

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 August 11 & 12, 2026 Hyatt Regency Seattle and via Webinar 808 Howell Street Seattle, WA 98101

This is a summary of the Council's August 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-2026-08-11/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

August 11, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 9:30 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. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 9 & 10, in Portland, OR, and via webinar.

Executive director report and state updates

Executive Director Peter Cogswell began by briefly discussing the meeting agenda and his confidence in releasing the draft Power Plan. Director Cogswell highlighted the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) and Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB) Pass the Torch meeting and the conversations and tour that recently took place in Astoria and Portland, OR. Lastly, he shared that the Council is currently in the performance review period as part of the year-end process.

Member Sams shared that last week he took a tour around Central Oregon discussing water issues on the Deschutes River. Member Hoffmann thanked the first responders who have been

working on the wildland fires in the Pacific Northwest. Member Golden also mentioned his appreciation for the first responders on the fires. Member Allen shared that he and Member Schriever recently met with BPA Administrator Travis Kavulla while he was visiting Boise, ID. Member Purce also expressed his sympathy to those impacted by the fires in the Pacific Northwest.

Council Meeting agenda items

1. Potential decision to release the draft Ninth Power Plan

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light reviewed changes to a working draft of the Council's draft Ninth Northwest Power Plan, as well as provided an overview of the newly created Technical Appendix Q that analyzes the implications of a single target approach to conservation. General Counsel John Shurts and Director of Public Affairs Kym Buzdygon talked through what will happen after the release of the draft plan. Council members reviewed the updates, asked questions, and made comments. It was recommended that the Council vote to release the draft Ninth Power Plan for public review and comment.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19967/2026_08_1.pdf.

Motion to approve the release of the draft Ninth Power Plan for public review and comment

Member Purce moved that the Council approve the release of the Draft Ninth Power Plan for public review and comment through October 16, 2026, as presented by staff [with changes made by the Members at today's meeting].

Member Sams seconded.

Discussion from Member Allen, Member Golden

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

2. Energy transition and innovation panel

Member Golden introduced Dennis McLerran with Seattle City Light, Josh Jacobs with Puget Sound Energy, and Serj Berelson with Opower to discuss the clean energy transition. The panel discussed strategies for addressing the challenges faced by some of Washington's largest utilities in meeting electric decarbonization policy requirements and accommodating significant load growth. They spoke of opportunities available through innovative technologies and programs and discussed supply and demand side options as well as the role that transmission expansion

can play. Lastly, the panel addressed the concern of affordability by sharing the current major cost drivers affecting operations and how utilities are managing them.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19970/2026_08_2.pdf.

3. Update from the Washington State Climate Office

Washington Policy Analyst and Biologist Stacy Horton introduced Guillaume Mauger with the Washington State Climatology Office, who provided a brief update on anticipated precipitation and hydrology under climate change, the ‘super’ El Nino and what that might mean for the Pacific Northwest and related marine ecosystems, and how the climate relates to the wildfire season we’re seeing this year.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19969/2026_08_3.pdf.

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

August 12, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 9:32 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.

Council Business

Motion to approve summary of the July 2026 Council Meeting

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

Member Sams seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the July 2026 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/f/19966/2026_08_7minutes.pdf.

Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2027 revised budget and Fiscal Year 2028 budget

Member Purce moved that the Council approve the Fiscal Year 2027 revised budget and the Fiscal Year 2028 budget, and authorize reprogramming of available Fiscal Year 2026 funds for unanticipated Fiscal Year 2026 costs, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Decision memo is available at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/f/19965/2026_08_7budget.pdf.

Motion to authorize contract for Fish and Wildlife program data tracking (QW)

Member Purce moved that the Council authorize staff to continue contracting with QW Consulting LLC in FY 2027 in an amount not to exceed \$82,500 for continued assistance in enhancing and maintaining the functionality of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program Tracker Resource Tools and Maps, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Authorization memo is available at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19968/2026_08_7qw.pdf.

Council Meeting agenda items continued

4. Discussion with Casey Sixkiller, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington Policy Analyst and Biologist Stacy Horton introduced Casey Sixkiller with the Washington State Department of Ecology to talk about Ecology's work to protect communities, farmers and tribes facing challenging issues and how to shape policies that protect resources and provide a cleaner environment for the future.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19971/2026_08_4.pdf.

5. Update on the Orca Task Force recommendations

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole introduced Tara Galuska with the Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to provide an update on the Orca Task Force's recommendations that are now being implemented and emerging issues throughout the state of Washington including in the Columbia River basin.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19972/2026_08_5.pdf.

6. Presentation by NOAA Science Center

Director O'Toole introduced Jeremy Rusin, Director of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), to present an overview of the Columbia River basin research conducted by NWFSC, the research arm of NOAA Fisheries.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19973/2026_08_6.pdf.

Public Comment

Shari Tarantino, Orca Conservancy, provided comment.

Scott Levy, Blue Fish, provided comment.

Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition, provided comment.

Teri Wright, provided comment.

Heather Nicholson, provided comment.

Member Purce adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m. Pacific Time.