

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 June 13 & 14, 2026 Council Central Office and via webinar 851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97204

This is a summary of the Council's July 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-2026-07-13/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

July 13, 2026

Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff discussed the 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program next steps and implementation.

July 14, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Members Doug Grob and Margaret Hoffmann attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 11 & 12, in Seattle, WA, and via webinar.

Public Affairs Committee report, Fish and Wildlife Committee report, and state updates

Member Sams provided an update from the Public Affairs Committee meeting on July 8, highlighting that Executive Director Peter Cogswell shared updates on staffing at Bonneville;

Chris Huckleberry of Bluestone Strategies gave a government affairs update focused on the Council's September trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with the Northwest delegation; and the committee discussed public affairs matters related to the possible release of the Draft Power Plan for public comment, including scheduling public hearings and updating the Council website.

Member Schriever provided an update from the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting on July 13, where members discussed implementation of the 2026 Fish and Wildlife Program and began developing a work plan to guide the Council's efforts over the coming months. Director O'Toole provided an update on the ongoing lands review, noting that recommendations from the 35 projects under review are expected to come before the committee this fall. Member Schriever shared that staff are currently getting back into participating in field visits, meeting with project sponsors, and developing the findings from the Fish and Wildlife Program that will be brought to the committee for consideration. The meeting concluded with directions for state and central office staff to begin developing a draft work plan for committee consideration this fall.

Council Meeting agenda items

1. Potential decision to release the draft Ninth Power Plan

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light reviewed revisions to a working draft of the Council's draft Ninth Northwest Power Plan. Council members reviewed the updates, asked questions, and made comments. Chair Milburn shared a request from Bonneville to delay the release of the draft Plan by 60 days. The Council also discussed the comments received regarding concerns around the proposed dual target for conservation in the Power Plan. The Council discussed interest in continuing to hear feedback on this topic during the public comment period. They also asked staff to prepare a technical appendix to provide context comparing the proposed dual target with a single target for conservation. After discussion, the Council decided to delay the release of the draft Ninth Power Plan for public comment by one month to allow time for staff to complete the analysis and prepare the technical appendix.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19950/2026_07_1.pdf.

4. Council Business

Motion to approve summary of the June 2026 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the June 2026 Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon and 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 June 2026 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19954/2026_07_4a.pdf.

Motion to approve summary of June 30, 2026, Council Work Session

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the June 30, 2026, 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 June 30, 2026, Council Work Session and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19952/2026_07_4b.pdf.

2. Check-in on Reserve Distribution Clause (RDC) FY 2022 funds and update for Program and Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) hatcheries and RDC FY 2023 for Program Screens

Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch introduced Andy Traylor and Jennifer Lord from Bonneville Power Administration and Nathan Wiese from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide an update on the Asset Management Strategic Plan recommendations, funded through rate case and RDC funds, to be implemented by the end of FY 2028. The implementation of the recommended actions addressing non-recurring maintenance priority needs for hatcheries and screens as recommended previously by the Council was discussed. In addition, Wiese shared an overview of the accomplishments of the FY 2022 RDC funds for the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatcheries.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19951/2026_07_2.pdf.

3. Update on construction for Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program, Project #1996-040-00, Upper Columbia Production Projects

Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch introduced Cory Kamphaus with Yakama Nation Fisheries Resource Management and Tom Scribner with Yakama Nation Fisheries to present an overview of the reintroduction of coho salmon in the Wenatchee and Methow subbasins and provide an update on the anticipated construction of the facilities associated with the reviewed and recommended master plan.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19953/2026_07_3.pdf.

Public Comment

Davia Palmeri, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided comment.

Susan Chambers, West Coast Seafood Processors Association, provided comment.

Scott Levy, Blue Fish, provided comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m. Pacific Time.