

**Mike Milburn**  
Chair  
Montana

**Doug Grob**  
Montana

**Jeffery C. Allen**  
Idaho

**Ed Schriever**  
Idaho



# Northwest Power and Conservation Council

**Thomas L (Les) Purce**  
Vice Chair  
Washington

**KC Golden**  
Washington

**Margaret Hoffmann**  
Oregon

**Charles F. Sams III**  
Oregon

## **Council Meeting Summary**

**October 14 - 16, 2025**

**Tamarack Resort  
311 Village Drive  
Donnelley, ID 83615**

This is a summary of the Council's October 2025 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-2025-10-15/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

### **October 14, 2025**

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Thomas L. (Les) Purce and Charles F. Sams III attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 18 & 19 in Portland, Oregon and via webinar.

### **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

#### **1. Council Work Session: Power Plan Development**

##### **a. Power Plan Update**

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided updates on the Power Plan timeline, the new resource and transmission risk scenario, and the scenario modeling phase.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19636/2025\\_10\\_1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19636/2025_10_1.pdf).

## **b. Needs assessment for changing hydro operations scenario**

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light, Power System Analyst Dor Hirsh Bar Gai, and Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis shared the results from the needs assessment analysis conducted for the changing hydro operations scenario. Staff provided a walk-through of the modeled hydro operations in the system and how they are similar or different across the four sensitivities. Staff also discussed system needs as identified in this needs assessment analysis and differences between the four sensitivities. Key takeaways include that the model showed significant needs for 2031; challenges are present across all seasons but particularly in winter; and that needs change across different hydro conditions, but the impact of hydro operations is small relative to overall needs driven by loads.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19637/2025\\_10\\_1b.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19637/2025_10_1b.pdf).

Chair Milburn adjourned the work session at 5:17 p.m. Mountain Time.

## **October 15, 2025**

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Thomas L. (Les) Purce and Charles F. Sams III attended virtually.

## **Report from the Executive Director and State Updates**

Executive Director Peter Cogswell welcomed former Council Member Jim Yost to the meeting audience, reviewed the Council meeting agenda items, recognized several members and staff for their participation in recent regional public events, and provided an update on logistics for the 2026 Council meetings locations.

Member Grob shared his experience attending the Montana Electrical Co-op Association event with Chair Milburn. Member Golden discussed the value of hydro operations, while Member Hoffmann highlighted power projects that are creating economic opportunities for communities across the region. Member Sams spoke to the benefits of the Council's renewed engagement in regional events. Member Purce expressed appreciation for staff efforts in preparing materials for the Council's work sessions, and Member Schriever followed with remarks underscoring the value of the staff's contributions to the Council's work.

## **Council Meeting Agenda Items, Continued**

### **2. Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) presentation: Review of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Steelhead Program, 2024-2025**

Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch and Independent Science Manager Erik Merrill presented a brief overview and history of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP), including operations and maintenance funding and the review process. Fritsch introduced Richard Carmichael, Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) Vice Chair who shared the ISRP's review of the LSRCP Steelhead Program and described the challenges, areas of high and low performance, and recommendations to improve performance, recognizing that many of the challenges limiting program success cannot be addressed by LSRCP Program actions alone.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19637/2025\\_10\\_1b.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19637/2025_10_1b.pdf).

### **3. Update on the on-going response to the quagga mussel infestation on the mid-Snake River, Idaho**

Fish and Wildlife Policy Advisor Windy Schoby from the Idaho Council office introduced Chanel Tewalt, Director at Idaho State Department of Agriculture who provided an update on the efficacy of the previous chelated copper treatments for quagga and zebra mussels infestations and the commitment to the on-going response.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19626/2025\\_10\\_3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19626/2025_10_3.pdf).

### **4. Decision item: Regional Technical Forum 2026 Work Plan**

Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Manager Laura Thomas presented on the proposed RTF work plan for 2026. This proposed work plan was recommended to the Council for approval by the RTF Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The work plan and budget reflect a scope of work and level of effort that was agreed to by all funders and supported through the five-year funding agreements for 2025 through 2029.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19634/2025\\_10\\_4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19634/2025_10_4.pdf).

## **Motion to Approve Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Work Plan and Budget**

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the work plan for the Regional Technical Forum for 2026, including the budget of \$2.3 million, as recommended by the RTF Policy Advisory Committee and presented by staff.

Member Allen seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

### **5. Strategies for addressing energy shortfalls and ensuring resource adequacy, Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative's (PNGC) approach**

Energy Policy Advisor Nate Clayville from the Idaho Council office introduced Jessica Matlock, President & CEO at Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC) Power, and Rich Stover, Chief Legal Counsel at PNGC. Matlock and Stover addressed the Northwest's emerging capacity and energy shortfalls and potential impacts to PNGC's member utilities.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19627/2025\\_10\\_5.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19627/2025_10_5.pdf).

### **6. Grid enhancing technologies**

Resources Analyst Joe Walderman and Resource Policy Analyst Annika Roberts provided an overview of grid enhancing technologies (GETs). Walderman and Roberts introduced Jake P. Gentle with Idaho National Labs and Phil Anderson and Erik Schellenberg with Idaho Power to discuss their work on GETs with the intention of starting the conversation of how GETs can be considered in the Ninth Power Plan.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19629/2025\\_10\\_6.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19629/2025_10_6.pdf).

### **7. White Sturgeon status report for the Snake River between Hells Canyon Dam and the Lower Granite Pool**

Fish and Wildlife Policy Advisor Windy Schoby introduced Joe DuPont, Clearwater Regional Fisheries Manager with Idaho Department of Fish and Game. DuPont presented on the status of the white sturgeon population in the Snake River between Hells Canyon Dam and the Lower Granite Dam, including factors influencing abundance, ongoing efforts, and potential future actions to support long-term persistence.

Presentation materials are available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19630/2025\\_10\\_7.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19630/2025_10_7.pdf).

Chair Milburn adjourned the work session at 4:53 p.m. Mountain Time.

## **October 16, 2025**

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Mountain Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Thomas L. (Les) Purce and Charles F. Sams III attended virtually.

### **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

#### **8. Council Work Session for the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments**

##### **a. Amendment process check-in**

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole provided a check-in on the amendment schedule for the next several months. Staff are working by topic to address recommendations and draft various sections of the Fish and Wildlife Program. Topics were shared with Council members for consideration and feedback, with the opportunity to revisit those topics at future meetings.

##### **b. Draft language for amendments**

Director O'Toole provided context and suggestions for developing draft amendments. Council Members, General Counsel John Shurts, and staff discussed the topics covered by the Program.

Briefing memo available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19631/2025\\_10\\_8.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19631/2025_10_8.pdf).

#### **9. Council Business**

##### **Motion to Approve Summary of the September 2025 Council Meeting**

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the September 2025 Council Meeting held in Eugene, OR, and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.  
Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the September 2025 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19632/2025\\_10\\_9minutes.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19632/2025_10_9minutes.pdf).

#### **Motion to Authorize Contract for Accounting Support (Primetrics)**

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Primetrics in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for accounting support, as presented by staff.

Member Allen seconded.  
No discussion.  
Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.  
Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at  
[https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19633/2025\\_10\\_9primetrics.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19633/2025_10_9primetrics.pdf).

#### **Motion to Approve Summary of September 23 & 24, 2025 Council Work Session**

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the September 23 & 24, 2025 Council Work Session held via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.  
No discussion.  
Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.  
Motion was approved.

Decision Memorandum available at  
[https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19635/2025\\_10\\_9worksessions.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19635/2025_10_9worksessions.pdf).

#### **Public comments**

Miles Johnson of Columbia River Keepers provided public comment.

## **Council Work Session for the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments continued**

The work session reconvened at 1:37 p.m. Discussion continued on draft amendments. Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff re-introduced the work session, discussing the topics covered by the Program. Feedback from today's discussion will be incorporated into draft amendments which will be discussed at a future meeting. The next work session will be held by webinar on October 28 and 29.

Briefing memo available at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19631/2025\\_10\\_8.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19631/2025_10_8.pdf).

Chair Milburn adjourned the work session at 4:51 p.m. Mountain Time.