



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Annual Meeting / Mescalero Inn of the Mtn. Gods – Ruidoso, NM April 19, 2017

Meeting Convened at 6:45PM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Rosenburg Tafoya
2. Laguna Pueblo	Adam Ringia (Vice-Chairman)
3. Southern Ute Tribe	Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer)
4. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Shelley Battiest
5. San Carlos Apache Tribe	Daniel Juan
6. Navajo Nation	Glenn Selby
7. Zuni Pueblo	Nelson Luna
8. Sandia Pueblo	Cassandra Espinosa
9. Ohkay Owingeh	Not present
10. Cochiti Pueblo	Not present
11. Taos Pueblo	Not present
12. Isleta 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. Ute Tribe (U&O)	Not present
18. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Not present

Other Attendees:

Stuart Leon, SWTFC Executive Director
Richard Christian, FWS Tribal Fisheries Liaison
Linda Friar, FWS Fish & Aquatic Conservation
Angela Velasquez-James, FWS NMFWCO
Aaron Cajero, FWS (and Jemez Pueblo)
Lawrence Abeita, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Pueblos Agency
Norman Jojola, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Northern Pueblos Agency
Tyner Cervantes, MAT Conservation
Tori Marden, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
Houston Fatty, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
Jessica Rodriguez, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
John Salazar, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
Ian Murphy, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
James RunningWater, Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery
Ben Zimmerman, Southern Ute Tribe
Arnold Atkins, Trout Unlimited

Welcome / Opening Comments (Stuart Leon)

Welcome group, introduction of guests, and roll call. No quorum reached.

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Steve presented the minutes from the Dec 7 and Aug 8 2016 meetings; no edits were requested
The group is unable to approve the past minutes due to lack of quorum; this will be re-visited at next meeting
Steve provided the financial report for the SWTFC Discretionary, Feed/Fuel, and Investment accounts

	Discretionary Fund	Feed & Fuel Account		Investment Account
Last reported Balance (as of 12/7/16)	\$24,452.99	\$165,952.94	Fund Value on 11/25/16	\$530,990.03
Period Revenues	\$21,394.43	\$46,690.20	Fund Value on 4/14/17	\$532,071.66
Period Expenses	\$18,193.95	\$42,288.82	Net Change	\$1,081.63
Ending Balance (as of 12/7/16)	\$27,653.47	\$170,354.32		

In addition to reporting the account activities, Steve provided several additional financial updates, including:

- SWTFC will soon have its 2016 taxes submitted, prior to May 15 deadline, so no extensions this time!
- Stuart Leon is now being paid as an employee of SWTFC via new payroll service out of Durango, CO

Chairman’s Report (Jacob Mazzone)

Jacob was unable to attend this meeting, so no Chairman’s report was provided.

Vice-Chairman’s Report (Adam Ringia)

Adam indicated that the BOD has been discussing SWTFC finances

One important new consideration is increasing our fish prices at MTFH, which have been \$2.35/lb.

We don’t have quorum, so we can’t vote on a price increase now. More to come at our next meeting.

Adam commented that Stuart will also have a new strategic plan at the next meeting

We continue to have challenges with funding, so we need to explore new opportunities

Adam feels we also need to look at our financial organization (accounts) and consider changes to meet future needs

Partnership Updates

- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Southwest Region*
Scheduled presenter did not make it to the meeting. No update.
- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: D.C. Headquarters Office (Richard Christian & Linda Friar)*
Richard gave a brief overview of FWS’ Fisheries Program (D.C. level) and outreach to tribes
Efforts in the Southwest have included YCC at Mescalero; excited to develop new partnerships
Linda said the Program wants to add value to tribal relations and get away from “heavy-handedness”
Linda says the FWS Program is open to creative new ideas to better support and fund tribal programs
New SOI Zinke issued an order to identify opportunities for opening up new hunting/fishing opportunities
- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Native American Liaison*
Scheduled presenter did not make it to the meeting. No update.
- *U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Joe Jojola)*
Impending budget cuts to the entire BIA are believed to be 10%, possibly much higher in FY2018
- *Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (Norman)*
National Conference is scheduled for May 2-4 in Rapid City, SD
21st Annual SW Region Youth Practicum is scheduled for June 19-23, hosted by Sandia Pueblo
31st Annual SW Region Conference is scheduled for August 9-10, hosted by Mescalero Apache Tribe
Contact Norman if interested in presenting, or with any questions about conferences or practicum
- *Trout Unlimited – New Mexico Chapter (Arnold Atkins)*
Arnold said TU strongly supports native trout conservation efforts
Arnold described successful restoration efforts for RGC trout in Rio Castillo and Rio Canones
TU participates in the RGC trout working group
TU supports tribal fisheries programs and wants to explore new partnership opportunities
“River Source” is a new organization in NM interested in stream and fish health, youth outreach

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Update (Shelley Battiest)

Recent testing results came back negative for BKD; MTFH is now “Suspect” status
In another year, if testing continues to be negative for BKD, MTFH will re-gain “Class-A” status
Shelley summarized recent fish production and delivery stats (also provided in hand-out report)
Shelley introduced MAT staff running the hatchery, including new employee Jimmy RunningWater
Shelley described improvements underway at MTFH, including new shade structures, renovations, and cleanup
Staff have made a new effort in the area of grant applications to help pay for work at the hatchery
Fish deliveries have been ongoing, including first out-of-state stocking in many years (i.e., at San Carlos)
Samples have been taken for annual disease testing
Tours of the hatchery have been increasing

Executive Director Report (Stuart Leon)

Stuart prepared support letters for Mescalero and Hualapai TWG applications with USFWS
Stuart is working to get Hualapai Tribe on-board as a new SWTFC member tribe
Stuart has been spending quite a lot of time coordinating with instructors and planning for Fish Health Workshop
Stuart gave instructions on how to get to the Fish Health Workshop and a review of the workshop agenda
Stuart acknowledged the assistance of many people who helped plan and support the workshop

Tribal Profile: San Carlos Apache (Daniel Juan)

Daniel gave a PowerPoint presentation on the recovery of San Carlos Reservoir since a major die-off around 2012

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Tentative Next Meeting:
SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – June 2017
BIA Southwest Regional Office – Albuquerque, NM

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
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