



Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / Inn of the Mountain Gods – Mescalero, NM August 7, 2017

Meeting Convened at 7:10 PM

Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Rosenberg Tafoya
2. Laguna Pueblo	Adam Ringia (Acting Chairman)
3. Southern Ute Tribe	Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer)
4. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Shelley Battiest
5. Zuni Pueblo	Nelson Luna
6. Sandia Pueblo	Timothy Smith
7. Navajo Nation	Glenn Selby
8. Cochiti Pueblo	Kai-t Blue-Sky
9. Taos Pueblo	Michael Martinez
10. San Carlos Apache Tribe	Not present
11. Ohkay Owingeh	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
Shannon Claw, Navajo Nation
Scott Mabray, Pueblo of Acoma
Benina Shayn Cerno, Laguna Pueblo
Ben Zimmerman, Southern Ute Tribe
Tori Marden, Mescalero Apache Tribe
Tyner Cervantes, Mescalero Apache Tribe
Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency
Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southern Pueblos Agency
Chris Kitcheyan, US Fish & Wildlife Service - NMFWCO
Angela James, US Fish & Wildlife Service - NMFWCO

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 not present at the start of the meeting
Five (5) tribal reps showed up late to the meeting and quorum was achieved with nine (9) total members present

Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Steve presented minutes from prior meeting on June 28, 2017.
Shelley motioned to approve the June 28 minutes, with second by Nelson; Minutes approved by unanimous vote
Steve provided the financial report for the SWTFC Discretionary, Feed/Fuel, and Investment accounts
Steve indicated that it has been only a month since our last meeting/report, so not much activity to report
He also indicates that the Investment Account has generated more than \$20k in recent months due to market strength

	Last Reported Balance	Period Revenues	Period Expenses	Net Change	Ending Balance
Discretionary Fund (6/26 - 8/5)	\$17,294.51	\$20,000.00	\$15,440.99	\$4,559.01	\$21,853.52
Feed & Fuel Account (6/26 - 8/5)	\$151,335.86	\$14,896.20	\$21,598.60	-\$6,702.40	\$144,633.46
Investment Account (6/27 - 8/4)	\$553,310.29	-	-	\$4,924.87	\$558,235.16

Acting Chairman’s Report (Adam Ringia)

No major news or developments to report since last meeting

Adam commented on the success of last couple meetings

A great fish health workshop was held, and the price increase on hatchery fish will help a lot with SWTFC revenues

Executive Director Report (Stuart Leon)

- *Bylaws Amendment*

Because of insufficient meeting attendance by member tribes, the Vice-Chair election is again postponed

Stuart discussed the bylaws re: meeting attendance requirements for quorum and officer elections

Quorum is “1/3 of member tribes” (current=6+), and officer election is “majority of member tribes” (current=10+)

Following discussions with Executive Board, Stuart wants to change officer election req’t to “1/3 of member tribes”

This change is being considered because SWTFC has an ongoing challenge with meeting attendance of 10+

Stuart will soon send out a formal 30-day email notice of proposed bylaws change, per bylaws requirements

- *SWTFC Youth Intern Sponsorship*

Stuart recently coordinated with Darren T. at Hopi on sponsoring a youth internship at Kaibab Nat’l Forest

A Hopi youth member, Eric Takada, is expected to start at Kaibab on Aug 24th for a 10-week program

SWTFC is providing \$6k+ to cover Eric’s salary+expenses; Hopi Tribe is still processing hiring paperwork

Darren thanks the SWTFC for its support of Eric’s internship

Darren briefly discussed Hopi’s fisheries related work and the Tribe’s potential interest in officially joining SWTFC

Partnership Updates

- *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office (Chris Kitcheyan)*

Chris thanked Navajo, Zuni, and Cochiti for hosting the FWS Youth Conservation Program

Chris also thanked the FWS Fisheries & Aquatic Conservation Office in DC (Richard Christian) for its great support

The program was a great success, with some participants showing strong interest in pursuing fish/wildlife education

Chris also spoke of current RFPs for Desert Fish Habitat Partnership and Western Native Trout Initiative

These are great funding programs that can support tribal efforts at native fish conservation

Chris strongly encourages peer review of proposals before submittal; Chris and Stuart are both happy to review

Chris also strongly encourages letters of support from other supportive organizations (e.g., State partners, TU, etc.)

Chris notified the group of an upcoming Fall meeting focused on Rio Grande native fish (cutthroat, sucker, chub)

Chris encourages tribal participation in this meeting so tribes are represented “at the table” on conservation efforts

Stocking of channel catfish on southwest tribal lands has been completed for this season

Alcheyan NFH is still classified as BKD “Suspect” status; one more negative test and the facility will be all-clear

- *Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (Joe Jojola)*

Norman thanks the Mescalero Apache Tribe for hosting this week’s Southwest Regional Conference

Unfortunately, NAFWS failed to register enough participants for the youth practicum this year, so it was cancelled

Next year’s practicum is scheduled for June 2018 at Rio Mora Nat’l Wildlife Refuge

Norman feels that Rio Mora has outstanding facilities and will work great for the next practicum

Norman requested that tribal reps work to find local youth and encourage their participation in the practicum

Registration forms for the 2018 NAFWS practicum should be available later this year
Next year's annual NAFWS Southwest Regional Conference should be held by a tribal host in Arizona
Please contact Norman with any interest in hosting the conference

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery Update (Shelley Battiest)

Shelley reviewed her update report for the group (hard-copy hand-out – see attachment)
Steve asked about the status of the new raceway shade structures; 2 are up and 4 still need to be constructed
Plans are in place to hire a crew to construct the remaining shade structures; time and money have been limiting
Tyner indicated a recent \$346K BIA Fish Hatchery Maintenance award will be a huge help at the hatchery
The BIA funds will help with the remaining shade structures, a vehicle purchase, a sediment filtration system, etc.
Tyner also pointed out that the shade structures are a great improvement against heron predation, but not 100%
Lawrence thanked the SWTFC and MTFH staff for hosting an excellent Fish Health Workshop earlier this year

Miscellaneous Business (Shelley Battiest)

- *Executive Director Outreach Efforts*

Stuart updated the group about a meeting invitation he's received from "HONR" (Honor Our Natural Resources)
HONR is hosting a meeting in Washington to address the lack of Native Americans involved in conservation work
The group hopes to brainstorm and implement new ideas to increase Native American participation in conservation
Stuart will discuss this meeting invitation further, and possible participation, with the SWTFC Executive Board
Stuart also described his recent visit to the new BassPro aquarium/museum; trip to be reimbursed by BassPro
The BassPro facility is spectacular and will be a multi-million dollar tourist attraction in Missouri
SWTFC is recognized as one of the top conservation partners responsible for helping to make the facility a reality
Stuart strongly encourages tribal reps to visit the facility in Springfield MO, with grand opening on September 21st

- *Planning for SWTFC's Spring 2018 Fisheries Workshop*

Stuart opened a discussion with Chris K. and Tim S. on planning SWTFC's next fisheries workshop in Spring 2018
Suggestions were made at the last meeting for workshop ideas, and there is strong support for "fisheries techniques"
Sandia Pueblo is well-positioned to host a multi-day training with field and classroom settings for instruction
The training would provide valuable hands-on education with active and passive fisheries surveying gear, techniques
Chris says this is strongly supported by FWS because it helps justify tribal fish allocations and fish mgmt. planning
Kai-T indicated that Cochiti Pueblo may be interested in helping support this training, as well
Steve pointed out this workshop could be held concurrent with SWTFC's annual meeting
More planning for this workshop will be taking place in the coming months

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Next Meeting:

*SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – November 2017
at BIA Southwest Regional Office – Albuquerque, New Mexico
Exact date to be determined.*

Meeting Minutes taken by:

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission
swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SOUTHWEST TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
 August 5, 2017

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

Balance on 6/26/2017	\$	17,294.51
Balance on 8/5/2017	\$	21,853.52
Net Change:	\$	4,559.01

Revenues

Transfer from Feed & Fuel	\$	20,000.00
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Sub-Total:	\$	20,000.00
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Expenses

Zuni Youth Employment	\$	6,220.00
Stuart Leon Payroll: Apr 1 - May 31, 2017	\$	6,719.42
Payroll Taxes Impounded	\$	1,892.40
Payroll Department Accounting Fees	\$	148.95
Stuart Leon Travel Expenses	\$	460.22
Credit Card Payments (Leon)	\$	-
Bank Fees	\$	-
Sub-Total:	\$	15,440.99

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

Balance on 6/26/2017	\$	151,335.86
Balance on 8/5/2017	\$	144,633.46
Net Change:	\$	(6,702.40)

Revenues

Fish Purchases (x 3)	\$	14,896.20
Sub-Total:	\$	14,896.20

Expenses

Transfer to Discretionary Account for Operating Expenses	\$	20,000.00
Fish Food Purchase, Skretting (x1)	\$	651.63
Vehicle Repairs or parts (x3) Credit Card Pmts	\$	189.99
Credit Card Payments (Battiest) Gas & American Oxygen charge	\$	756.98
Sub-Total:	\$	21,598.60

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

Account Value on 6/27/2017	\$	553,310.29
Account Value on 8/4/2017	\$	558,235.16
Net Change:	\$	4,924.87

REPORT TO THE SWTFC MEMBERSHIP

MESCALERO TRIBAL FISH HATCHERY

DELIVERIES:

For the month of July 2017 we delivered 2,330 rainbow trout ranging in sizes of 11.0" to 12.0" in support of one Tribal Fisheries Program, the Mescalero Apache Tribe. This number of trout was equivalent to delivering 1,430 lbs. All trout were provided at a rate of \$3.06 per pound, plus transportation costs.

HATCHERY BUSINESS:

The hatchery staff remains the same with Tyner Cervantes as the Director, Shelley Battiest as the Manager, Tori Marden as the Asst. Mgr., Jessica Rodriguez as the Admin. Asst, John S., Houston F. and Ian M. as our Fisheries Technicians. For this month we also had summer youth workers, 10 in total from various programs.

For this reporting period, we continued with regular operation and maintenance of the hatchery. With day to day work guidance from the Manager or Assist. Mgr., our staff cares for several hundred thousand Rainbow trout from egg to adult stage. We participate in community events, assist in tribal activities, and welcome any opportunity to educate and train native youth in natural resources.

Along with the regular operation and maintenance duties, hatchery tours and over-all hatchery clean-up we had other projects going on during this reporting period:

July

- Bio-security measures practiced and maintained.
- Summer youth working at hatchery.
- Six fish deliveries to one tribe.
- A summer intern youth did some work with our nearby US Forest Service partners on the Lincoln National Forest for a week. He also attended the NAFWS Native Youth Practicum in Mississippi.
- Monsoons persisted throughout the month of July, often very intense.
- Water Quality data collected at 2 Lakes, giving the youth experience and understanding of the importance of this data for our program.
- Staff and youth visited Mora Ntl. Fish Hatchery.
- High mortality rates in several tanks for the newly hatched trout. A peak was reached and the mortality numbers came back down.
- A change in the way we are feeding inside tanks. More accurate amounts according to total body weights.
- CDL Fish Delivery Driver.

The classification of the MTFH has been raised from BKD Positive to BKD Suspect. After another year of negative results, the hatchery will regain its Class A status.

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.