

Jeffery C. Allen
Chair
Idaho

Ed Schriever
Idaho

Doug Grob
Montana

Mike Milburn
Montana



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

KC Golden
Vice Chair
Washington

Thomas L (Les) Purce
Washington

Ginny Burdick
Oregon

Louie Pitt, Jr.
Oregon

Council Meeting Summary September 10 & 11, 2024 Astoria, OR and via Webinar

This is a summary of the Council's September 2024 public meeting and the actions the Council decided upon. The meeting agenda and presentation materials for each agenda item during the meeting are posted at <https://www.nwcouncil.org/calendar/council-meeting-2024-09-10/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

September 10, 2024

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Pacific time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Thomas L (Les) Purse, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Astoria, OR. Member Louie Pitt Jr. attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 8 & 9 in Portland, OR and via webinar.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Fish and Wildlife Program Performance: Hydrosystem Categorical Assessment

Council's Fish and Wildlife Division staff Kris Homel, Kate Self, and Patty O'Toole, as well as contracted support staff, Leslie Bach, presented excerpts from the first categorical assessment focused on implementation of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program's (Program) hydrosystem measures. The assessment covered major hydrosystem actions called for in the Program over the last 40 years and

implementation of those actions, relative to any identified benchmarks. The presentation began with a review of Program strategies and performance indicators associated with hydrosystem measures. The presenters described the implementation of a subset of measures selected from the hydrosystem assessment to characterize the range of actions implemented throughout the basin. Lastly, Program-scale observations, particularly related to prioritization, adaptive management, challenges, and improvements over time were discussed. This assessment, along with other upcoming categorical assessments, will provide critical information to the Council and region on the implementation and performance of the Program in anticipation of the upcoming Program amendment process.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18895/2024_09_1.pdf.

2. Report on Bureau of Reclamation Overview and Programs

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, Patty O'Toole, introduced Roland Springer, the Deputy Regional Director at Interior Region 9: Columbia-Pacific Northwest of the Bureau of Reclamation, who presented an overview of the Bureau of Reclamation's activities in the Columbia River Basin. The presentation covered how the Bureau is organized and a summary of the key Bureau facilities, work, and projects that occur in the basin.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18894/2024_09_3.pdf.

3. Regional Conservation Progress Results

The Council's Regional Technical Forum Manager, Laura Thomas, discussed the regional conservation progress results. Thomas presented details of the 2023 RCP report and provided an update on the second year of the region's progress relative to the energy efficiency goals in the Council's 2021 Power Plan. The report included data from all the efficiency programs in the region, including Bonneville and its customer utilities, investor-owned utilities, the mid-Columbia utilities, Energy Trust of Oregon, and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA). This data helps provide an understanding of the cost-effective energy efficiency savings acquired in the region and related expenditures for 2023.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18893/2024_09_2.pdf.

4. Update to 2021 Power Plan Mid-Term Assessment

The Council's Power Planning Division Director, Jennifer Light, proposed updates to the 2021 Power Plan Mid-Term Assessment summary with the goal of seeking a head nod from the Council on an updated summary for the Council's Mid-Term Assessment. The mid-term assessment is hosted on the Council's website and provides a way of regularly updating the region as new information becomes available. This update reflected added information from the Council's recently released Adequacy Assessment for 2029 and other information gathered and presented in June through September. The changes reflect that achieving only the low end of the efficiency target presents some adequacy risk to the region and greater adequacy risk would occur if load growth is greater than expected.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18896/2024_09_4.pdf.

5. Power Plan Global Assumptions Primer and Discount Rate

The Council's Senior Power Analyst, Tomás Morrissey and Council's Director of Power Planning, Jennifer Light, provided a brief overview of power planning global assumptions and discussed the discount rate. Director Light began the presentation with an overview of the suite of global assumptions used in the Council's power planning and the staff plan for finalizing these assumptions. Next, Morrissey presented on the assumed discount rate in the plan. The presentation outlined the staff's proposed discount rate assumptions, and the next steps needed to finalize the rate.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18898/2024_09_5.pdf.

6. Environmental Methodology Primer

The Council's Resource Policy Analyst, Annika Roberts and John Shurts, the Council's General Counsel, presented a methodology for quantifying environmental costs and benefits in the Power Plan. While a "final" methodology is not adopted until the Plan itself is adopted, this presentation lays out an approach that staff will use in the coming resource cost analysis and will then describe as an element in the draft power plan. Next steps include staff presenting the methodology to advisory committees for their feedback. If those sessions prompt any changes, staff will bring a revised methodology back to the Council at a future meeting.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18904/2024_09_6.pdf.

7. Nuclear Landscape Looking Forward

Nate Clayville, the Council's Idaho Energy Policy Advisor, introduced John Kotek, Senior Vice President at the Nuclear Energy Institute, and Andrew Neill, Senior Director of Policy and Public Affairs at the Nuclear Energy Institute who presented an update on nuclear technologies and the growth of nuclear generation in the United States. They discussed the various greenhouse gas reduction targets around the county that is driving nuclear development. The presenters provided an update on projects around the West and specifically in the Council's region. Kotek and Neill also discussed policy developments at the national level in support of nuclear technologies and how utilities are including new nuclear generation technologies in future resource planning.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18897/2024_09_7.pdf.

8. Demand Response Methodology Primer

The Council's Power Division staff Joe Walderman and Kevin Smit presented the approach for developing the Council's demand response (DR) resources that will be analyzed in the Power Plan. Smit began the presentation by providing a background on how the Council has treated demand response in past power plans. Walderman described the increasing need for demand response and discussed expanded opportunities for demand response. He also outlined details of the supply curve development process including how to estimate potential. Also presented were considerations for demand response in the 9th Power Plan and next steps.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18899/2024_09_8.pdf.

9. July Record Peak Load Event

The Council's Senior Power Analyst Tomás Morrissey presented on the July 2024 record peak load event created by the heatwave around, the Western United States. The presentation shared data and insights on temperatures, loads, resource performance, and power prices during the event.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18902/2024_09_9.pdf.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m. Pacific time.

September 11, 2024

Chair Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Pacific time.

Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued

10. Briefing on Northwest Power Act framework for a Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process (Part I)

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, and John Shurts, the Council's General Counsel, provided a detailed briefing on the framework and requirements in the Northwest Power Act for the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process. Director O'Toole and Shurts walked through the steps in the amendment process as structured by Section 4(h) of the Northwest Power Act by describing how the Council has understood and implemented these provisions in the past, as well as the guidance the Council has received through the Act's legislative and litigation history. The presentation also reviewed the estimated timeline for the upcoming Fish and Wildlife program, beginning with a call for recommendations in January 2025.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18907/2024_09_10.pdf.

11. Western Resource Adequacy Program Update

The Council's Manager of Power Planning and Analysis, John Ollis, introduced Ryan Roy, Chief Operating Officer at Western Power Pool, to present an update on the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP). WRAP is a reliability and regional planning program for the Northwest, managed by the Western Power Pool (WPP). The presentation provided the Council with an update regarding the current WRAP progress. Roy also provided details on how the program members decided to revise the implementation period of the binding phase from summer of 2026 to 2027. Roy described that WRAP staff and Council staff coordinate frequently to ensure the adequacy work of both organizations remain consistent.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18900/2024_09_11.pdf.

12. Overview of Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, introduced Jason Karnezis, the Estuary Lead at Bonneville Power Administration, who presented an update and overview of the Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program (CEERP) in Oregon and Washington. The Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed CEERP to understand, conserve, and restore ecosystems in the lower Columbia River and estuary. He presented specific information regarding details on implementation work, as well as monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Karnezis also described how the adaptive management process is functioning, and the success of the completed restoration projects.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18908/2024_09_12.pdf.

13. Update on Project #2003-011-00, Columbia River Estuary Habitat Restoration

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Project Review and Implementation Manager, Mark Fritsch, introduced Catherine Corbett, Chief Scientist at the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, who provided an update and overview of the accomplishments of the Columbia River Estuary Habitat Restoration project to restore the lower Columbia River and estuary ecosystem from Bonneville Dam to the mouth. The presentation explained how this project builds on a regional ecosystem restoration program and collaborates with partners to strategically identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor habitat restoration actions. Corbett then introduced panelists Jason Smith, Habitat Restoration Project Manager and Biologist with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, and Ian Sinks, Stewardship Director at Columbia Land Trust, to share implementation highlights of their collaborative efforts with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18906/2024_09_13.pdf.

14. Council Business

Approval of August 2024 Council Meeting Summary

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the August 2024 Council Meeting held via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the August 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18910/2024_09_14minutes.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with QW Consulting, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$95,150 for continued assistance in enhancing and

maintaining the functionality of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program Tracker: Resource Tools and Maps, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18911/2024_09_14qw.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with PSR Energy Solutions and Consulting Ltd in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for continued licensing and support for the GENESYS, as presented by staff.

Member Purce seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18903/2024_09_14psr.pdf

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Gwendolyn Shearer in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for continued support for the development, testing and running of the GENESYS model to analyze resource adequacy, as presented by staff.

Member Burdick seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at
https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18905/2024_09_14shearer.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Amy Milshtein in an amount not to exceed \$54,600 to produce advisory committee minutes during FY 2025, as presented by staff.

Member Burdick seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at
https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18901/2024_09_14milshtein.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Bluestone Strategies in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to continue to secure government affairs consulting services during FY 2025, as presented by staff.

Member Purce seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18909/2024_09_14bluestone.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comment.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m. Pacific time.