

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
May 12 – 14, 2026
Wildhorse Resort and Casino
46510 Wildhorse Blvd
Pendleton, OR 97801

This is a summary of the Council's May 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-2026-05-12/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

May 12, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 16 & 17 in Portland, OR, and via webinar.

Members Sams and Hoffmann opened the meeting by welcoming the group to Pendleton, OR.

Executive director report and state updates

Executive Director Peter Cogswell shared the passing of, and his appreciation for, Phil Rockefeller, who made a significant impact on the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. He also expressed his appreciation to the members and staff for their continued work and dedication. Cogswell highlighted the recent Council engagement with PNUCC, NEEA, and the American Fisheries Society. Lastly, he acknowledged the retirements of John Hairston and Sonya Baskerville at Bonneville Power Administration.

There were no state updates.

Public Affairs Committee update

Member Sams shared that Public Affairs Committee met on March 23, 2026. Agenda items discussed included a possible Council trip to Washington D.C. in September 2026 to meet with the Northwest Congressional Delegation, outcomes from the recent public hearings and comments on the draft Fish and Wildlife Program, recent media coverage of the Council's work and updates to the Council's website.

Council meeting agenda items

1. Welcome

Member Chuck Sams introduced Toby Patrick and Corinne Sams, Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), to give a warm welcome to Pendleton, OR, with a song, poem, and thoughtful words around mindfulness and concerns of the limited opportunities to harvest fish.

2. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Department of Natural Resources

Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst Rudy Salakory introduced CTUIR's Department of Natural Resources Director Eric Quaempts to provide an overview of the department's mission, goals, and approaches. Quaempts provided specific examples of how the goals to protect, restore, and enhance the First Foods and medicines for the benefit of the CTUIR are implemented.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19871/2026_05_2.pdf.

3. Fish and Wildlife Program amendment

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff continued to discuss with the members the comments received on the draft 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and proposed revisions. The Council discussed timing of a decision to adopt the amended 2026 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The administrative record remained open at the May Council meeting. Members and staff noted that several people were signed up to make public comments at the May Council meeting. The members, recognizing the need to hear the comments and also to close the administrative record prior to making a decision, supported moving the decision to the June Council meeting. The administrative record was closed following the conclusion of the Council meeting. No further external comments will be accepted in writing, in person or by phone as the Council anticipates making its decision in June.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19874/2026_05_3.pdf.

Member Milburn adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m. Pacific Time

The Council's Power Committee will meet in closed session to discuss issues involved in the development of the draft Ninth Power Plan.

May 13, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person.

4. Council Work Session: Power Plan

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light and staff presented a range of proposed recommendations for potential inclusion in the draft Ninth Power Plan. This included proposed elements of the conservation program, recommendations for resource and power system development, and other recommendations for research and development.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19872/2026_05_4.pdf.

Agenda item three continued: Fish and Wildlife Program amendment

5. Council business

Motion to approve summary of April 2026 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the April 2026 Council Meeting held in Whitefish, MT and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the April 2026 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19873/2026_05_5a_april14.pdf.

Motion to approve summary of April 28 & 29, 2026 Council Meeting and Work Session

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the April 28 & 29, 2026 Council Meeting and Work Session held via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the April 28 & 29, 2026 Council Meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19875/2026_05_5b_april28.pdf.

Staff report on basin climate and water supply outlook information for 2026

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self shared with the Council Members that the Council usually receives a presentation in May from the staff of the Northwest River Forecast Center (Center) on this year's hydrological and climatic conditions and water supply forecasts. This year, Center staff cannot attend the May meeting to provide their update due to scheduling conflicts. Council staff is making the Center's information available through a memo and associated links so that Council Members and others can access the information.

Memo and associated links are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19876/2026_05_5c.pdf.

Member Milburn adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m. Mountain Time

May 14, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members KC Golden, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Member Jeff Allen attended the meeting virtually. Member Doug Grob was not in attendance.

Public comment

Donald Sampson Peo Peo Mox Mox, Chief of the Walla Walla Tribe, provided public comment.

Tanya Riordan with Save our Wild Salmon provided public comment.

Liz Hamilton with the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association provided public comment.

Michael Garrity, Columbia Policy Lead, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided public comment.

Scott Levy with Blue Fish provided public comment.

Nancy Hirsh, Energy Advocate, provided public comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m. Pacific Time.