

Mike Milburn
Chair
Montana

Doug Grob
Montana

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

Ed Schriever
Idaho



Thomas L (Les) Purce
Vice Chair
Washington

KC Golden
Washington

Margaret Hoffmann
Oregon

Charles F. Sams III
Oregon

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Council Meeting Summary December 16, 2025 via Webinar

This is a summary of the Council's December 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-2025-12-16/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

December 16, 2025

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Charles F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026, in Portland, OR.

State updates

Member Sams shared that Oregon members met with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) to share a Council update.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Decision to release the draft amended Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole began the presentation with a process check-in and discussion on the draft amended Program. Director O'Toole then proposed the Council consider two related decisions: a decision to release the draft amended Fish and Wildlife Program for public review and a decision on the length of the review period.

Motion to approve the release of Draft 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program amendments for public review and comment

Member Purce moved that the Council approve the release of the Draft 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program for public review and comment through March 2, 2026, as presented by staff [with changes made by the Members at today's meeting].

Member Grob seconded.

Member Schriever began a discussion on the 75-day comment period and the timing of the March Council meeting and also offered consideration of a 90-day period. Members and staff continued discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed the original motion with the comment period ending March 2, 2026.

Motion was approved.

Briefing memo available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19690/2025_12_1.pdf.

Director of Public Affairs Kym Buzdygon spoke about the draft Program release. Information and updates will be shared with the public via the Spotlight newsletter, social media, website updates, and public hearings in all four states.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19690/2025_12_1.pdf.

2. Power Plan update

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided updates on the Power Plan timeline and where the division is in the scenario modeling process. Director Light shared the results of the needs assessment analysis for the New Resource and Transmission Risk scenario and walked through the game plan for the next several months as the Council works towards release of a draft Power Plan.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19689/2025_12_2.pdf.

3. Council business

Motion to approve summary of the November 2025 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the November 2025 Council Meeting held in Portland, 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 November 2025 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19688/2025_12_3minutes.pdf.

Motion to approve summary of December 3 & 4, 2025 Council Work Session

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the December 3 & 4, 2025 Council Work Session held via Webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Allen seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the December 3 & 4, 2025 Council Work Session is at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19686/2025_12_3worksession.pdf.

Motion to appoint Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Chair for remainder of 2025-2027 membership term

Member Purce moved that the Council appoint Kevin Smit, Manager of Power Planning Resources for the Council, as Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Chair, for the remainder of 2025-2027 term, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.

Member Golden expressed appreciation to Kevin Smit.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Briefing memo available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19687/2025_12_3rtf.pdf.

No public comments.

Chair Milburn adjourned the work session at 10:50 a.m. Pacific Time.