

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Meeting Summary
May 5, 2021
Portland, Oregon

Council Chair Richard Devlin brought the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Council Members Jeffery Allen, Doug Grob, Guy Norman, Patrick Oshie, Jim Yost, Chuck Sams, and Mike Milburn joined the webinar. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2021.

Reports from Committees

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Member Allen, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported on Fish and Wildlife Committee Meetings held on May 3 and 4, 2021.

1. Strategy Performance Indicators

Staff held a 3-hour meeting with the performance indicator workgroup to review the progress of Strategy Performance Indicators. The workshop was a success, attended by over 50 people. These workshops are held about every 2 months. What has been done to date has been well received, and there is consensus on what should be worked on next. Staff is working fast and they can maintain that pace.

2. Yakima Basin Aquatic Restoration Project

John Marvin, Upper Yakima Habitat Coordinator for the Yakima Nation's Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project, and Rebecca Wassell, Yakima Basin Program Director for the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group presented on the floodplain habitat improvement project "Wood Fiesta." Through a coordinated effort, helicopters were used to strategically place large habitat logs in and around seven Yakima River tributaries with the goal of improving native fish habitat. The wood placement has numerous benefits which include pool formation, floodplain connectivity, improved water quality, reduced sediment and bank erosion, creating wetlands ultimately expanding fish habitat. In just one year, the project has been very successful.

During the committee meeting, Members Norman and Sams expressed they were impressed with the project, its scope, the time window of one year, and partnerships with multiple entities. Member Allen asked when we would know how fish numbers are responding to the project. Wassell said reports on post project conditions should start to be available in 2022.

3. Importance of Fish Screens to F&W Program ID WA

Patrick Murphy, Chair of the Fish Screening Oversight Committee, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Danny Didricksen, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Screening Section Manager provided an overview of the function and importance of fish

screens in ensuring safe passage of juvenile and adult fish where water is being diverted for human uses such as irrigation. The presenters highlighted the value of maintaining partnerships with landowners and other entities in the management of fish screens and the continued need for operations and maintenance (O&M) of the screens which are vital to the protection and conservation of the region's anadromous and resident fish.

During the committee meeting, Member Norman recognized the importance of fish screening programs in saving fish and asked what kind of issues are discussed with landowners in building that relationship and generating interest in protecting fish. Murphy said every situation is different. It's easier when there is a lot of water and the install can occur in a way that doesn't interfere with a landowner's operations. It's more difficult when they're working with someone with senior water rights and water needs to be diverted and reconnected to make the system work. They explore all possible options with landowners to make a project work such as changing diversion points, using water from a different location, using pumps, and taking advantage of incentives from other entities.

Member Allen thanked Murphy and Didricksen for their great work on this program and asked how the effort would be affected if the current budget was maintained. Didricksen said that prices for materials are continuing to climb and the budget is also eaten up quickly with labor and fuel. They try to operate as efficiently as possible and stretch funding dollars as far as they will go. Didricksen said that flatlined budget or lack of funding would lead to missed opportunities in preventive maintenance, and he stressed the importance of routine O&M. Murphy echoed Didricksen's response and stated that with increases in operational costs, a 15-20% increase in funding would allow them to continue as they always have. He also cited that there is a lot of aging equipment that will need to be maintained and replaced and that recurring maintenance would extend the life of the equipment.

Member Sams mentioned that he is exploring if funding can be found through the infrastructure bill to replace systems that are over 20 years old.

Power Committee

Member Oshie, Power Committee Chair, reported on Power Committee Meetings held on May 3 and 4, 2021.

1. 2021 Power Plan Outline

The Power Committee reviewed the Power Plan Outline to evaluate its approach and content and to see if there were causes of concern. The idea is that the 2021 Power Plan will be a more readable and approachable document than past plans, authored by the Council and going to the region. It will have a more conversational style and still have technical content with extensive supporting material on the Council website. The Committee discussion focused on the target for energy efficiency in the changing energy paradigm, and reluctance to adopt a target that would incent energy efficiency program defunding.

2. Resource Acquisition Recommendation to BPA

The Committee discussed the balance between the region's clean energy requirements and the cost of power, and the benefits provided to BPA through the acquisition of energy efficiency. The discussions to come are going to inform staff's work and a final Plan agreed upon by Council members.

3. Final Report on Systems Integration Forum (SIF) on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

The Power staff summarized feedback received from stakeholders and used this information to create potential action items for the Council to consider. There were no objections to the action items discussed, which are preliminary and subject to further review.

4. Demand Response Sensitivity Study

The Power staff reviewed the demand response acquisition which included modification of the resource curves, a review of the cost assumptions, a more refined view of time of use rates, and demand voltage reduction (DVR) impacts on demand response outcomes. The results show reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and overall systems cost, but questions were raised as to the utility adoption of both time of use rates and DVR opportunities.

5. BPA Resource Acquisition Scenario

Significant changes in prior findings resulted in staff's review of how BPA's load interacts with regional temperature variation. Much of BPA's sales do not follow load and are fixed by contract such as the Slice product that it offers. For this input, the model significantly reduced BPA's need for additional energy until the out years, and it could possibly reduce BPA's energy efficiency target. Staff will continue to model BPA's resource scenario and consider the impacts of WECC's regional builds on BPA.

6. BPA Resource Adequacy Assessment

The redeveloped GENESYS model shows a short-term adequacy need of about 1,600 MW of capacity by 2023. The loss of load probability signal for 2023 is approximately 32%, and drops dramatically to less than 2% in 2025 which staff believes is largely due to the availability of thermal resources committing to remain in the market as market prices rise. Staff is still studying this.

7. Power Plan Draft Sections 2 and 10

Staff reviewed Sections 2 and 10 of the draft Power Plan. Section 2 is the narrative describing the demand forecast. The approach to the demand forecast has changed for the 2021 Plan including the estimated impacts of climate change. Section 10 describes the methodology the Council is using to determine quantifiable environmental costs and benefits of new generating and conservation resources.

8. Paths to Decarbonization Scenario

The Paths to Decarbonization Scenario is an investigation into the extent to which the entire Northwest Regional Economy could be decarbonized by 2050, and the impacts on energy itself. This is a complicated scenario, and staff is going to continue to work on this topic and bring it back to the Committee for later analysis.

Fish and Wildlife Committee and Power Committee meeting materials for May 2021 can be found here.

<https://www.nwcouncil.org/meeting/council-meeting-may-4-2021>

New Council Member Introductions

Chair Devlin introduced three new Council Members Mike Milburn, Chuck Sams, and Doug Grob and asked them to say a few words about themselves.

Chair Devlin expressed his regret that these introductions could not take place in person, and hopes in-person Council meetings will start by fall 2021.

1. Texas Power Failure During Cold Weather Event

Energy Analyst Brian Dekiep introduced Beth Garza, a Senior Fellow with R Street's Energy & Environmental Policy Team in Austin, Texas. In February 2021, the state of Texas suffered a major power crisis as a result of a series of severe winter storms sweeping across the United States. Garza provided context, described some of the causes and the aftermath, and provided recommendations for managing and preventing future events. Garza explained that the event started with sustained, statewide record low temperatures and precipitation for which the usually summer-peaking state of Texas was unprepared. All forms of generation experienced outages and were not able to generate at expected levels, and this led to an electricity crisis.

Texas' electric grid operator Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) had to implement emergency operations and extremely high power prices as the power supply and load became unbalanced. These conditions resulted in forced curtailment of load and blackouts in many areas of the state, leaving millions without access to electricity during record cold conditions. The crisis resulted in billions of dollars in losses and dozens of deaths.

Garza cited some of her own explanations as to how the crisis came to pass.

- Winter preparation was insufficient in every aspect: electricity systems, natural gas systems, water systems, roads, and individuals. She mentioned inadequate winterization of power plants as being a topic of discussion, but she suggested that actions were taken at most if not all power plants, and the actions themselves were insufficient due to the extremely cold temperatures and the duration of the event.

- The event highlighted the increasing co-dependence of electricity and natural gas systems. Natural gas pipeline compressor stations that could have generated power were part of the forced curtailments.
- The thing that was most problematic was the inability for distribution utilities to rotate electricity outages. The amount of load needed to be curtailed was so high, the distribution utilities had to interrupt every circuit they could with no others to rotate the outage to. Once a circuit was out, there was no way to get it back on. This was particularly true in more urban areas.
- There was inappropriate reliance on market forces for the duration of emergency operations. Garza laid blame on the leaders at ERCOT and the PUC that they did not realize the impacts of some of the decisions they were making during this crisis, particularly the financial impacts they're still dealing with.

Many have called for investigations into ERCOT and the root cause of the power outages. All five unaffiliated Board members resigned amidst tremendous political pressure leaving the Chair and Vice Chair positions vacant. The CEO has been ousted and an interim is now in place. All three PUC Commissioners have also resigned with two new appointees now seated. There is also massive financial fallout with countless lawsuits, bankruptcies, contractual disputes, and billions of dollars owed all yet to be resolved.

Garza pointed to possible legislative changes going forward.

- Legislation may pass requiring that ERCOT Board members live in Texas. It is likely that unaffiliated members would be political appointees.
- There will likely be more stringent winterization requirements.
- Government securitization
- There are several proposals that would assign additional costs to Intermittent Renewable Generators.
- Weather Alert and improved communications among agencies
- There has been discussion around having a requirement for dispatchable generation.

Garza brought her own recommendations suggesting increased investment in demand-side measures, such as insulation and equipment repair, and shared legislative oversight of natural gas and electricity. She suggested that the Public Utility Commission of Texas should consider an installed capacity requirement and consider when and how to stop and restart the electricity market. She also suggested that ERCOT require all entities to have securitized collateral.

Chair Devlin asked for clarification on the weatherization of gas plants why it is dependent on electric heat. Garza explained that it is the natural gas delivery system, getting natural gas out of the ground through pipes to power plants, that is dependent on electricity to maintain flow through extreme weather events. Garza explained that their power plants are

built outside and not enclosed by a building, and hopes that any winterization requirements will be standardized.

Chair Devlin also asked if there has been any discussion of Texas creating more interconnections with other parts of the country. Garza said that this has been studied, but hasn't been explored in 20 years.

Member Oshie asked which entity has must run authority, and/or has the authority to cap market prices within ERCOT. Garza said that the public utility commission has the authority to cap market prices, and must run generation decisions rest with ERCOT.

Member Oshie also asked Garza to expand on the 'over reliance on the market' explanation for the crisis in the presentation. Garza said that when the event started there were problems in the calculation of the Operating Reserve Demand Curve, and the public utility commission suspended the mechanism that would keep the price low.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here.

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_05_1.pdf

2. Council Decision on Asset Management Strategic Plan Priorities for FY 2022 Hatcheries and Screens

Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch introduced Andy Traylor and Eric Leitzinger of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Bonneville Power Administration to review budget items for next year. Traylor reviewed hatchery items for Sherman Hatchery, Umatilla Hatchery, and Eagle Hatchery totaling \$239,094. Leitzinger reviewed fish screen needs for Idaho, Washington, and Oregon totaling \$255,000.

Motion

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council recommend that Bonneville fund routine maintenance for fish screens and hatcheries in FY 2022 at \$255,000 and \$239,094 respectively, as recommended by the Council's Asset Management Subcommittee and presented by staff.

Member Allen seconded.

All Members were in favor, and the motion was approved.

3. Update on Pacific Lamprey in the Columbia River Basin

Mark Fritsch introduced Christina Wang from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alicia Marrs from the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI), and Laurie Porter and Jon Hess from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

Christina Wang first provided PLCI staff updates. Wang will continue as Federal and State Co-Chair of PLCI's Conservation Team. Kelly Coates of the Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe is now the Tribal Co-Chair. Alicia Marrs was hired in 2019 as the PLCI Coordinator.

Alicia Marrs gave an overview of PLCI as well as its reach and engagement. PLCI is a collaboration of Native American tribes, federal, state, municipal and local agencies, and non-profits working together to conserve Pacific Lamprey. Their mission is to achieve long-term persistence of Pacific Lamprey and their habitats, and support their traditional tribal cultural use throughout their historical range – Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. PLCI has 176 partners, 33 signatories to the Conservation Agreement, and 18 Regional Management Units (RMUs). The key components of PLCI are Assessment, the Conservation Agreement, and the 18 RMUs. Their reach is growing.

Wang gave an overview of PLCI lamprey projects since funding began. In 2018, 3 projects from 3 RMUs were funded by BPA. In 2019, 8 projects from 5 RMUs were funded. In 2020, 6 projects from 4 RMUs were funded. And in 2021, 9 projects are recommended to BPA for funding. Most of the funding they receive supports projects in the Columbia River Basin. The projects include performing various assessments, restoring habitat, fish translocation, ensuring safe dam passage, and public outreach. Wang said these projects have positively contributed to the status of Pacific lamprey in the Columbia Basin. PLCI holds a biweekly webinar as part of the Lamprey Information Exchange. Information on the webinar series can be found here. <https://www.fws.gov/pacificlamprey/mainpage.cfm>

Laurie Porter of CRITFC presented on their effort to increase lamprey populations by reintroduction and translocation. Porter cited that lamprey counts have been steadily declining for decades, giving the example of counts at Bonneville Dam dropping from hundreds of thousands in the 1960s to tens of thousands by the year 2000. There was a peak in 2017 of 292,441, but since then the number has decreased by about half each consecutive year. The Lamprey Master Plan uses a phased approach to lamprey restoration involving artificial propagation and translocation. Lamprey are propagated in a laboratory and released into chosen sub-basins with research, assessments, and future planning occurring throughout the process. Jon Hess followed with information on CRITFC's work to tag and map the genetics of Pacific lamprey to assess translocation efforts. These efforts have been very successful increasing larval and juvenile abundance. Going forward, they will continue to assess the effects of translocation efforts on adult abundance, and use their genetic marker set to answer questions about lamprey migration and lifecycle.

Member Norman highlighted that over the years, conservation efforts haven't always addressed lamprey as much as they have salmon and sturgeon, and he praised the partnerships and efforts taking place today.

Member Sams mentioned his upbringing on the Umatilla River and witnessing the decline of lamprey on the 1970s, and that he has personally seen the numbers increase since the year 2000 and is excited about the collective conservation efforts.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here.

<https://nwcouncil.app.box.com/s/l7rrwhylsxsoqiw5jgqo3e31qiy5lywb>

4. Nez Perce Tribe Presentation on Snake Basin Chinook and Steelhead: Quasi-Extinction Threshold and Call to Action

Director of Fish and Wildlife Patty O' Toole introduced three representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe – Dave Johnson, Manager of the Department of Fisheries Resource Management, Jay Hesse, Director of Biological Services, and Ryan Kinzer, Research Scientist.

Johnson, Hesse, and Kinzer presented on an analysis by Nez Perce staff on the abundance of individual Chinook and steelhead populations in the Snake River Basin. They found abundance forecasts to be drastically below basin management goals and thresholds for both Chinook and steelhead. Abundance of spring/summer Chinook is declining and average of 19% per year, and steelhead abundance is declining and average of 18% per year across all populations studied. By 2025, it is projected that 77% of these spring/summer Chinook and 44% of summer steelhead will be at or below the quasi-extinction threshold (QET). These numbers look similar to what they were in the 1990s when strong measures were taken as a result – raising fish in a hatchery and releasing them as juveniles, developing cryopreservation programs, and implementing a large watershed restoration program.

Johnson mentioned the various efforts underway to mitigate low abundance such as habitat restoration and predation management, but said something more drastic should be done with mainstem hydro and suggested the breaching of the Lower Snake River Dams as a solution.

Member Norman recalled the measures taken in the 1990s and asked if there is currently opportunity to implement similar measures while waiting for ocean conditions to be more favorable. Johnson said that they have to consider stronger measures like captive broodstock for a number of populations, but climate change will continue, so something much bigger must be done on the freshwater end.

Member Allen asked if the current situation is really as bad as it was in the 1990s, and if it's possible to perform a similar analysis with 1990s data. He mentioned that average returns are higher at Granite and Clearwater and asked why this wouldn't extend to the populations studied. Hesse mentioned that this has been studied. The current rate of decline was found to be higher than in the 1990s, and the that the number of populations that would be at or below the QET threshold was similar. Hesse and Johnson cited the massive effort and

success of habitat restoration and establishing natural production into the Clearwater from a previously extinct population to explain why returns there are higher.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here.

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_05_4.pdf

<https://nwcouncil.app.box.com/s/6uxxczn1mmtx6tdu1fb86pilrku5asc8>

5. Final Report on system Integration Forum on Diversity Equity and Inclusion – Key Takeaways, Next Steps

On February 19, 2021, the Power Division hosted a “Systems Integration Forum” (SIF) to explore how the Council might integrate concepts of energy equity into the 2021 Power Plan, as well as in future work. An output of the forum was a list of potential actions the Council could take to better incorporate equity into the 2021 Power Plan and related work. To help prioritize amongst the many proposals, staff surveyed advisory committee members and interested parties for their feedback.

Senior Policy Analyst Gillian Charles and Senior Energy Analyst Tina Jayaweera provided an overview of the process taken to date discussing equity in the Power Plan, potential actions heard through the SIF, and shared advisory committee feedback on prioritization. They included recommend actions for how the Council could incorporate equity considerations into the 2021 Plan and future Council work. Detailed recommendations can be found in the presentation here.

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_05_5.pdf

6. Markets Related Scenario Findings for Power Plan

Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis and Director of Power Planning Ben Kujala reviewed findings of the Organized and Limited Market Scenario. One of the main focuses of Council staff in developing the Plan is how much the WECC impacts the northwest. This scenario explores some of the changing structural and fundamental drivers of the market and its interactions with resources available to the region. Some of the explorations look at implications of a WECC-wide organized market, a market reflecting current policies but not built to reserve margins, and markets where resource build is limited by regulation or current contract structures.

External market supply changes associated with projected extremely high renewable resource builds have surfaced as a key area of stakeholder concern in this Plan per the advent of significant statewide/municipal policies and utility goals. In the process of developing the WECC buildout for the baseline, the Council and its advisory committees have discussed the effects of limited resources available for builds, insufficient reserve margins, and opportunities to increase regional coordination.

In running this scenario, staff found:

- Renewable builds are not sensitive to the different external market assumptions.

- Energy efficiency acquisition does change based on different external market assumptions.
- Electricity prices and residential bills do not substantially diverge based on external market assumptions.
- Interactive effects with external markets are better captured by GENESYS – dynamic hydro is a big part of the picture.

Kujala compared the different market scenarios' impacts on energy efficiency acquisition, renewable builds and curtailment, hydro generation and curtailment, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase in bills, regional exports, and electricity prices.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here.

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_05_6.pdf

Member Grob raised concern about keeping prices reasonable amid increased spill due to increased renewable builds and no market for secondary sales.

7. Greenhouse Gas Tipping Point Scenario Findings

John Ollis and Ben Kujala reviewed findings of the Greenhouse Gas Tipping Point Scenario. This scenario explores the impacts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions regulations and explicit emissions pricing in the region and throughout the west. Some of the explorations look at implications of a WECC-wide GHG emissions pricing, impact of limitations by fuel type per regulation, and peak emissions reductions capability of particular demand response resources. They have been assessing the implied changes in regional needs and analyzing resource strategies to highlight potential risks and benefits or different markets.

Greenhouse gas emissions pricing policies and mechanisms have been employed in different parts of the United States and throughout the world as a means of reducing emissions in the power sector. Since the emissions damages are considered in many of the scenarios in this plan, this scenario explores the impact of emissions pricing on operations. Additionally, regulatory barriers and policies throughout the west have made it increasingly more difficult to invest in natural gas builds to meet load growth or backfill retiring units. This is a fairly new paradigm, and has consequences for the number of resources that will need to be built to maintain appropriate reserve margins.

In running this scenario, staff found that low fixed-cost demand response programs which can be used often at little cost with no change in customer experience can be designed to be effective at not just meeting adequacy needs reducing energy costs associated with meeting peak times and reducing emissions associated with meeting peak times.

In studying the resource strategy with and without the social cost of carbon (SCC), staff found:

- Removing the SCC reduced the renewables build, but the builds are still substantial.
- Removing the SCC results in a modest thermal build beginning in the 2030s.
- Energy efficiency acquisition did not significantly change whether GHG pricing was included or not.
- Putting an explicit price on emissions does drive emissions down. This also drives exports down.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here.

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_05_7.pdf

8. 2021 Power Plan Adequacy Assessment

Senior Systems Analyst John Fazio reviewed the resource adequacy assessment to be included in the 2021 Power Plan. The Council assesses the adequacy of the regional power supply annually as an early warning to gauge whether new resource development is keeping pace with load growth and with resource retirements. This year's assessment differs from past assessments in three significant ways. First, primarily due to state clear air laws and policies across the West, acquisition of renewable resources has increased rapidly, which has affected market prices and has put more pressure on system operators to maintain reliable service. Secondly, because the region is now more likely to experience short-term capacity deficiencies, the Council chose to redevelop its adequacy model (GENESYS) to simulate hourly operations more realistically. Finally, the Council chose to use forward-looking projections for temperature and river flows based on general circulation model analyses of climate change instead of the historical data used for previous assessments.

Analysis from the Council's redeveloped GENESYS model projects an adequacy need over the next few years, followed by minimal resource needs throughout the planning period horizon. To maintain adequacy, an estimated 1,600 MW of added capacity is needed by 2023. After 2023, and despite additional coal plant retirements, adequacy can be maintained throughout the study horizon primarily due to the high level of expected renewable resource buildout across the West and the opportunity to optimize the utilization of the existing hydro and gas-fired resource fleet. While these findings are robust across many scenarios, there is risk that the analyses do not fully capture the inherent uncertainty in the projected WECC buildout and the possibility of accelerated loads due to electrification programs. Thus, additional resources could be acquired to offset this risk.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here.

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_05_8.pdf

9. Overview of Draft Material for the Power Plan

Ben Kujala gave a brief overview of the Power Plan outline.

In March of 2019, staff discussed a high-level approach to how they would organize the Plan document in a way that mapped easily to the required Plan elements. The intent of that organization structure was to keep the document focused and succinct, then to include a broader set of supporting material on the Council website. Staff discussed the approach to developing this supporting material with the Power Committee in July of 2020.

Moving the more technical supporting materials to the website will allow Council staff to know what, when, and how Power Plan materials are used. Hopefully, this will lead to further refinement of the Plan, greater focus on what is most important, and greater usability. The idea is for the Plan to be more readable and approachable, having a shorter length with reference materials, and at the same time fulfilling every element required by the Power Act.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here.

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_05_9.pdf

10. Council Business

Council approval of the April 2021 Council Meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes of the April 7, 2021, Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Oshie seconded.

Motion approved.

Council decision to approve comment to the U.S. Department of Energy on its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the Process Rule

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve comments to the U.S. Department of Energy regarding the proposed revisions to what is known as the Process Rule for establishing energy efficiency standards as presented by staff.

Members Oshie and Grob seconded.

Motion approved.

Council decision to release for public comment of the draft Council budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and revised budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and revised budget for Fiscal Year 2022

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve the release of the draft Fiscal Year 2023 Council budget and Fiscal Year 2022 revised budget for public review and comment through June 30, 2021 as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

Motion approved.

Council decision to adopt the Report to the Northwest Governors on BPA's Fish and Wildlife Costs for Fiscal Year 2020

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve the Fiscal Year 2020 report to the Northwest governors on Bonneville Fish and Wildlife's costs as presented by staff.

Member Oshie seconded.

Motion approved.

Contract modification for QW Consulting, LLC for work on Strategy Performance Indicators

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council authorize staff to amend contract C2021-31 with QW Consulting, LLC to add 205 hours and \$19,475 to the contract for a total amended budget not to exceed \$67,735 to accomplish additional work on the strategy performance indicator component of the Council's resources, tools, and maps.

Member Grob seconded.

Motion approved.

Public Comment

Jim Waddell of Port Angeles, Washington is a Civil Engineer who is retired from a 35-year public service career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He addressed resource adequacy and stranded assets concerns mentioned earlier in the Council meeting, and pointed to the breaching of the 4 Lower Snake River Dams as a solution. He said that this addresses wildlife conservation, the financial burden of maintaining the dams, and eliminates methane emissions from the dams. He asked that Council Members encourage Council staff to model the retirement of 2 Lower Snake River Dams this winter, and 1 dam in each of the following winters.

Scott Levy, host of bluefish.org, also asked that the Council discuss Lower Snake River Dam removal in the upcoming Power Plan. Levy cited that this would reduce rates, improve salmon recovery in the basin, and improve the overall health of the forest which would reduce CO2 emissions by 20-30 million tons annually.

Member Grob mentioned he downloaded the Council Style Guide and that it looks dated and needs updating. This can wait until the Power Plan is complete.

Chair Devlin congratulated new Member Mike Milburn on completing his first meeting.

Chair Devlin adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting materials for May 2021 can be found here. <https://www.nwcouncil.org/meeting/council-meeting-may-4-2021>