major repairs have been made to the fish stocking truck  
There has been outreach at the hatchery with various school groups  
Renovation of the tank house has begun via contract worker  
There are two more deliveries expected before Fall stocking is complete  
BKD “suspect” status continues, but “Class A” status should return next spring

#### **Executive Director Report (Stuart Leon)**

- *Bylaws Amendment: Attendance Requirement to Elect Officers*  
Stuart explained a need to change bylaws so that we can achieve attendance required for officer elections  
Elections currently require a “majority of member tribes” to hold a vote, currently 10. This rarely happens.  
The proposal is to reduce this requirement to “one-third of the commissioners”, currently 6  
“One-third of the commissioners” is also the current quorum requirement for any Commission action  
Steve pointed out that we meet the Commission’s requirements to amend the bylaws...  
There is a quorum required to take action (such as bylaws amendment), and notice of the proposal was sent  
Steve supports the amendment, and pointed out the challenge of multiple non-participatory member tribes  
Stuart indicated a willingness to reach-out to the non-participatory tribes to evaluate desires/intent  
Nelson would rather not see any tribes removed from roster, but work on alternatives to gain participation  
Nelson suggested that offering telephonic participation for those tribes may help  
Adam made a motion to make the amendment, second by Nelson. Unanimous approval to amend.
- *Vice-Chairman Election*  
Jacob started discussion on whether (in light of bylaws change) to hold election today or at annual meeting  
The group discussed and decided that a special election for Vice-Chair should be at our annual meeting  
The special Vice-Chair election will be for a 1-year term in order to maintain staggering of officer terms  
Adam will continue as “un-official” Vice-Chairman until this special election is held in spring 2018
- *Planning Update - 2018 Fisheries Techniques Workshop*  
Stuart started discussion of timing and location for the Fisheries Techniques Workshop  
The group agreed upon holding the workshop on Tues, Wed, Thu - July 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
The group agreed upon holding the workshop at San Carlos Apache, with backup plan at Navajo Nation  
A planning meeting was scheduled for Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> at BIA SW Regional Office  
This planning meeting will follow the Commission’s annual meeting to be held April 3<sup>rd</sup> at same site

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

**Next Meeting:**

*SWTFC Annual BOD Meeting – Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018  
at BIA Southwest Regional Office – 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**  
**November 3, 2017**

**I. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS** *Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103*

Balance on 8/5/2017	\$	21,853.52
Balance on 11/3/2017	\$	27,774.22
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,920.70</b>

Revenues

Transfer from Feed & Fuel	\$	20,000.00
Bass Pro (payment for Exec. Director services @museum)	\$	1,462.55
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,462.55</b>

Expenses

Stuart Leon Payroll: August 1 - October 31, 2017	\$	10,079.13
Payroll Taxes Impounded	\$	2,838.87
Payroll Department Accounting Fees	\$	213.95
Stuart Leon Travel Expenses	\$	2,406.68
Credit Card Payments (Leon) Travel - See above	\$	-
Bank Fees	\$	3.20
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,541.83</b>

**II. FEED & FUEL ACCOUNT** *Wells Fargo, P.O. Box 1081 Albuquerque 87103*

Balance on 8/5/2017	\$	144,633.46
Balance on 11/3/2017	\$	129,881.77
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(14,751.69)</b>

Revenues

Fish Purchases (x 2)	\$	11,212.20
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,212.20</b>

Expenses

Transfer to Discretionary Account for Operating Expenses	\$	20,000.00
Fish Food Purchase, Skretting (x0)	\$	-
Vehicle Repairs or parts (x2)	\$	3,781.26
Bank Service Charges	\$	6.44
Credit Card Pmt 10-5-17 & 11-3-2017	\$	1,246.55
Credit Card Payment 9/5/17 (Battiest) Gas \$129.64 & NAFWS \$800.00	\$	929.64
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,963.89</b>

**III. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT** *Edward Jones 8000 Paseo del Norte NE Suite C9 ABQ 87122*

Account Value on 8/4/2017	\$	558,235.16
Account Value on 11/3/2017	\$	570,195.96
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,960.80</b>

REPORT TO THE SWTFC MEMBERSHIP  
MESCALERO TRIBAL FISH HATCHERY

**DELIVERIES:**

For the reporting period of August through September 2017, we delivered 13,390 rainbow trout ranging in sizes of 11.0" to 12.0" in support of 3 Tribal Fisheries Programs, the Pueblo of Nambe, the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Pueblo of Sandia. This number of trout was equivalent to delivering 8,390 lbs. All trout were provided at a rate of \$3.06 per pound, plus transportation costs.

**HATCHERY BUSINESS:**

Hatchery staff consists of Tyner Cervantes, Director, Shelley Battiest, Manager, Tori Marden, Asst. Manager, Jessica Rodriguez, Admin. Asst., John S., Houston F. and Ian M., Fisheries Technicians. For this reporting period we were short our CDL Fish Truck driver, Mr. James Runningwater, as he was temporarily assigned to another department. However, Mr. Runningwater was able to assist us in our long-distance deliveries and he will continue to be available for any future deliveries. This is a temporary assignment, so we look forward to his return to the hatchery later in the month of November.

The FLD-17 Lot of juvenile trout that hatched in April are just over 6 months old. A 6-month report for the feed comparison and growth rate for this Lot will be presented to the Board members in mid-November.

We had a great, but unexpected spring and summer delivery season. We were able to accommodate several tribes with deliveries. We will have a shorter fall delivery season as our inventory has dropped significantly. We hope to increase our inventory and the amount of trout eggs that we receive, with the introduction of a recirculating aquaculture system in the near future.

The summer season ended for the youth workers. A few graduated senior youth periodically offer volunteer service to the hatchery.

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

August

- The Mescalero Apache Tribe hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual NAFWS SW Regional Conference, which all hatchery staff attended.
- At the end of August, MTFH completed their summer deliveries to the Mescalero Tribe.

September

- Things began to slow down at the hatchery. Staff focused more on work around the hatchery grounds.
- Also in September, the flat bed for the International fish truck was replaced with new boards and mats.

October

- Mechanical issues with the fish truck. It was in the shop for a couple of weeks for work.
- A community member notified the hatchery of a busted water pipe in the upper canyon. (1)
- Changing the frequency of cleanings for canopy-covered raceways.
- Nearby High School Science Club and NMSU Fisheries Class get hands-on work experience at hatchery.
- A notable water testing facility retrieves water samples for water quality testing for culture water and source water.
- A contractor begins renovation projects on the tank house. (2)
- Grading/moving fish to make room for growing fingerlings inside tank house.

- Because we had high demand for fish in the spring and summer seasons, our inventory for the fall stocking season has dropped. (3)

The classification of the MTFH is BKD Suspect. In February of next year, the Lots of fish will be tested again. Once the hatchery has received negative results, it will regain its 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.