

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Minutes of December 16, 2020 Council Meeting

Council Chair Richard Devlin brought the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Council Members Jeffery Allen, Jennifer Anders, Bo Downen, Ted Ferrioli, Guy Norman, Patrick Oshie and Jim Yost joined by phone. The meeting was held as a webinar. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 12 and 13, 2021.

Reports from Fish and Wildlife, Power and Public Affairs Committee chairs

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Council Member Guy Norman, Fish and Wildlife Committee chair, reported on four items:

1. The Committee heard from three NOAA researchers on projects informing hatchery activities, with some interesting findings: Chinook coastwide are getting smaller and younger. Some of the age differences are reflected in hatcheries and how it impacts growth. Also, the productivity between hatchery and wild Chinook are similar, but very different in steelhead. This should help with improving hatchery operations and investments in the future.
2. NOAA's Lance Kruzic discussed habitat genetic management plan (HGMP) implementation for each hatchery program in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. There are 191 Columbia River salmon and steelhead artificial propagation programs in the basin. Ninety percent have completed HGMPs to make sure that they meet conservation and mitigation objectives. It demonstrates the significance of hatchery reform over last two to three decades.
3. Independent science manager Erik Merrill and Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB) Chair Dr. Stan Gregory talked about four potential ISAB assignments for 2021: First is a request from NOAA to review scientific findings and subsequent debate on juvenile fish selectivity and dam bypass systems. Second, the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission asked for a comparison of research findings on avian predation impacts on salmon survival. Third, there was a request from the Administrative Oversight Panel to evaluate the recent synthesis by David Welch on the coastwide decline in survival of west coast Chinook, including a review of the response to the Welch paper by Fish Passage Center. Finally, there was a proposal by the ISAB to produce a state of the science report on shad impacts on management and restoration

projects in the Basin. Shad returns are the largest in the Columbia Basin and show no signs of slowing.

4. Patty O'Toole, Fish and Wildlife Division director, discussed tasks for next year. Staff will begin the review of program performance as called for and guided by Part I of the 2020 Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program, including how to use and compile information on the strategy performance indicators. That work will include forming a workgroup of fish and wildlife managers to assist. There will be a kickoff of the Habitat and Anadromous Project Review. Staff will be working with Bonneville on the implementation of Part II of the 2020 Addendum. There will be ongoing forums for the hatchery workgroup and an ocean forum continuing into 2021.

Power Committee

Council Member Pat Oshie, Power Committee chair, reported:

1. The revised schedule for the 2021 Power Plan is that the draft will be out by July for public review, with a final by October 2021. He said the staff ran into some modeling problems with the wholesale price forecast, and COVID-19 slowed down the process due to people working remotely.

2. The committee heard a report on the state of the region's economy and electric utilities. The region's population is growing faster than the rest of the nation. Winter temperatures are warming, and cooling degree days rose by 26%. During the summer, electricity sales increased by about 200 MW and natural gas use increased. Utility revenues are up by \$300 million. Still, the region's gas and electricity costs are among the lowest in the country.

3. Member Oshie noted that diversity, equity and inclusion issues are being considered by the region's utilities and state governments. He said this input has been beneficial as the staff considers how to reflect these considerations in Council's planning process and power plan.

4. The committee also heard presentations on staff's modeling work for the power plan. There was a high-level report on updates to the regional portfolio model (RPM), with quarterly prices being dispatched based on generator cost over the course of the month. The RPM is now functioning and it should help staff put together the rest of the plan. Some initial model results of baseline conditions for 2021 shows 9 GW of renewables, 735 MW of gas peakers, and 1,000 MW of combined cycle gas generators.

He said there is 500 aMW of energy efficiency by 2026, which is roughly half of what was expected in the Seventh Power Plan.

The model's unexpectedly high use of gas is due to how the model weighs the value of natural gas to meet resource adequacy requirements and to meet peak load. The question is whether this should be suppressed due to public policy, he said. The other takeaway is a large WECC buildout due to regional portfolio standards. There will be circumstances where there will be renewable curtailments, which would mean an even larger buildout of renewables. The System Analysis Advisory Committee wondered about the large dependency on market prices and on new resources in the model. The model shows large periods of when pricing is below zero, when producers will pay up to \$40 per MWh to take the electricity. It's a policy question that will have to be addressed in the Power Plan. Our reliance on the market comes with significant risk and benefits on both sides of the ledger, he said, and that will have to be sorted out. The bottom line is, there will be some surprises and many changes to the model and results as we go forward

Modeling system adequacy based on the buildout is showing a loss of load probability of less than 1% over an extended period of time. We'll have to decide if we can rely on that, Member Oshie said. When looking at a large buildout of renewable resources, it's a risk if the resources aren't available.

Public Affairs Committee

Council Member Jeffrey Allen, Public Affairs Committee chair, had no report.

Chair Devlin noted the passing of Melvin Sampson on December 11. Member Oshie stated he knew Mr. Sampson well as the leader of the Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project, a long-time former tribal councilman and a leader for salmon advocacy in the Northwest. Member Norman expressed his condolences to the Yakama Nation and to Sampson's family.

1. Council Decision on Revised Master Plan for Yakima Subbasin Summer- and Fall-run Chinook, Coho Salmon and Steelhead, associated with Project #1988-115-25, Yakima River Design and Construction-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP)

Mark Fritsch, project review and implementation manager, introduced the panel: Joe Blodgett, fisheries program manager; Bill Bosch, data manager; Mark Johnston, fisheries research scientist; and Patrick Spurgin, policy advisor, Yakama Confederated Tribes.

Fritsch said this item was taken to the Fish and Wildlife Committee last month and received a favorable recommendation. It was submitted to the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) late last year, which said it met scientific approval.

Blodgett remembered Melvin Sampson and his legacy of leadership. The YKFP was established to preserve salmon runs. Sampson created an all-stock initiative with an aggressive goal. He created a great staff of scientists.

Bosch provided details of the project and reviewed its history. Agriculture is critical to the region and fish restoration can be a contentious issue. Now there is a lot of cooperation to implement the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan. They are working with various agencies and government bodies to implement the actions in the Comprehensive Yakima Restoration Strategy.

Bosch outlined the history of the Prosser Hatchery Project. Tribes have talked about the need to improve facilities and follow the Council's STEP review. He listed the project's primary objectives: Increase Zone 6 and terminal harvest, increase natural production, reestablish summer run Chinook and Coho, increase long-term population viability, and produce stronger, healthier fish to boost juvenile survival.

He described a summary of programs for fall Chinook, summer Chinook, Coho and steelhead kelt reconditioning. The total cost of the program is \$44.1 million. Bosch described the layout of the Prosser Hatchery.

Next, he talked about the new Yakima MRS Coho Hatchery Project. Construction is almost completed, and programming will begin with brood year 2021. He said he appreciates the Council's support for this new facility, which will be named after Melvin Sampson.

There has been extensive ISRP review and planning. Bosch said we can all be confident these are scientifically robust programs that meets common objectives.

Member Norman said the updated master plan received positive scientific review and the Fish and Wildlife Committee recommends Council approval.

Member Ferrioli asked if the concept of water reuse was recently incorporated into the design. Bosch replied it was part of the revised plan. Blodgett said it reduces the demand for pumping water.

Motion

Vice-Chair Downen moved that the Council approve the *Revised Master Plan for Yakima Subbasin Summer- and Fall-run Chinook, Coho Salmon and Steelhead*, associated with Project #1988-115-25, Yakima River Design and Construction- Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project, as presented by staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee

Member Norman second
Motion is approved.

Blodgett thanked the committee and shared that there will be graveside services for Mel Sampson tomorrow. They are planning to have a big celebration for him after the pandemic is over.

2. The 40th Anniversary of The Northwest Power Act

Chair Devlin introduced the panel of speakers: Bill Edmonds, executive director, Northwest Power and Conservation Council; John Hairston, acting administrator and CEO of Bonneville Power Administration; and Jaime Pinkham, executive director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Chair Devlin said the Northwest Power Act has helped the region realize many benefits. He summarized how the Act came about. As is the case with so many landmark statutes, the Act has its roots in division and disagreement. In the late 1970s, there were tensions over the allocation of federal hydropower and how future Northwest load growth would be served.

He said there was a growing realization that the region's decision to build five nuclear power plants in Washington was a financial disaster, and that the Columbia Basin's fish and Wildlife were adversely affected by the hydropower system, with several populations of salmon and steelhead headed for listing as threatened or endangered. Given today's political dynamic, the Act probably couldn't be passed. It took compromise and cooperation, and great leadership by the region's U.S. Senators. While not perfect, it is remarkable and there's nothing like it anywhere else. It gives the Council a mandate to make decisions that benefit the region as a whole, not just individual states. It gives the states a voice in decisions affecting the operational federal hydropower system and the distribution of resources to mitigate the system's damage to our precious fish and wildlife resources. It also instructs that the needs of fish and wildlife shall not be subservient to the generation of electricity.

The Act has one cornerstone: involve the public in its decision-making. Also, it specifies that energy efficiency is the priority resource — a resource on equal footing with hydro and other generating resources. Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield was responsible for that one.

Hairston, who has worked at BPA for 29 years, said new employees get a copy of the Act and need to apply it in their jobs on a daily basis. He talked about the gas shortage in the 1970s as a pressing time for the country. The Act was first federal statute to encourage alternative resources and it had the promise of reducing greenhouse gases and the use of fossil fuels 40 years before the norm.

The Act recognized power generation's impact on fish and wildlife, and after 40 years we have a lot to be proud of, he said. The region can be proud of prioritizing conservation, saving 7,000 aMW (powering five cities the size of Seattle) and avoiding 22 million tons of CO₂. Fish and wildlife are better off than before the Act and there is improved fish survival at the dams. We have also restored thousands of acres of habitat to improve conditions and increase production, he said. None of this could have been achieved without the support of customers, tribal partners, the congressional delegation and others. There's still a ton of work to do. Senator Hatfield described the Power Act as the single most important piece of legislation to affect the Northwest. Our decisions and actions have been felt throughout the region. The Act has been tremendously durable, and I believe its durability will continue well into the future.

Pinkham said the highlight of his career was working on land reclamation and fish mitigation in a far corner of Northeast Oregon. He talked about reclaiming the precious lands after the tribes were forced off in 1877. During the tensions that led to the passage of the Power Act, there was another momentum going on in the House of

Congress, and it was a shift to a new federal Indian policy that we have today. That self-determination and the Power Act recognized the tribe's legitimate role, and to have a say and to engage in, protecting, mitigating and enhancing the fish and wildlife. Together we can repair the damage done and pass it along to our children and grandchildren, he said. Pinkham agreed it might be tougher to achieve the Power Act today, but reaching across is still important.

Today you see the states, the tribes and the feds standing shoulder to shoulder leading one of the largest restoration efforts for salmon that this country has ever seen. It's a testament to our ability to work as partners. I'm hearing less blame on the fish and tribes for region's energy woes. We're having better understanding. The winds of change in this business will never start blowing.

If there's a lesson about the last 40 years, it's that the Power Act is a human law. That pales in comparison to natural law. The more we follow natural law, the better our survival.

Edmonds thanked the Council for its dedication and staff for its professionalism. This is a chance to look back at what we've accomplished. It will ensure that we're getting better as a region. Despite challenges, there's reason to be optimistic. Today's power supply might not be what Act authors envisioned — coal plants are closing and gas plants are difficult to build. Energy efficiency is now our second-largest resource and wind turbines are lining the ridge of the Columbia Gorge. Meanwhile, California is awash in solar energy and a wave of new energy is changing West Coast power markets. Fortunately, the Act gives us the tools we need to tackle this difficult challenge, he said. The Council's Power Plan and its Fish and Wildlife Program can set the standard for confronting and mitigating the impact of climate change. I believe the council and our partners are up to that challenge.

Member Anders said the Power Act is a unique piece of federal legislation. It's visionary. I'm skeptical about the ability to have it passed today, she agreed. We're fighting the battles we thought we settled back in 1980s: the Wilderness Act, the Clean Water Act, legal protections for women's rights and racial equality. Now it seems in many respects that we're back to square-one, fighting hard just to hold onto those fundamental ideas and values. Through time, the Act remains a model of governance for regional planning.

Member Yost said the most critical point is that the Council is the most pragmatic, judicious group in the Northwest in trying to handle controversial issues. It's not as contentious as other groups, and seems to come up with the right balance between fish

and power. Power has changed so dramatically. Fish issues are much more enlightened by the science, although we don't have as much as we want. This is the group folks should listen to in trying to bring about improvements to fish in the region because it can sort through so much of the political correctness and reach a proper decision. A lot of that is due to the appointments to the Council. I'm as impressed with the makeup of this Council as I have with any of them, he said. Yost had special praise for Member Anders.

Member Oshie said any organization can be judged on its product and I'm proud of what the Council has done. It's been well-vetted and has a purpose. Looking at the Power Plan, it's something the region has relied upon since it was first produced. I'm confident this next plan will be valued as we move into an uncertain future, he said.

3. Recognition of Council Member Jennifer Anders' Service prior to her January 2021 retirement

Chair Devlin said Member Anders received a nice plaque and letter thanking her for her service. Personally, I have appreciated serving with her and I'm sad it's only been for three years, he said.

Former Council Member Rockefeller praised working with Member Anders. He said her leadership skills became evident as they worked to reshape the Fish and Wildlife Program and during the writeup of the Seventh Power Plan. She helped push for more transparent results. She accepted the lead role in defining a framework for the systematic capture of potential cost savings from the long-term operation of the program and its multitude of projects. We were treading in a very sensitive zone because it touched on the futures and current activities of virtually every partner, he explained. And of course there were and continue to be legitimate ratepayer concerns about the duration and effect of projects that are ongoing and in some cases seem to have no end in sight.

NOAA's Greg Sieglitz congratulated Member Anders, and recognized her accomplishments for the Columbia River Partnership.

Member Norman recalled his work with Anders over many years, even before he joined the Council and followed her as chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee. There was trust in her integrity. She was a go-to person, humble and effective in moving programs forward.

Member Ferrioli recalled his work with Member Anders on the Fish and Wildlife Committee. She listened better than others and provided an example to follow.

Member Allen talked about how Jennifer was the one person to dig in and find out if fish and wildlife work was being duplicated or no longer needed. She pulled off what everyone else just talked about.

Vice-Chair Downen called Member Anders a real problem-solver, a great listener and one who understands the perspectives of folks in the region. She works to find solutions that benefit everyone.

Member Oshie thanked Member Anders for her service and her warm welcome, particularly as Council Chair.

Brian Dekiep, energy analyst in the Council's Montana office, praised her mentorship. Who knew that Fish and Wildlife planning could be so thrilling?

Member Anders recalled that when she joined the Council, she had no background in power or fish. She was an attorney with Montana Department of Justice for 24 years, where she handled everything from death penalty cases and labor law, to transboundary water compacts, and oil and gas regulations. She said her biggest assets were her diversity of background and willingness to work hard. Members Rockefeller and Bradbury taught me to work in the world of public policy, she said. I'm grateful for my time on the Council and I'm looking forward to doing nothing for a while. May we all be alive at this time next year.

4. Report on Implementation, Fish Passage, and Power Outcomes under the 2019 and 2020 Flexible Spill Agreement

Leslie Bach, senior program manager, introduced the panel: Jason Sweet, supervisory program analyst, and Ben Zelinsky, senior policy advisor, Bonneville Power Administration; Michael Garrity, energy, water and major projects manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Jay Hesse, director of biological services, Nez Perce Tribe; Ed Bowles, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Tim Dykstra, senior fish program manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The panel reported on a collaborative effort to develop a spill regime on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Zelinsky outlined the two-year flexible spill agreement. Some parties view the agreement as interim and expect more in the future. This presentation just focuses on the two-year agreement and the operations under that agreement.

Bowles described what flex spill is. It doesn't have as much to do with the flow of water, it is whether it goes through the powerhouse or the spillways. Spill is a better, less-stressful way for the fish to get past the concrete, but it comes with a cost of kilowatts produced. It's a balance of power and fish benefits. Spill is increased when there is less demand for power. There is less spill during higher-profit periods for power — first thing in the morning and in the evening. This became an option due to the integration of other power sources.

Bowles described the agreement's pillars of fish, power and feasibility. The concept was to do better than court-ordered spill. The Corps is paying attention to the various flows and feasible operations. The aim was to avoid litigation.

Dykstra provided a high-level summary of spill operations. This agreement is focused on eight dams: four lower Columbia dams and four lower Snake dams. In both 2019 and 2020, they spilled up to the higher gas caps. To keep the agreement pillars balanced, they made some changes in summer spill in 2020, with reduced spill levels in August.

In 2019, the three pillars of the agreement for fish, power and feasibility were met. There were adult delays at Little Goose Dam. At The Dalles, there were some challenges in spilling to the agreed-upon 40% level.

Spill in 2020 was in accordance with the agreement. Dykstra talked about the nuts and bolts of achieving it. They spilled at 125% total dissolved gas (TDG) even with lower water levels. They'll be watching for possible erosion issues.

Bowles said the plan was successfully implemented. Even though flows were relatively low, it's the proportion of water that dictates whether fish will go through the powerhouse or the spillways. Because of that, we met or exceeded expectations for fish benefits. There was some trouble getting data because of COVID. The TDG levels didn't produce gas bubble trauma in the fish.

Hesse talked about the volume of spill, the powerhouse encounter rate, and modeled juvenile survival rates. They hope to have actual survival rates soon. He discussed juvenile travel time, which was faster. He talked about transportation, adaptive management considerations and summer operations. During the summer, spill was

reduced the last two weeks of August. There was a pause in transportation operations. We learned that fish were better off in the river during June and July, Hesse said.

Sweet discussed power operations during the spring. In 2020, spring flex spill operations resulted in an observed revenue loss of \$7.4 million, relative to the 2018 injunction. Early spill reduction in August was needed to offset the losses from the high spring spill. Between August 15 and 31, BPA realized \$21.1 million in benefits due to reduced spill, but power prices were unusually high. He said they can't count on such high power prices every year. Otherwise, they might have ended the year more neutral. He said it was a challenge to do this remotely. In general, BPA feels it was a successful operation.

Garrity talked about water quality standards and praised water quality agencies for making the changes needed.

Zelinsky listed the accomplishments: They met the operational feasibility pillar, met the fish pillar, met the power pillar, learned about adaptive management and avoided litigation.

Vice-Chair Downen said the agreement was struck to get out of a legal battle. Has the latest filing by Oregon changed this agreement or operations?

Bowles said it might appear like a disconnect. The agreement is an interim agreement to allow the parties to have a bridge operation in place while parties worked on the Columbia System EIS. It will be a component of a comprehensive solution going forward, but it isn't a solution in itself. We thought this would be a full three-year agreement, but the Trump administration wanted the EIS accelerated. Oregon has filed a notice of intent to preserve its legal options for fish recovery.

Dykstra said the agreement expired with the signing of the record of decision.

Zelinsky said they're showing what the agreement is and what we accomplished. Talking about the future, each of us puts on our agency hats.

Chair Devlin remarked that it was his perception that the agreement was in the interest of all parties. With litigation there was neither.

Member Ferrioli said the report is remarkable. This would be a great presentation to show an example of how adaptive management is supposed to work in the context of something as complicated as the Columbia River System. It has a lot of variables and

tests a lot of assumptions. It tests the assumption that spill is an undue burden on ratepayers. It tests the ability of operators to adjust on the fly as weather, seasonal flows and energy demands flex through a tremendous range of variability. And finally, it tests the ability of all of us and our scientific partners to withhold final judgment until there's a lengthy enough empirical record to make conclusions about whether or not the strategy is effective.

Member Norman said the process that led to this agreement was groundbreaking. Panelists have a lot to do with it and others worked hard to get to this agreement. Political and social challenges were overcome. I believe this is a starting point for a collaborative atmosphere in the Basin — working on issues outside of the courtroom to benefit fish and provide renewable, affordable energy. Even though agreement expired, there's a legacy to help us moving forward.

5. Oregon Department of Energy Biennial Energy Report

Vice-Chair Downen introduced the Oregon Department of Energy's (ODE) Alan Zelenka, assistant director for planning and innovation, and Adam Schultz, senior policy analyst.

Zelenka said this is the ODE's second Biennial Energy Report, which he called the "BER." He read ODE's mission statement. The BER is emblematic of what ODE does, he said. This version of the BER has fewer essays and more shorter briefs. It totals 612 pages.

Chair Devlin said he believes the proclivity of governments to use acronyms is confusing. Zelenka replied they like to use "BER" anyway. The report has a broad energy perspective covering all energy sectors, including transportation, electricity generation and agriculture.

Schultz discussed "energy by numbers" and showed a chart depicting Oregon's energy flow. He showed a chart showing Oregon GDP, population and energy consumption by year, and then a chart depicting energy expenditures by sector over time. He then showed a graph of Oregon greenhouse gas emissions by source over time. Next, he showed a breakdown of the resources used to generate electricity in Oregon.

Looking at cumulative residential expenditures for gasoline, electricity and natural gas, Schultz said a third of Oregon households were energy burdened in 2019. When an individual's energy costs are 6% or more of their income, they are classified as energy

burdened, he said. A disproportionate number of these households are in the rural parts of the state, where transportation costs are significant.

Member Ferrioli asked if we are looking at a true comparison of energy cost per household and income. Schultz said it is fuel costs: 40 to 60% of households meet the metric. They are trying to get better transportation data. More miles are traveled in the eastern part of the state, coupled with lower average incomes. Member Ferrioli asked for the aggregate data and Zelenka said he'll get it to him.

Zelenka talked about the report's history section, which goes back to the Ice Age. The first long distance transmission line was energized in Oregon in 1889. He went through the history of energy in the state including the Northwest Power Act, the creation of the Council, the focus on energy efficiency and clean air. The timeline ends with the closure of Boardman in 2020.

Schultz covered how energy is produced, which includes a discussion on resource adequacy.

The report covers clean energy standards, tracking 30 states with renewable portfolio standards in place and five states that have 100% clean energy standards.

Zelenka outlined energy facility siting and permitting. He said it's a complex business with jurisdictional thresholds.

The report describes the region's and Oregon's history of energy efficiency. Codes and standards continued to be one of the most cost-effective ways of achieving energy savings, accounting for 30% of cumulative energy savings in the region. It's a gift that keeps on giving, with \$80 billion saved nationwide since 2015. Oregon has been a leader in the nation for both residential and commercial energy codes. Schultz said they recently finalized rules for 11 new efficiency standards that will become effective in 2022, after the 2021 legislature hopefully passes them.

The BER seeks to educate readers on how to read their bills, and what makes up the cost of gasoline.

Schultz said the report includes resource and technology reviews of different sources of energy. Hydro provides 40% of the electricity used in Oregon, both imports and exports.

Residential energy storage is included in the report, and identifies 290 residential storage systems.

The report mentions small modular reactors. However, Oregon has statutory barriers to nuclear power plants.

The report has an overview of the cities and counties that are taking action on climate change. Zelenka said 43% of Oregon's larger cities have set, or are in the process of setting, greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and 22% of the larger counties have done the same.

ODE's Alan Zelenka said the pursuit of energy efficiency is crucial as it is Oregon's second-largest resource after hydro power. Oregon has consistently been able to meet the increased demand for electricity by implementing energy efficiency strategies and the 7,000 aMW of regional savings is largely attributable to the Council's work since 1978.

Zelenka said Oregon has managed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, which is why energy efficiency is the centerpiece of Governor Brown's 2020 Climate Change Executive Order. Oregon has landed among the top 10 most energy efficient states for 13 years in a row, according to the American Council for Energy Efficient Economy. In 2019, Oregon ranked ninth, and that's been largely depending on the work that the Council's been doing. Zelenka said he believes aggressive energy efficiency targets with accountability mechanisms is a win/win for the region. Consumers win by paying less for electricity. Utilities win because energy efficiency is the lowest cost resource, and the region wins because it is one of the most cost-effective ways to prevent air pollution and climate change.

ODE looked at COVID-19 impacts on fuel consumption. Diesel is up, aviation fuel is down and gasoline consumptions probably going to be one of the lowest in 20 years.

The report has a section on irrigation, agricultural energy efficiency and energy use.

On equity and renewable energy, programs were designed for market transformation, not for equity. So, going forward, programs need to be targeted with equity in mind. Member Ferrioli asked a question about equity and home ownership, because Oregon is a renters' state. Renters have a tough time accessing energy efficiency benefits. Zelenka said the point about equity means having it incorporated into the very beginning of the program's design.

Chair Devlin said the Biennial Energy Report was required by the legislature. What difficulty are you having with having the Legislature pay attention to the report?

Zelenka said it's been a pretty big hit, and Schultz said he made a presentation before the House Energy Committee that morning.

Council Business

Council approval of the November 2020 Council Meeting minutes

Vice-Chair Downen moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes of the November 18, 2020, Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, via webinar.

Member Ferrioli second.
Motion passed.

Contract with Nexant

Andrea Goodwin, senior counsel, said staff is seeking authorization to contract with Nexant to obtain the continued services of Cory Welch for technical support for the Regional Portfolio Model.

Vice-Chair Downen moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Nexant for the remainder of the 2021 Fiscal Year in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to provide continued technical support in enhancing and troubleshooting the Regional Portfolio Model for use in the development of the 2021 Power Plan, as presented by staff.

Member Ferrioli second.
Motion passed.

Workgroup announced

Chair Devlin announced a workgroup will look at how Council meetings should be held in 2022. He hopes that in 2021, everyone will have a covid immunization. He suspects the Council will be in the same situation regarding virtual meetings through June or July, which is a year and a half of not being on the road. The Council also needs to hold public meetings on the Power Plan. The workgroup will make recommendations to the Council. There also are issues to consider about needed workspace in the central office, including ways to work efficiently and not just about reducing costs.

He appreciated staff's help in putting together the 40th anniversary recognition and farewell for Member Anders. Also, credit goes to the Public Affairs staff.

Public comment

Scott Levy, bluefish.org, talked about the flex spill operation. He said it is the third year in a row that the juvenile survival estimates for the Lower Granite project were below the long-term average. The estimated survival from the Snake trap to the Lower Granite dam tail race was 70%, which is far below the long-term average of 92%. Mortality in the project is now three-times worse. He called the flex spill agreement an experiment and discussed the bathtub effect on juveniles. He praised Member Anders.

Chair Devlin adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.