

Guy Norman
Chair
Washington

KC Golden
Washington

Jim Yost
Idaho

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho



Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

Doug Grob
Vice Chair
Montana

Mike Milburn
Montana

Ginny Burdick
Oregon

Louie Pitt, Jr.
Oregon

Council Meeting Summary **July 12-13, 2022** **at Spokane, Washington and via Webinar**

This a summary of the agenda items that came before the Council at its July 12-13, 2022, public meeting and, where appropriate, the actions the Council decided upon. The summary is intended to provide a general synopsis only for each agenda item. For further details, the complete set of information for the meeting includes the meeting agenda, the packet and presentation material for each item, the recording of each agenda item during the meeting, and subsequent documentation of any decisions by the Council. These meeting materials are posted with this summary at <https://www.nwCouncil.org/calendar/Council-meeting-july-12-2022/>.

Tuesday, July 12, 2020

Council Chair Guy Norman brought the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. Council Members Jeffery Allen, Doug Grob, Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Jim Yost, Louie Pitt Jr., and Mike Milburn were in attendance in Spokane, WA. The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2022, as a webinar.

Reports from Committees

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Council Member Jeff Allen, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported on the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting held on July 6, 2022:

1. Examples of Climate Change Considerations in Project Planning and Implementation

The Committee heard from a panel that included representatives from three state fish and wildlife agencies and one of the region's tribes. The panelists addressed the various ways that climate change impacts their diverse types of work and how they are adapting their work to these environmental changes. Matt Boyer, Montana Fish and Wildlife and Parks, reported on how the state targets land acquisitions and focuses on protecting strongholds that contain cold and clean water. Gary James, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, presented on the cultural and biological benefits of flood plain restoration in addressing climate change impacts. Ethan Crawford, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, reported on climate impacts to fish monitoring in southeast Washington, and how high run-off events can affect monitoring equipment such as juvenile fish traps. Patrick Murphy, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, presented on how climate change impacts the Idaho screen program and noted that there will need to be increased operations and maintenance work to maintain these investments as high runoff events will become more common.

2. Update on the Kelt Facility at Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery

Becky Johnson, Nez Perce Tribe Production Division Director, and Doug Hatch from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission presented on their steelhead kelt program and facilities. They explain how they identify and recover steelhead with a genetic predisposition for spawning multiple times. The program uses the facility to help steelhead recover from the journey between the ocean and Clearwater, Idaho. The kelt reconditioning project can contribute as much as five percent of the existing population.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting materials for these items are at <https://www.nwCouncil.org/meeting/fw-and-Council-meeting-july-6-2022/>.

Power Committee

The Power Committee did not meet in July.

Public Affairs Committee

The Public Affairs Committee did not meet in July.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Update on Pacific Lamprey Runs in the Columbia River Basin and Translocation Successes

Mark Fritsch introduced Laura Porter and Jon Hess of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) for an overview of the Pacific lamprey research and restoration initiatives supported by the Council's Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program. Porter discussed the Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan, the plan's vision and goals, and the Pacific lamprey life cycle and counts. Hess examined the successful translocation of Pacific lamprey in the Snake River. He provided lamprey counts for the past 20 years at Bonneville Dam and in the Snake River. He compared them to the historical average from 1946 to 1970. Although the numbers are not what they once were and fluctuate yearly, the translocation in the Snake River is yielding positive results.

Member Pitt reinforced the importance of lamprey to the cultural foods of the tribal people along the river and asked about the success rate of dam passage for the lamprey. Porter confirmed that they continue improving passage conditions, but cannot yet understand why upwards of fifty percent of Pacific lamprey are not passing through successfully. Member Allen asked whether the discovery that Pacific lamprey spent an average of five years in the ocean is accurate and how that might affect their goals. Hess expressed that we are on the cusp of understanding the species' lifecycle. Member Milburn asked what happened when the Pacific lamprey survival rate went to zero starting in 1970 as shown in the chart on Bonneville Dam Adult Pacific Lamprey count. Porter explained that there were no counts in that year. Chair Norman thanked the presenters for their presentations and expressed how much more there is to learn about Pacific lamprey.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17819/2022_07_1.pdf.

2. Presentation by Avista

Jennifer Light introduced Avista's Senior Vice-President of Energy Delivery and Shared Services, Heather Rosentrater, and Jason Thackston, Senior Vice-President of Energy Resources, to share updates about Avista's plans for the clean energy transition, operational advancements, and issues facing the utility and its customers. The electricity and gas provider, headquartered in Spokane, provides service to residents of four states in the Northwest. Highlights from the presentation by Thackston included: The amount of renewable energy used in Avista's electricity generation is already 60%, making it one of the US utilities with the lowest carbon emissions per kwh. The

company is planning to rely on renewable natural gas, extending its contracts with hydroelectric utilities, and expanding its renewable generation portfolio. Avista also recently became a member of the Western Energy Imbalance Market. Avista intends to leave Colstrip by the end of 2025 due to the environmental benefits and economic perspective. Thackston explained that affordability would guide their decisions. By the end of 2027, Avista wants to deliver carbon-neutral electricity. By 2045, Avista intends to provide all its customers with clean electricity.

Rosentrater provided examples of how the electric distribution side can support Avista's goals and how innovative Avista has been with Smart Grid Automation in 2013, focusing on delivery and the distribution system. According to Rosentrater, evolving and innovative demand side management efforts are essential to support sustainable, reliable, safe, secure, and resilient energy services for society in the most affordable way possible. Avista will optimize the grid and create a setting that brings the system to its full potential to achieve the most effective and economical use of resources.

Member Grob thanked Avista for their impressive presentation and shared that Avista is the perfect size to experiment with grants and incentives to accomplish their goals. Member Yost asked about Avista's growth forecast, Thackston answered that it is about 1% to 2%, mostly from migration. Member Golden followed up with how Avista's systemic innovation has prepared them for a more interactive grid. The presenters mentioned that they receive about 4000 homes-worth of value in energy efficiency from focusing on the automated voltage regulators.

Presentation materials may be found at
https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17818/2022_07_2.pdf.

3. Energy and Environmental Economics (E3) Study on the Lower Snake River Dams Power Replacement

Jennifer Light introduced Senior Partner Arne Olson and Associate Director Aaron Burdick from E3 to present their independent study that analyzed the potential replacement resources for the power services provided by the four lower Snake River dams. Olson began the presentation with an overview of the study and its findings. E3's analysis built on the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement (CRSO EIS) and used the E3 RESOLVE optimal capacity expansion model to examine multiple scenarios and inform what resources would be needed to replace the energy and other grid services provided by these dams through 2045. This study also compared forecasted costs, analyzed the extent to which the region would need to rely on emerging technologies, and discussed timelines for the potential buildout of replacement resources.

Olson explained that the system would lose over 3,500 MW of total capacity if the dams were breached, including roughly 2,300 MW of reliable peaking capacity during extreme cold weather events and about 900 aMW of carbon-free electricity. The area would depend on "clean firm" resources, including gas with carbon capture and storage, advanced nuclear, or dual fuel natural gas + hydrogen plants.

The cost of public electricity would rise by 8–18% or approximately \$100–\$230 annually. The net present value of the replacement expenses would most likely range from \$11 to \$20 billion. Olson underlined that they were unable to achieve carbon zero, and that trying to do so increased costs by \$42-\$77 billion. Olson also noted that the values for other purposes of the dams were not considered in this analysis. After congressional approval, E3 projects that it will take about 5-7 years to add more renewable energy and firm capacity, and it could take as long as 10–20 years if new large-scale transmission is needed.

Burdick went over the study specifics while outlining the grid services these dams provide and how this study differs from the Columbia River System Operations EIS study. He then began discussing the modeling strategy, presumptions, scenarios, and outcomes. Olson emphasized the differences between the scenarios while drawing the Council's attention to the model's choice of dual-fuel natural gas/hydrogen units in each one. Olson stated that a high level of energy efficiency was built into the study in answer to a query from Member Golden regarding the level of energy efficiency the model chooses. Burdick mentioned a few commercial dual-fuel turbine operations when speaking of the availability of new technologies, and he estimated that small modular reactors (SMRs) also will become widely accessible by 2035. Member Yost and Member Grob both expressed uneasiness about the model's dependency on technology not yet available.

Presentation materials may be found at
https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17815/2022_07_1.pdf.

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Council Meeting Agenda Items (con't)

Council Chair Guy Norman brought the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

4. Overview of Bonneville Low-Income Program

Kevin Smit introduced Amy Burke, Low-Income & Weatherization Program Manager at BPA. Burke provided an overview of the Utility Low-Income EEL program and the State & Tribal Grants program. The program collaborates with local utilities, state agencies, community action agencies, and tribes to weatherize homes, upgrade heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems, and water heating systems, and install energy-efficient lighting and appliances for low-income families and tribal communities. The BPA low-income program has been around for 30 years and currently provides \$6 million in low-income services.

Burke added that 53 utilities have requested low-income measures totaling 5,330 projects and 4.9 million square feet of newly installed windows during the past two years. Weatherization, lighting, and ductless heat pumps are the three most widely used strategies, according to Burke. Ongoing difficulties include reasonable income qualification standards, a lack of contractors, increased equipment costs, problems with the supply chain, an abundance of requests for tribal housing departments, and persistent problems due to the pandemic.

Member Pitt emphasized the difficulties faced by tribal members and acknowledged the poverty/low-income status of many on the reservation. He expressed gratitude to Burke for her efforts and appreciation for the program. Member Norman was struck by the concept of reimbursement for qualified incomes. He inquired as to how low-income individuals could afford the initial costs. Given the extreme temperatures in Montana, Member Grob questioned the effectiveness of BPA's program measures. Burke explained that BPA is collaborating with the housing authority to test high-performing heat pumps that can operate at high temperature and is seeing positive results.

Presentation materials may be found at
https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17820/2022_07_4.pdf.

5. Overview of Washington Weatherization Program

Jennifer Light introduced Amanda Rains, Bill Kraus, and Seth Kolodziejski of the Washington Department of Commerce to provide information on the state's low-income

weatherization program, including levels of state and federal funding, the challenges and opportunity of the program, and how its low-income program strengthens the community. Kolodziejcki explained that the program now has historic levels of funding through federal stimulus. In addition to the \$2.6 million provided by BPA, the US Department of Energy (DOE) will provide just under \$6 million in funding for 2022. Starting this year, the federal stimulus bipartisan infrastructure funding will provide \$47 million over the next five years, while funding from the American Rescue Act is \$14.4 million for 2021-2023. Kolodziejcki mentioned several federal program policy changes, including weatherization readiness measures for health and safety.

Kraus described that the state funding is intended to bridge the gap and provide innovative programs that are not covered by federal programs. Another \$10 million was received from the supplemental budget process as of July 1, and they are recommending \$36 million for 2023-2025. He also discussed the state's policy changes.

Rains summarized the 2023 weatherization program opportunities and focused on a needs assessment for energy efficiency services for low-income households and overburdened communities. Rains highlighted the tasks that are expected to be completed by June 2023.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17821/2022_07_5.pdf.

6. Community Action Agency Low-Income Programs

Jennifer Light introduced Kirby Weythman, Inspection Service Supervisor, and Michelle Howard, Conservation Education Specialist from the Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP). Howard explained that SNAP has been the leading and primary organization delivering energy efficiency to the low-income population for over 50 years in Spokane County, Washington. Howard mentioned that SNAP specializes in weatherization but has over 20 programs to assist low-income families. Most families earn 50% less than the federal poverty level. SNAP uses the state median income instead of the federal poverty level at a 60% threshold. Lastly, Howard mentioned they have a very robust community outreach program despite the pandemic to get the word out about weatherization to the community.

Weythman explained that low-income weatherization can reduce heating and cooling by 30% and benefit everyone. He emphasized the importance of data gathered through BPA-funded studies and shared success stories of partnering with Avista to complete home repairs and weatherization for low-income residents. Howard added that SNAP has its own in-house weatherization crew and, therefore, is not entirely dependent on contractors.

Member Grob asked about what kind of synergy SNAP has with Avista regarding the confidentiality and privacy when providing customer energy use data in the hope that Avista can coordinate with SNAP about high-use homes that need weatherization. Weythman explained that it's evident that Avista knows the high energy users, and it is being discussed and is working on a method where Avista can advise them of where the high energy users are. Howard added that the organizations have a strong working relationship with Avista. Member Golden noted that SNAP operates as a very skillful community action agency able to build infrastructure and capable of operating at a high level.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17822/2022_07_6.pdf.

7. Briefing by Kelly Susewind

Kelly Susewind, Director of Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife, was introduced by Stacy Horton. Susewind spoke about the structure of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, program funding, implementation of the Council's fish and wildlife program, project examples, and emerging opportunities. The agency's total operating budget for the years 2021-2023 is \$515.5 million. Susewind reported on successes and provided examples of how the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program is being implemented, including habitat restoration projects, fish screening, resident fish programs, research and monitoring, and wildlife mitigation. Emerging opportunities, according to Susewind, include reforming the Fish and Wildlife Program funding and the importance of collaborating with the Columbia Basin Collaborative to improve collaborative work. Susewind hopes to work with BPA to secure permanent funding for wildlife areas in Washington.

Member Norman asked Susewind to share opportunities and plans for the agency after the state's general fund increase. Susewind stated that the program is in the process of identifying projects that are experiencing inflation pressure, is developing flexibility in its budget management protocol, and has increased its staff. Susewind added that hopes Congress would pass the Recovering American's Wildlife Act to allow the agency to start working on an eco-based management plan. Member Golden was interested in hearing Susewind's thoughts on renewable energy and the wildlife program. Susewind is very supportive of alternative energy but believes it should be done smartly. He mentioned that solar impacts wildlife greatly and options should be studied extensively.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17830/2022_07_7.pdf.

8. Spring Chinook Salmon Update

Patty O'Toole, Council Fish and Wildlife Director, reported that adult spring Chinook salmon returns are larger than forecast. O'Toole explained how the data is gathered and that in March, the pre-season forecast for adult Chinook salmon returning to Bonneville Dam was 122,900, but the resulting run is estimated to be around 185,000 adults, which exceeds the 10-year average return. The number of three-year-old salmon (jacks) returned is now at 24,000, which is also above the 10-year average. The forecast in March for returns to Lower Granite was 49,367 adult spring chinook salmon and the current numbers are 75,569 adults and 13,176 jacks, both of which are higher than the ten-year average. Although this is better news than in the past, O'Toole cautioned that returns are not uniformly higher, and one year of data is not a trend. Member Pitt expressed gratitude to O'Toole for the update.

Stacy Horton introduced Chris Donley and Joe Bumgarner from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to share similar news for the Tucannon River spring Chinook salmon population, where the numbers this year are well above the spring forecast. However, Bumgarner noted that spring Chinook in the Tucannon River are still struggling, despite the hatchery program implementing numerous changes through adaptive management. Bumgarner explained the history, impacts of goals for salmon management in the Tucannon. He noted that moving forward, they intend to release fish at the mouth of the Tucannon River and a barge to reduce the current mortality rate. To increase the survival rate of smolts, they also intend to release them also in the Kalama River and through a captive broodstock program. Bumgarner explained that financial assistance is required to carry out the proposed actions. They cautioned that there are still difficulties in understanding this population continues to have low smolt-to-adult survival.

Member Norman noted the original program's success. Bumgarner and Donley explained that all logistics and coordination have fallen into place, though they still have some outreach plans to develop. Donley discussed funding issues between BPA and the USFWS which funds the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatcheries. Member Allen and member Milburn expressed their appreciation and optimism for the hard work and positive results of the projects, as well as the increase in numbers.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17823/2022_07_8a.pdf and https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17824/2022_07_8b.pdf.

9. Presentation from the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)

Chair Norman introduced the presenters: DR Michel and Laura Robinson from Upper Colombia United Tribes; Tom Biladeau, Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Casey Baldwin,

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Deane Osterman, Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Shawn Young, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho; and Conor Giorgi, Spokane Tribe of Indians. DR Michel presented on the history and mission of the UCUT organization and its member tribes, which include Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Spokane Tribe of Indians.

Osterman, Executive Director of the Kalispel Natural Resource Department of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, discussed topics of concern for the Kalispel Tribe in the Pend Oreille River basin. Osterman discussed significant fisheries recovery efforts as well as the implementation of projects addressing non-native/invasive species, restoring native species and habitats, and conserving water quality.

Young from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho discussed the Kootenai Ecosystem Restoration program, which uses parental-based tagging to assess native fish recruitment and habitat dynamics. Young reported that this water year had aided in the restoration of the floodplains, and he displayed examples of restored habitats as well as explained the potential benefits of the habitat. The project has been extremely successful, releasing approximately 15 million sturgeon larvae in 20 different locations throughout Idaho and British Columbia, including areas where they have never been released before. Young displayed completed projects and habitat enhancements. The Kootenai Tribe is now conducting experimental releases of young white sturgeon on several restored habitats in the hopes of better understanding recruitment failures and bottlenecks.

Biladeau reported on salmon reintroductions upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams and above some of the Spokane River dams. He demonstrated how their work brings the community together through cultural and educational releases. Biladeau shared the success of a return fish released in Upper Hangman Creek.

Baldwin provided an update on the 2022 Pilot Juvenile Chinook Outmigration Study. The findings of this study are still pending. Baldwin provided a history of the study as well as an update on its current status, including key personnel and funding. The objectives of the study include juvenile chinook survival and behavior. Baldwin stated that the 8 release sites have 42 receivers, 5 dams, and 4 gates, with a total of 5,347 releases to date. He provided information on the study's timeline, transportation, and handling, which included how the receivers are installed and where they are located. Baldwin is hoping to get information on how the fish migrate and the speed of their movement.

Giorgi explain that this pilot study is the first step in phase 2 of the effort to investigate reintroduction. He reviewed additional components of this study and described the need

for interim fish production facilities to be used for research, among other needs. Giorgi explained that more funding is necessary for their outstanding needs met.

Robinson presented a recap of progress to date, including the recent increase in regional momentum for the effort, including especially the funding allocated by the Washington state legislature. Robinson reiterated the importance of funding and key considerations. Lastly, she presented a summary overview of the complete presentation.

Member Grob inquired as to where the adult salmon were released. Member Pitt thanked the presenters for the wonderful relationship building the group has accomplished and stated that the real key to doing anything with fisheries is commitment from top to bottom. Member Allen inquired about the coordination required to ensure that predation does not become an issue. The presenters emphasized the importance of strong collaboration between fish and wildlife managers across all the arbitrary boundaries that the watershed presents, and they informed the Council of their successful predator suppression program, which has been in place for over 12 years. Chair Norman expressed gratitude to the presenters for their efforts.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17825/2022_07_9.pdf.

10. Council Business

Approval of June 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion

Vice-Chair Grob moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes of the June 14-15, 2022, Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Golden seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved minutes of the June 2022 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwCouncil.org/fs/17826/2022_07_10aminutes.pdf.

Council decision on FY2023 Revised and FY2024 Budget

Sandra Hirotsu, Administrative Division Director, noted that the Council did not receive any comments on the draft budgets released for public comment in May 2022 for FY 2023 revised and FY2024. Staff recommends adopting the Fiscal Year 2023 revised budget of \$11,850,000 and the Fiscal Year 2024 budget of \$12,217,000. Staff also recommends the Council authorize reprogramming of available Fiscal Year 2022 funds for unanticipated Fiscal Year 2022 costs.

Motion

Vice-Chair Grob moved that the Council adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2023 revised budget and authorize reprogramming of available Fiscal Year 2022 funds for unanticipated Fiscal Year 2022 costs as presented by staff.

Member Yost seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Approval of Industrial Energy Efficiency Measure Development Contract

Kevin Smit, Senior Analyst, requested approval to enter into a contract with the Cadeo Group to develop energy efficient measures in the industrial sectors before beginning the next power plan.

Motion

Vice-Chair Grob moved that the Council authorize the staff to contract with the Cadeo Group LLC in an amount not to exceed \$71,000 to review and update the industrial sector energy efficiency measures as presented by staff.

Member Yost seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Public Comment on any issue before the Council

Jim Robbins, Kootenai Electric Co-Op.

Robbins commented on a recent visit to Ice Harbor Dam on a Public Power Council tour in June. He was impressed with the new impeller turbine and the update on the outfall to allow the fish to be discharged farther down the river. He suggested that the Council tour these dams.

Chair Norman adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.