

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 January 13, 2026 Council Central Office and via Webinar 851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97204

This is a summary of the Council's January 2026 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-2026-01-13/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

January 13, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Council Members Jeff Allen and Chuck F. Sams III attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026, in Portland, OR.

Report from the Executive Director

Executive Director Peter Cogswell noted that this year marks the Council's 45th anniversary and highlighted its significance given ongoing work on the Fish and Wildlife Program and the Power Plan. He reported that the 2026 Council meeting schedule has been finalized, specifically noting that the December meeting will be held in person in Portland, Oregon. Director Cogswell also provided an update on Council member and staff trainings and shared that the annual audit process has begun.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Update of the Council's Asset Management Strategic Plan recommendations for Program hatcheries and fish screen

Project Review Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch, along with Eric Leitzinger and Andy Traylor of the Bonneville Power Administration, provided an update on the Asset Management Strategic Plan recommendations scheduled for implementation by the end of FY 2027. The presenters also gave a brief status update on actions addressing nonrecurring maintenance priority needs for hatcheries and fish screens, as previously recommended by the Council. In addition, they reviewed the funding allocations and contingency funds established under last year's recommended action associated with the FY 2023 RDC funds for fish screens.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19712/2026_01_1.pdf.

2. Update on the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole opened the presentation by acknowledging the passing of biologists Dr. William Percy and Dr. Hiram Li and their accomplishments. Director O'Toole then provided an update on the current stage of the amendment process, noting that the process is in the public review and comment phase. She outlined the logistics and timeline for the upcoming public hearings and consultations and reviewed the estimated overall timeline for the Fish and Wildlife amendment process.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19715/2026_01_2.pdf.

3. Power Plan Update

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light, Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis, and Power System Analyst Dor Hirsh Bar Gai provided an update on several topics as the Council prepares to review the results of the scenario modeling. The presentation included final market study results, updates on the needs assessment results, and an update on the timeline for regional resource optimization results. Director Light and General Counsel John Shurts also provided a brief review of the legal elements of the Power Act relevant to power planning in preparation for drafting the Power Plan. Director Light then walked through the proposed table of contents. The presentation concluded with status updates on the overall Ninth Power Plan timeline.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19713/2026_01_3.pdf.

4. Council business

Motion to approve summary of the December 2025 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the December 2025 Council Meeting held 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 December 2025 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19714/2026_01_4.pdf.

Election of Officers

Chair Milburn called for nominations of Council Chair of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Member Schriever nominated Member Mike Milburn for Council Chair.

Member Golden seconded.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Chair Milburn called for nominations for Council Vice Chair of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Member Schriever nominated Member Thomas L. (Les) Purce for Council Vice Chair.

Member Golden seconded.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

5. Panel on data centers efficiency and flexibility opportunities

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light, Manager of Power Planning Resources Kevin Smit, and Resource Analyst Joe Walderman introduced Christine Golightly of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC); Karina Hershberg and Ben Burnett of PAE; Baskar Vairamohan of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI); and Isaac Barrow of Portland General Electric (PGE). The presenters discussed opportunities to address the significant increase forecasted for data center load. Council staff shared their approach to data center efficiency in the Ninth Plan,

while CRITFC and PAE presented on data center efficiency and water use. EPRI presented on the Data Center Flexible Load Initiative (DC Flex), and PGE discussed its approach to flexibility in the data center sector.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19716/2026_01_5.pdf.

Scott Levy with Red Fish Blue Fish provided public comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m. Pacific Time.