

**Bill Bradbury**  
Chair  
Oregon

**Henry Lorenzen**  
Oregon

**W. Bill Booth**  
Idaho

**James A. Yost**  
Idaho



## **Northwest Power and Conservation Council**

**Jennifer Anders**  
Vice Chair  
Montana

**Pat Smith**  
Montana

**Tom Karier**  
Washington

**Phil Rockefeller**  
Washington

### **Council Meeting January 13, 2015 Portland, Oregon**

#### **Minutes**

Chair Bradbury called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. All members were present.

Council Member Phil Rockefeller, chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, reported on the Committee's meeting. The committee addressed six major topics this morning: Update on developing a project review process; Update on O&M regional process letter; IEAB proposal for Task 211 to identify approaches to improve planning for long-term costs of fish and wildlife projects; work plan for assessing the feasibility of reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams; a briefing on the current status of marine mammal populations in the lower Columbia and lower Willamette Rivers; a proposed plan for developing an annual workplan and regional coordination process.

Council Member Pat Smith, chair of the Power Committee, reported that the Power Committee covered the following topics: Assessment and treatment of emerging generating resources and energy efficiency technologies; policy issues for energy efficiency inputs assumptions for use in the Regional Portfolio Model; a presentation on major RPM inputs and drivers and the impact; and a discussion of the natural gas policy.

Council Member Henry Lorenzen, chair of the Public Affairs Committee, reported that the committee will meet in February to develop a workplan for the coming year. Staff has completed the Annual Report to Congress for FY 2014.

#### **1. Update on Columbia Basin Trust conference**

Jennifer Anders, Montana Council Member; Larry Cassidy, American Co-Chair, 2014 Columbia River Conference (and former Washington Council Member; John Harrison, information officer. Kindy Gosal, Columbia Basin Trust, joined the presentation by telephone.

Former Council Chair Larry Cassidy spoke about the conference and the viability of the work the Columbia Basin Trust does. Cassidy commended Jennifer Anders and John Harrison for their work on the conference to make it such a success. One item with a lot of energy in the conference was the reintroduction of fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. It is an incumbent responsibility on the Council to study that before ratepayer money is spent, Cassidy said. BC Minister of Energy and Mines was luncheon speaker who said First Nations groups were never part of the Columbia River Treaty and never would be. A challenge for the Council from the conference is an effort to improve citizen involvement and recognize citizen groups working on transboundary and fish and wildlife issues.

Council Member Tom Karier commented that while the plan hits the right points, the proponents should reach out to more participants, particularly in counties that may see economic benefits. He proposed including irrigators, utilities such as Avista and affected public utilities. "You want them on your team as you go through this," he said.

## **2. Presentation on assessing the feasibility of reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams**

Matt Wynne, chairman of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), D.R. Michel, executive director of UCUT, and Stephen Smith, Stephen H. Smith Fisheries Consulting, Inc., presented their preliminary work plan for fish passage and reintroduction into the Upper Columbia River. Also speaking was Laura Robinson, the Council's program implementation and liaison specialist, and Paul Lumley, executive director of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

Michel characterized the effort as one that could lead to the biggest action in the Council's 30-year history. "It's about the restoration of food and culture, and it will finally right this wrong," he said. He further stated that sockeye salmon runs have been returning at 6 to 12 percent, and that fall Chinook have also demonstrated viability. "UCUT wants to test innovations to reintroduce the fish above the dams," Michel said. "If it's successful, we can reintroduce fish at minimal capital and operating costs." The Council adopted into its 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program a science-based, phased approach to reintroduce salmonids into the blocked Upper Columbia River above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. Phase 1 consists of a feasibility study to determine habitat availability, suitability and salmon potential above Grand Coulee, by learning both from previous studies at blockages throughout the basin, and a potential new study at Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee. Smith commented that ensuring the proper scope is key to this project, stating that it is strictly a U.S. project, and that the group is not trying to interfere with discussions about Columbia River Treaty. He said UCUT is looking for a federal, tribal and state partnership, with full transparency and opportunities for public input. UCUT proposes to lead and administer this effort, with a representative from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and a Washington member of the Council. "We want to move promptly, but we understand it will take years of work," Smith said. The groups' proposed next steps include broadly circulating the draft work plan for

comments, developing collaborative project goals, creating a statement of work, seeking and confirming Phase 1 budgets, and then starting its implementation with funding entities.

### **3. Briefing on coordinated efforts to develop a regional defense against Quaga and Zebra mussels in the Pacific Northwest.**

Stephen Phillips of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) updated the Council on regional efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels into the Pacific Northwest. “We don’t have mussels today, at 3:00 p.m., but we’d lose our minds if they showed up,” Phillips said. Preventing mussels from gaining a foothold in the region is a key measure identified in the non-native and invasive species sub-strategy in the Council’s amended 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. Phillips was joined by Lisa DeBruyckere of Creative Resource Strategies LLC, which is helping to develop a perimeter defense strategy against the mussels. DeBruyckere outlined the goals of regional framework to prevent the introduction of mussels, and a contingency plan to prevent their spread if they do get in. DeBruyckere described the effort as complex and multijurisdictional — with potentially serious economic, environmental and social consequences if it isn’t acted upon. There also was a discussion of the chemicals needed to eradicate the mussels, such as copper and potash, and their impact on salmon. Most of the high-risk boats that could bring mussels into the region come from Lake Mead and the Great Lakes. DeBruyckere described a program to inform the public of the need to clean, drain and dry their boats before launching them; and to reach a multistate consensus on approaches. She reported that a watercraft inspection and detention program across the region would cost \$8.2 million, which would be well spent, considering that the economic damage to the region of a widespread mussel infestation would cost in the neighborhood of \$0.5 billion dollars. A conference call with participants from both the U.S. and Canada will be held in January to share information and develop strategies for 2015 including:

- Developing a common understanding of the issues and potential problems
- Merging, updating, and sharing all existing anti-mussel action plans
- Obtaining consensus on regional recommendations for prevention, early detection, control, and management of invasive mussels
- Supporting legislation, planning for visits with legislators
- Securing funding for mussel-prevention efforts
- Strategies for stopping the spread of invasive mussels at the source
- Strategies for public information

Preventing a Northwest infestation is a key measure in the Council’s 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The program calls for:

- Reducing threats from invasive species
- Preventing the establishment of aquatic invasive species

- Monitoring and managing various introduction pathways into the Columbia River Basin
- Developing strategies and outreach tools to educate the public

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region, a collaborative organization of the Northwest states, Alaska, and the western Canadian provinces that addresses common issues and interests, is working to raise awareness of the threats posed by invasive mussels. Recently the groups posted a blog on The Blue Review website.

#### **4. Decision to release issue paper on the direct use of natural gas analysis for public comment.**

Tom Eckman, director of the Council's power division, briefed the Council on the staff's analysis of whether a program is needed to encourage customers to switch from electricity to natural gas to fuel their hot water heaters. "Every time we do a plan, this issue of direct use comes up," said Tom Eckman. He presented the issue paper, coauthored by Massoud Jourabchi, manager of economic analysis. "The Council sees the market working very well in this arena." Eckman said that in a 2014 study of the single-family, water-heating market, there is the potential for reducing electricity consumption.

The Council's longstanding policy, adopted in its first power plan, is that fuel switching is not conservation under the Northwest Power Act, which defines conservation as the "more efficient use of electricity." Further, on the basis of its prior analysis, the Council has determined that fuel choice markets are reasonably competitive and that those markets should be allowed to work without interference.

"Consumers are making those decisions," said Council Member Pat Smith, who chairs the Power Committee. He said that Council staff looked at the issue in 2012, and again in 2014, and reported that there is no reason to change the Council's approach. "The market seems to be working adequately and there is no need for programs to grow it."

For the Draft Seventh Plan, two estimates were made, according to the paper. The first, which is comparable to the 2012 analysis, assumed that in all cases, the most economical (i.e., the lowest life-cycle cost) water heating fuel type would be selected. The second case, assumed that consumers would not always select the lowest-cost option due to other, noneconomic barriers to conversion. This case found that fewer, but still a significant share, of households would alter their existing water heating fuel. Also, natural gas continues to gain space and water heating market share, while electricity's share of these end uses continues to decrease. "We're putting out the issue paper to see if that's still the right approach," Smith said.

The Council is seeking comment on the following:

- Is there data that contradicts the trends toward gas water heating?

- Are there program designs that have successfully identified consumers interested in converting to gas water heating?
- Is it possible that future market conditions (fuel prices, technology changes and non-price factors) would warrant Council intervention in the market?

Council Member Jennifer Anders moved to release the issue paper for public comment for a period ending February 20, 2015. It was unanimously approved.

## **5. Council Business:**

### **Issue paper on direct use of natural gas analysis for public comment.**

Jennifer Anders moved that the Council release the issue paper on the direct use of natural gas analysis for public comment for a period ending February 20, 2015, seconded by Karier.

Motion passed unanimously.

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### **Approval of minutes of the December 9-10, 2014 Council Meeting**

Jennifer Anders moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the minutes of the December 9-10, 2014 Council meeting held in Portland, Oregon, with one correction noted, seconded by Smith.

Motion passed unanimously.

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### **ISRP and ISAB appointments**

Jennifer Anders moved and Smith seconded that the Council:

(1) appoint Desiree Tullos and Wayne Hubert to the Independent Scientific Review panel;

(2) appoint William Boggess, Daniel Bottom, Richard Carmichael, Patrick Connolly, Albert Giorgi, William Jaeger, Cynthia Jones, Lynn Kaeding, Matthew Mesa, Carrie Pomeroy, John Richardson, Kenny Rose, Clare Ryan, James Sanchirico, James Seeb, David Tallmon, Thomas Turner, Ellen Wohl and Michael Young to the pool of potential ISRP Peer Review Group members; and

(3) advise the Council Chair to support the appointment of Cynthia Jones, William Maeger, Stan Gregory, and a population genetics expert to be named at a later date to the ISAB.

Motion passed unanimously.

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### **IEAB Proposal for Task 211 to identify approaches to improve planning for long-term costs of fish and wildlife projects**

Jennifer Anders moved that the Council approve Task 211 for the Independent Economic Analysis Board as presented by staff, seeking the IEAB's assistance in improving how to deal with the long-term costs of fish and wildlife projects, a task to be completed at an amount not to exceed \$18,000, seconded by Rockefeller.

Motion passed unanimously.

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### **Direct the staff to negotiate a contract with PJP Consulting LLC**

Jennifer Anders moved that the Council direct the staff to negotiate a contract with PJP Consulting LLC to provide facilitation services and assistance in development of policy proposals for the Wildlife Advisory Committee, in an amount not to exceed \$40,800, seconded by Booth.

Motion passed unanimously.

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### **Approval of Fiscal Year 2014 Report to Congress**

Jennifer Anders moved that the Council approved the Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report to Congress with changes identified by John Harrison and Jennifer Anders for public release, seconded by Booth.

Motion passed unanimously.

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Election of officers: Chair Bradbury opened the floor to nominations for Council officers for calendar year 2015. Jennifer Anders nominated Phil Rockefeller as chair of the Council, seconded by Bradbury. All members voted in favor of Phil Rockefeller to be Chair of the Council for calendar year 2015 via a roll-call vote. Council Member Jim Yost was absent.

Jennifer Anders nominated Bill Booth as Vice-Chair of the Council, seconded by Bill Bradbury. All members voted in favor of Bill Booth to be Vice-Chair of the Council for calendar year 2015. Council Member Jim Yost was absent.

### **Public Comment:**

Denny Rohr commented on the stellar sea lions possible removal in Washington from the state's threatened species list.

Phil Rockefeller asked if the members would agree to send a letter regarding the Washington removal of stellar sea lions from the state's threatened sea lion list. All members agreed. Tony Grover will work with John Harrison to draft a letter for Council Members' approval.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Approved February 10, 2015

/s/ Bill Booth

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Vice-Chair

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