

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 October 8 & 9, 2024 Portland, OR and via Webinar

This is a summary of the Council's October 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-2024-10-08/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

October 8, 2024

Council Chair Jeff Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:01 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 Portland, OR. The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 13 & 14 in Portland, OR and via webinar.

Report from Executive Director

Executive Director Bill Edmonds provided a report to the Council which included news of the passing of Governor Dan Evans, the Council's first Chair, and provided some history of his work with the Council. Edmonds also spoke about the Council's recent trip to B.C., Canada, to meet with the Columbia Basin Trust and visit the headwaters of the Columbia.

Member Schriever shared the news of the recent passing of Silas (Si) Whitman, a member of the Nez Perce Tribe and former fisheries director.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Fish and Wildlife Program performance: Artificial Production Categorical Assessment

Fish and Wildlife Division staff Kate Self and Maureen Hess, and Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole, presented excerpts from the second (out of four) categorical assessment focused on implementation of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program's (Program) Artificial Production (AP) measures. This overview of the Program's AP facilities and production programs highlighted how the Program fits within the broader landscape of the Basin's hatchery mitigation for dams and development impacts to fish, and how managers adaptively use best management practices to improve artificial production while working toward meeting mitigation and conservation objectives.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18942/2024_10_1.pdf.

2. Primer on Climate Data in the Ninth Plan

Power System Analyst Dan Hua briefed the Council on overall trends in climate data, how climate data was used in the 2021 Power Plan, and how data from the same set of climate scenarios will be used for the Ninth Power Plan. He also provided feedback from the Climate and Weather Advisory Committee on the proposed approach. Council

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18943/2024_10_2.pdf.

3. Primer on Representing Markets in our Modeling

Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis provided an overview of the current market options in the Northwest, including bilateral transfers and participation by many utilities in the organized real-time market EIM (Energy Imbalance Market). Ollis discussed the current projections on the timing of the organized day-ahead market and Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) efforts and provided an initial proposal for how to capture the future markets and WRAP in the modeling for the upcoming plan.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18935/2024_10_3.pdf.

4. Regional Technical Forum Member Appointments

Regional Technical Forum Manager Laura Thomas presented staff's recommendation for the appointment of a new slate of Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Membership for the 2025-2027 term.

Motion to Appoint Members of the Regional Technical Forum for 2025-27

Member Golden moved that the Council appoint the list of 30 people recommended by staff as members of the RTF for the 2025-27 term, including the reappointment of Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning for the Council, as RTF Chair, and the appointment of Christian Douglass, Senior Energy Analyst for the Council, as RTF Vice-Chair, all presented by staff.

Member Milburn seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18936/2024_10_4.pdf.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m. Pacific Time.

The Council voted to meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters. All members in favor, none opposed.

The Council met in executive session at 3:15 p.m. Pacific Time to discuss personnel matters.

October 9, 2024

Chair Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued

- 5. Briefing on Northwest Power Act framework for a Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process (Part 2): Broader context for the Council's work, including ESA requirements and the impact of long-term implementation agreements**

Director O'Toole and General Counsel John Shurts presented the second part of the briefing on the Northwest Power Act framework for the Fish and Wildlife Program

amendment process. O'Toole and Shurts discussed the broader policy and legal context for the Council's work on the Program, including how to understand and integrate ESA requirements and decisions, including Biological Opinions; long-term implementation agreements, such as the Columbia Basin Fish Accords; and pre-Northwest Power Act production obligations and activities, such as in the Mitchell Act and the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan. Council members discussed the Northwest Power Act/Fish and Wildlife Program legal framework, Pre-Power Act mitigation obligations and related topics, Endangered Species Act listings and actions, Columbia Basin Fish Accords and other multi-year implementation agreements, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Power Act and licensing, and project purposes and operational requirements.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18938/2024_10_5.pdf.

6. Completion of Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Policy Advisor Windy Schoby began the presentation by providing a brief background on how the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program supports implementation of projects that acquire and protect habitat as mitigation for construction, inundation, and operational losses affecting habitat for fish and wildlife. Schoby introduced Steve Elam and Casey Pozzanghera with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and Virginia Preiss and David Kaplowe with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Presenters briefed the Council on the closeout of Project #1995-057-00, Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation as part of the Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation settlement between BPA and Idaho. Presenters described that the completion of the project was a success as it took a collaborative approach to mitigation between IGFG and BPA, exceeded the acreage obligation, and is projected to complete the agreement within budget.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18937/2024_10_6.pdf.

7. Council Business

Motion to Approve Summary of September 2024 Council Meeting

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the official summary of the September 2024 Council Meeting held in Astoria, 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 September 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18940/2024_10_7minutes.pdf.

Motion to Authorize Contract for Load Forecast Support (Itron)

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Itron, Inc, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to provide continued load forecasting support in FY 2025, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18939/2024_10_7itron.pdf.

Motion to Approve Release of Draft Annual Report for Public Review and Comment

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the release of the draft annual report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2023 for public review and comment for a period of 90 days, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

Member Golden commented that he would like more notice of the process next time this report comes up again.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18941/2024_10_7report.pdf.

Public Comments

Comments related to the NPCC Artificial Production Program were presented by David Moskowitz, Executive Director at The Conservation Angler. Moskowitz spoke to the hatchery system in the Columbia Basin.

Presentation materials are at:

<https://nwcouncil.box.com/s/lrzmbdp0i9g6d0xt0cr0lo2ki2f5kf1y>

Comments related to the dams and hatcheries in the Snake River Basin were shared by Dave Johnson, Fisheries Department Manager at the Nez Perce Tribe. Johnson spoke to the downward trend of Snake River spring Chinook and steelhead and that hatchery production is the only choice in some areas because of hydrosystem impacts.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. Pacific Time.