



# Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

Quarterly Meeting / August 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

Twin Arrows Navajo Resort Casino / Flagstaff, Arizona

## Meeting Convened at 7:10 PM

### Membership Attendance (Tribe / Rep)

1. Jicarilla Apache Nation	Jacob Mazzone (Chairman)
2. Laguna Pueblo	Not present
3. Southern Ute Tribe	Steve Whiteman (Secretary-Treasurer)
4. Zuni Pueblo	Nelson Luna
5. Navajo Nation	Glenn Selby
6. Sandia Pueblo	Timothy Smith
7. Mescalero Apache Tribe	Shelley Battiest
8. San Carlos Apache Tribe	Daniel Juan
9. Taos Pueblo	Not present
10. Isleta Pueblo	Not present
11. Picuris Pueblo	Not present
12. Nambe Pueblo	Not present
13. Cochiti Pueblo	Not present
14. Ohkay Owingeh	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

Kim Yazzie, Navajo Nation

Shannon Claw, Navajo Nation

Ashley Carlisle, Navajo Nation

Rachel Livingston, Navajo Nation

Winkie Crook, Hualapai Tribe

John Salazar, Mescalero Apache Tribe

Butch Blazer, Mescalero Apache Tribe

David Kitcheyan, White Mtn Apache Tribe

Ben Zimmerman, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Sarah Rinkevich, USFWS AZ Ecological Services

Richard Christian, USFWS Fisheries Program Tribal Liaison (Washington D.C.)

Linda Friar, USFWS Branch Chief of Communications, Fish and Aquatics (Washington D.C.)

Joe Jojola, BIA SW Regional Office

Norman Jojola, BIA Northern Pueblos Agency

Lawrence Abeita, BIA Southern Pueblos Agency

### Welcome / Opening Comments (Stuart Leon)

Stuart welcomed the group to the meeting, introductions were made

Tim Smith offered the invocation to start the meeting

### Secretary / Treasurer Report (Steve Whiteman)

Steve presented minutes from the March 29, 2016 meeting; minutes were emailed out and no edits were requested

Motion to approve March 29 minutes from Jacob Mazzone; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nelson Luna; Vote was unanimous approval.

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

	<b>Discretionary Fund</b>	<b>Feed &amp; Fuel Account</b>		<b>Investment Account</b>
Last reported Balance (as of 3/25/16)	\$44,730.17	\$200,602.70	Fund Value on 3/25/16	\$507,052.30
Period Revenues	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fund Value on 7/29/16	\$533,610.95
Period Expenses	\$40,487.66	\$2,896.87	Net Change	\$26,558.65
Ending Balance (as of 8/1/16)	\$4,242.51	\$197,705.83		

Steve pointed out that the current Investment Account value is nearly back to its starting value in late 2012 of \$500K. Although we are “back where we started” with the Account, all annual payments to MAT (>\$60K) have been made. The annual payments to MAT (i.e., averaging \$20K/year, paid each Jan/Feb) are compensation for use of MTFH. There was no further discussion of the financial report.

**Chairman’s Report (Jacob Mazzone)**

Jacob advised the group about the ongoing BKD situation impacting many hatcheries in the southwest. A meeting is currently being planned between SWTFC, FWS, and NMGF to discuss fish transport concerns in NM. SWTFC hopes to resume fish sales/distribution from MTFH to Commission tribes as soon as possible. Jacob advises tribes reliant on FWS hatcheries to consider alternative sources due to ongoing BKD at fed hatcheries. Jacob is not sure whether fed rec fish supplies will ever return to pre-BKD levels, so consider options, alternatives. Stuart suggested that other Federal fish supplies (through Nat’l Fish Hatchery System) *may* be obtainable at a cost. Stuart expressed desire to have a very effective discussion with State of New Mexico, and involve tribes in talks. Jacob advised the group about the SWTFC visit with Mescalero leadership and hatchery review; very positive visit. There was discussion about where BKD has come from, why is there an “outbreak” now, risks to the facility, etc. The “outbreak” may be due to changing environmental/climate conditions, or simply more sensitive test methods. Nelson questioned how the FWS can be more sensitive to Tribal needs by looking at fish disease policies. There is a complicated political relationship between SWTFC/FWS and State of New Mexico that needs resolution.

**PARTNERSHIP UPDATES:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – (Friar & Christian)

New fisheries strategic plan has been completed; workplans are being developed to implement the plan. FWS would like to support tribes through the new workplans (e.g., support/promotion of the NAFWS Practicum). FWS is also working on a strategic communication plan; would like tribes to be part of this planning.

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (Norman Jojola)

Norman indicates the partnership between NAFWS and SWTFC continues. The Youth Practicum was held in June at Angel Fire, NM (Sandia Pueblo property); 16 youth attended. Some of the tribes represented by youth at the Practicum included Pyramid Lake, Mescalero, Sandia. BIA funding was helpful for the Practicum this year; BIA (and/or FWS) support is being requested for next year. Norman encourages tribes to help recruit high school-aged kids for the next Practicum; recruitment is a challenge. Butch suggests developing promotional tools (e.g., video) to help encourage youth participation in the Practicum. It is likely that various agencies have resources to help with development of promotional tools. Kids who have participated in the Practicum leave very enthusiastic in pursuing natural resources education/careers.

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs – (Joe Jojola)

No significant updates from the BIA Southwest Regional Office at this time. Joe is hoping for same level of funding from Washington D.C., to be allocated later this year. Programs include: Endangered Species, Invasive Species, Climate Change, Youth Develop., Hatchery Maintenance.

**Executive Director Report (Stuart)**

Stuart encourages meeting attendees to see Shelley Battiest's presentation on MTFH operations at conference  
Stuart commented on the difficulty of the BKD impact on hatchery operators – tribes are no exception  
Stuart is very pleased with people who are rallying to support MTFH (e.g., Tyner Cervantes, Nate Wiese, etc.)  
Nate is helping to develop a solid hatchery management plan for MTFH – ensuring very healthy fish for tribes  
The interagency meeting on BKD is being planned for either late August or late September in Albuquerque  
Stuart encourages attendees to check out the trade show booths  
Stuart noted that Trout Unlimited gave SWTFC the Apache Trout Award for native trout conservation efforts  
Stuart is also pursuing relationships with ONR (Our Natural Resources)

**Tribal Report: Hualapai Fish Ponds (Winkie Crook)**

Winkie gave a PowerPoint presentation on Hualapai Tribe's efforts at conservation of native Colorado River fish

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.**

**Next Meeting:**

***SWTFC Quarterly BOD Meeting – October 2016  
BIA Southwest Regional Office  
Exact Date to Be Determined***

**Meeting Minutes taken by:**

Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission  
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