

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Meeting Summary
August 11, 2021
Portland, Oregon – Webinar**

Council Chair Richard Devlin brought the meeting to order at 9:01 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 September 15, 2021.

Reports from Committees

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Member Allen, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported on the Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2021.

1. Update on Fish and Wildlife Program Accomplishments of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Fish and Wildlife Committee heard presentations from 7 soil and water conservation districts. These key districts are a great resource for the fish managers, and they do an outstanding job of leveraging BPA ratepayer funds. One district reported that for every dollar of ratepayer funds they receive, they're able to match it with 8 dollars from other funding sources. Another district reported that 90% of their funds are used for onsite work. District representatives reported that riparian areas and buffer zones are being restored, and habitat scores are improving. Monitoring shows that fish are utilizing the newly created and restored habitat. Representatives from the districts emphasized the importance of their partnerships with landowners and fish managers in making this work possible.

2. Use of Fiscal Year 2021 Cost Savings

Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch, and Andy Traylor of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Bonneville Power Administration reviewed a Committee recommendation to allocate FY 2021 Cost Savings (\$450,000) for fish screen and hatchery projects to be implemented before the end of the year. This recommendation is to be presented to the full Council later today.

Power Committee

Member Oshie, Power Committee Chair, reported on the Power Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2021.

1. Discussion of the Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan

The Power Committee continued its work on the draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan, arriving at a what is a largely complete product to recommend to the full Council. Member Oshie commended the work of Council staff as well as Chair Devlin and Member Yost for their work on the remaining sections of the Draft Plan to get to this point. Ben Kujala, Director of Power Planning, also provided a report on the resource adequacy workshops held by Council staff in early August.

Fish and Wildlife Committee and Power Committee meeting materials for August 2021 can be found here:

<https://www.nwcouncil.org/meeting/council-meeting-august-10-2021>

Public Affairs Committee

Chair Devlin reported that although there was a tremendous amount of work by the Public Affairs Committee to arrange the Congressional Staff Tour, it was universally agreed to cancel the event primarily due to forest fires in the area around Whitefish, Montana.

Remarks from Vice-Chair Norman

Vice-Chair Norman expressed condolences on the passing of Lorraine Loomis, a Swinomish tribal elder who for decades was a major advocate for salmon, orca, and tribal fishing rights.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Council Decision on Use of Fiscal Year 2021 Cost Savings

Mark Fritch along with Andy Traylor and Eric Leitzinger of the Bonneville Fish Division provided background on the Fish and Wildlife Committee's recommendation to allocate FY 2021 Cost Savings (\$450,000) for fish screen and hatchery projects. Referring to past assessments and established Program priorities and working with fish managers, they formulated a list projects that could be implemented by the end of 2021.

Motion to Recommend Allocation of FY2021 Cost Savings for Fish Screens and Hatcheries

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council recommend that Bonneville fund a set of fish screen and hatchery maintenance actions identified by staff in an amount not to exceed \$450,000, drawing the funds from the FY2021 cost-savings balance [with the changes made by the Members at today's meeting].

Member Allen seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_08_1.pdf

2. Update on the Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review

Fish and Wildlife Analyst Maureen Hess provided a brief update on the Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery (AFHH) Project Review. This review category is the last category of projects to be reviewed in this cycle and was initiated in early February 2021. Hess and Mark Fritch provided a brief status report on the AFHH review schedule and provided a summary for the project presentations that were recently completed in July.

The 124 projects in this review include hatchery operation and maintenance (O&M), fish screen O&M, habitat restoration, and the monitoring and evaluation activities associated with these project types. The Council decision associated with this category of projects is anticipated to be made in April 2022.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_08_2.pdf

3. Discussion of the Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan and Possible Decision to Release Draft for Public Review and Comment

Chair Devlin remarked on the timeline and scale of the effort to create the 2021 Northwest Power Plan. He mentioned that the principal task of the Council is to produce a Fish and Wildlife Program and a Power Plan every 5 years. The Fish and Wildlife Program is a key component of the Power Plan. The creation of the Power Plan has been in process for a long time, beginning in Spring of 2019. The completion date was extended to provide more time for additional modeling and analytics, to work with advisory committees, and to acquaint new Council Members with the Plan. Once the Council releases the Draft Plan, there will be a 60-day comment period, tentatively slated to take place in September and

October 2021, with additional time needed thereafter to address the comments and make any necessary changes. The Council is on schedule to complete the Plan in winter 2022.

Director of Power Planning Ben Kujala gave a detailed review of the structure and content of every section of the draft power plan beginning with Section 1, Introduction, and working through to Section 12, the Fish and Wildlife Program. This included Kujala leading members through discussions on: the regional reserves and reliability requirements - explaining what it means for a system to be adequate, the method for assessing the needs to maintain adequacy, and how that is then used in development of the resource strategy (1:28); the energy conservation program, including the regional recommendations for energy efficiency to be acquired, the model conservation standards and surcharge methodology (1:50); the recommended resource strategy and process for developing that strategy including scenario analysis (2:15); power and resource recommendations for Bonneville Power Administration (2:44); cost-effective methods of providing reserves and major takeaways for an adequate regional system (2:56); recommendations for research and development to support future planning work (3:00); and the methodology for determining quantifiable environmental costs and benefits and how the Council gave due consideration for environmental quality, fish and wildlife and compatibility with the existing system (3:04).

Kujala and John Shurts, General Counsel, detailed next steps for the Council once the Draft Plan is issued for public review and comment.

Chair Devlin noted a request for additional time to review the Draft Plan and that the Council will vote on the release of the Draft Power Plan for public review and comment on August 23, 2021.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here:
https://www.nwcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2021_08_3.pdf

4. Council Business

Council approval of the July 2021 Council Meeting minutes

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes of the July 14, 2021, Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Allen seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Council approval of comments to DOE on its proposed revisions to the definition of “showerhead”

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve the comment letter to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DOE’s proposed revisions to the definition of “showerhead” for the purpose of establishing energy efficiency standards, as presented by staff [with the changes made by the Members at today’s meeting].

Member Oshie seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Council approval of comments to DOE on its proposed rulemakings regarding the Process Rule

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve the comment letter to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to DOE’s proposed revisions to what is known as the “Process Rule” for establishing energy efficiency standards, as presented by staff [with the changes made by the Members at today’s meeting].

Member Allen seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – Member Grob opposed.

Motion was approved.

Public Comment

Scott Levy, host of bluefish.org, referenced the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act section 839b(e)(3)(E) which states “an analysis of reserve and reliability requirements and cost-effective methods of providing reserves designed to ensure adequate electric power at the lowest probable cost.”

He presented a graph from the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement, and suggested that removal of the Lower Snake River Dams would lower rates and reduce capital costs, O&M costs, and fish and wildlife costs. He also suggested that the Council is ignoring these findings.

Chair Devlin adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting materials for August 2021 can be found here: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/meeting/council-meeting-august-10-2021>

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council
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August 23, 2021
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Council Chair Richard Devlin brought the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Council Members Jeffery Allen, Doug Grob, Guy Norman, Patrick Oshie, Jim Yost, Chuck Sams joined the webinar, with Mike Milburn calling by telephone.

Decision to release the Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan for public review and comment

Vice-Chair Norman moved that the Council approve the release of the Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan for public review and comment, direct staff to prepare the draft for publication, and then hold a 60-day public comment period beginning upon release of the draft to the public, as presented by staff [with the changes made by the Members at today's meeting.]

Member Oshie seconded.

Member Oshie thanked the staff, stakeholders, and members of the advisory committees for their hard work in helping produce a Draft Plan for public release. He also thanked present members of the Power Committee and past Council Members Bo Downen and Tim Baker who contributed to this effort.

Member Yost asked Ben Kujala if any changes had been made in the last week. Kujala said there were no substantive changes to the text, but spelling and punctuation corrections were made. Chair Devlin also explained that part of the work done in the last week was to make sure citations were correct and to make graphs more readable and accurate. Ben confirmed that footnotes and links to other materials are still being checked.

Chair Devlin also clarified that this was a motion to release the Draft Plan and not a motion to approve a Final.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.
Motion was approved.

Chair Devlin then offered for the record that staff will work on posting the Draft Plan to the website to make it available for public review. Supporting material for the Power Plan will look different from previous Plans and will be fully integrated into the website. The process of releasing the web interface and changing is more involved than appendices provided with previous Plans. Because the supporting material is an integral part of the Power Plan, the public comment period will not start until the full interface is rolled out and they've verified all of the material for the Plan as available. The website will also have a method for submitting

comments directly online. At the September meeting, staff will present on all the elements of the Draft Plan and review and comment on the full range of material produced for this plan. The hope is to have all of this done prior to the September meeting.

Chair Devlin also mentioned that it is looking very precarious to be holding in person public meetings. Council meetings at least through October will be online, and public hearings will also be online.

Chair Devlin adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.