

**Jeffery C. Allen**  
Chair  
Idaho

**Ed Schriever**  
Idaho

**Doug Grob**  
Montana

**Mike Milburn**  
Montana



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

**KC Golden**  
Vice Chair  
Washington

**Thomas L (Les) Purce**  
Washington

**Ginny Burdick**  
Oregon

**Louie Pitt, Jr.**  
Oregon

### **Council Meeting Summary** **April 9 & 10, 2024** **at Olympia, WA and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's April 2024 public meeting and the actions the Council decided upon. The meeting agenda and presentation materials for each agenda item during the meeting are posted at <https://www.nwcouncil.org/calendar/council-meeting-2024-04-09/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

#### **April 9, 2024**

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Pacific time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Louie Pitt Jr., Thomas L (Les) Purse, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Olympia, WA.

#### **Council Business**

##### **Motion to add Items to the Agenda**

Member Golden moved that the Council add two items to this meeting agenda. First, an executive session to discuss matters pertaining to civil litigation; and second, a decision to authorize the staff to contract for an assessment of conservation program administration costs, and find that Council business requires these discussions, and no earlier notice was possible.

Member Purse seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Member Golden moved that the Council meet in Executive Session on the morning of April 10, 2024, to discuss matters pertaining to civil litigation.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

## **Council Meeting Agenda Item**

### **1. Reflections on the Northwest Power Act: Accomplishments, Challenges and Opportunities**

Member Golden introduced Rob Lothrop, Policy Development/Litigation Support at Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, Randy Hardy with Randy Hardy Associates, LLC, and Nancy Hirsch, Policy Director at Northwest Energy Coalition. John Shurts, the Council's General Counsel, spoke briefly about Rob Lothrop's retirement from the Commission and his career and accomplishments. Lothrop, Hardy, and Hirsch presented their reflections on the Northwest Power Act regarding accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities. They each offered their perspectives on the Council's history and contributions to date and how the region and the Council might approach the challenging period ahead.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18691/2024\\_04\\_1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18691/2024_04_1.pdf).

## **April 10, 2024**

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Pacific time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Louie Pitt Jr., Thomas L (Les) Purse, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Olympia, WA. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 14-15 in Portland, OR and via webinar.

## **Reports from the Committee Chairs and Executive Director**

### **Public Affairs Committee**

Member Pitt Jr., Public Affairs Committee Chair, reported on the public affairs committee meeting held on April 4, 2024. Council staff Kym Buzdygon and Peter

Jensen discussed Council media coverage, including recent and upcoming opportunities. Jensen presented on audience mapping and there was a discussion on communication strategy. Next, feedback was given to the public affairs team on the updated spotlight newsletter template and the Congressional leave behind.

## **Power Committee**

Member Grob, Power Committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on April 9, 2024.

### **1. Power Division Update and Planning**

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, shared a Power Committee update. The update focused on topics connected to work plan elements related to 2021 Power Plan Implementation. Lights also spoke on building the next Mid-Term Assessment and next steps.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18688/2024\\_04\\_p1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18688/2024_04_p1.pdf).

### **2. Report on Multi Day Storage in the Pacific Northwest**

Council Energy Analysis, Dylan D'Souza introduced Mark Thompson, Senior Director of State Affairs, Patricia Levi, Senior Analyst, and Rachel Wilson, Manager of Strategy and Market Development, with Form Energy. The presentation shared that the 100-hour iron air battery technology has the potential to cost effectively help with integration of renewables by providing heat capacity powers during long day multi day storage.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18693/2024\\_04\\_p2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18693/2024_04_p2.pdf).

### **3. Updated Generating Resources Assumptions for Annual Studies**

Council's Power Staff Annika Roberts and Dylan D'Souza provided an update on generating resources assumptions. These updated costs will be used in the annual market price and availability studies for the annual assessments and may inform updates to the Mid-Term Assessment and Power Plan.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18692/2024\\_04\\_p3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18692/2024_04_p3.pdf).

#### **4. Updates on Conservation Program Elements**

The Council's power staff Kevin Smit and Christian Douglass presented an update on the elements of the 2021 Power Plan's conservation program to inform the Mid-Term Assessment. Smit and Douglass summarized the progress to date of each conservation recommendation, as well as provide an overall status indicator of each. In addition to the summary updates, they discussed how conditions for energy efficiency have changed since adoption of the 2021 Plan, how specific parts of the region may value energy efficiency differently and how staff is leveraging recent regional data to inform the next plan.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18690/2024\\_04\\_p4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18690/2024_04_p4.pdf).

#### **Fish and Wildlife Committee**

Member Milburn, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported on the fish and wildlife committee meeting held on April 9, 2024.

##### **1. Fish and Wildlife Committee Update and Planning**

Patty O'Toole, Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director briefly discussed the fish and wildlife committee meeting and Council meeting topics. O'Toole shared an update on the April 4, 2024 Ocean Forum meeting.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18683/2024\\_04\\_f1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18683/2024_04_f1.pdf).

##### **2. Update on communication and information sharing with Bonneville**

Patty O'Toole, Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, and Summer Goodwin, Fish & Wildlife Policy Analyst at Bonneville Power Administration provided an update on developments and ongoing discussions about how BPA reports and shares information related to Program implementation. For communication related to project changes after the Start of Year budget, there is a current experiment in process that would use the current budget oversight group meetings on a quarterly basis to discuss any changes to projects. Patty noted that new processes will need to be documented for the Council.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18685/2024\\_04\\_f2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18685/2024_04_f2.pdf).

### **3. Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) Retrospective Review Topic Discussion – Habitat and Hatchery**

The Council's Independent Science Manager Erik Merrill and Rich Carmichael, Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) Chair discussed an overview of the roles of the ISRP which includes reviewing projects proposed for BPA funding and retrospective reviews of project results. Carmichael discussed two topics the ISRP is considering for its next retrospective report, including habitat and hatchery retrospective reports.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18686/2024\\_04\\_f3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18686/2024_04_f3.pdf).

### **4. Adult Steelhead Survival through the Columbia River System**

The Council's Washington Policy Analyst/Biologist, Stacy Horton introduced Dan Rawding, Columbia River Science and Policy Coordinator and Andrew Murdoch, Eastern Washington Science Division Manager with the Fish Program at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Rawding and Murdoch began the presentation by providing estimates of adult steelhead survival as these fish migrate upstream to their spawning grounds and provided the survival estimates for the Asotin steelhead population as they migrate from Bonneville Dam past Lower Granite Dam to their natal stream in Southeast Washington. They also presented on the survival estimates of steelhead in the upper Columbia River from Priest Rapids Dam to their natal stream.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18689/2024\\_04\\_f4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18689/2024_04_f4.pdf).

### **Executive Director Report**

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, expressed his appreciation to Governor Dan Evans and his family, as well as to the partners of Evergreen State College staff. Edmonds spoke to the reflections of the Northwest Power Act panel and the achievements of the Council over the last four decades. He specifically highlighted the achievements of energy efficiency, and the regional mitigation tool for fish and wildlife and continues to speak on more regional accomplishments.

### **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

## **1. Clean energy transition/innovation panel**

Member Golden spoke on the pace of change on the load side and what is going on in innovation from a few different perspectives. Golden introduced Josh Jacobs, Vice President of Clean Energy Strategy and Planning at Puget Sound Energy, Sonia Aggarwal, Chief Executive Officer at Energy Innovation Policy and Technology, LLC, and Angela Becker-Dippmann, Director of the Energy & Environment Directorate's Program Development Office at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. This presentation was an opportunity to look at the bigger picture of energy system innovation with specific reference to our central regional challenges. Jacobs spoke on Puget Sound Energy clean energy transformation. Aggarwal discussed innovation for least-cost resource adequacy. Becker-Dippmann presented on innovations to achieve energy transition goals.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18681/2024\\_04\\_2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18681/2024_04_2.pdf).

## **2. Final report for Project #2016-001-00 Bonneville Power Administration Project Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM) Programmatic**

Mark Fritsch, Council's Project Review and Implementation Manager, introduced Dave Kaplowe, Idaho and Montana Implementation Manager for Bonneville Power Administration and Dr. Phil Roni, Principal Scientist with Cramer Fish Sciences and Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Kaplowe and Dr. Roni provided an overview of the purpose and results of the recently completed Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM) project (2014 to 2023), designed to evaluate, and provide both short-term and long-term results for previously completed and newer habitat restoration and improvement projects in the Columbia River Basin.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18684/2024\\_04\\_3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18684/2024_04_3.pdf).

## **3. Council Business**

### **Approval of March 2024 Council Meeting Summary**

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the March 2024 Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the February 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18687/2024\\_04\\_notes.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18687/2024_04_notes.pdf).

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to amend the contract with QW Consulting, LLC in an additional amount not to exceed \$23,800, for a total amended contract budget not to exceed \$102,200, for the purpose of accomplishing additional work on the Council's Resources Tools and Maps related to fish screens, land acquisitions, and hatcheries.

Member Purce seconded.

Discussion of motion followed.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18682/2024\\_04\\_contract.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18682/2024_04_contract.pdf).

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Apex Analytics in an amount not to exceed \$32,000 for an assessment of conservation program administration costs.

Member Burdick seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18695/2024\\_04\\_4apex.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18695/2024_04_4apex.pdf).

## **Public Comments**

No public comment.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m. Pacific time.