

Mike Milburn
Chair
Montana

Doug Grob
Montana

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

Ed Schriever
Idaho



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

Thomas L (Les) Purce
Vice Chair
Washington

KC Golden
Washington

Ginny Burdick
Oregon

Louie Pitt, Jr.
Oregon

Council Meeting Summary **January 14 & 15, 2025** **Council Central Office and via Webinar** **851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100** **Portland, Oregon 97204**

This is a summary of the Council's January 2025 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-2025-01-14/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

January 14, 2025

Council Chair Jeff Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Louie Pitt Jr., Thomas L (Les) Purce, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, Oregon. The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 11 & 12 in Portland, Oregon and via webinar.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Council Work Session Fish and Wildlife Amendment

a. Discussion and Council decision on call for amendments

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and General Counsel John Shurts presented material to prepare for a decision by the Council to release the letter calling for recommendations to amend the Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and its 2020

Addendum. Staff discussed with the Council the updated draft of the letter based on staff recommendations and feedback from Council members on the draft at the December meeting. The letter contains information about the process, including why the Council needs to call for recommendations to amend the program at this time, the requirements for that request, and instructions for how people should submit their program amendment recommendations to the Council. The estimated timeline for this process was shared and the request for the Council to release the letter calling for recommendations during a 90-day period was discussed.

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the release of the letter calling for recommendations to amend the Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and its 2020 Addendum, as 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/19030/2025_01_1a.pdf.

b. Briefing on the current Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

Director O'Toole, General Counsel Shurts, and Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self and Program Biologist Kris Homel presented information about the current Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Topics included the current structure and organization of the Fish and Wildlife Program and a review of hydropower operations. These are the first in a series of background briefings to prepare the members over the next several months for the upcoming Program amendment process.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19028/2025_01_1b.pdf.

Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued

Member Golden moved that the Council meet in Executive Session on the afternoon of January 14, 2025, to discuss personnel matters.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Public Affairs Report

Member Louie Pitt Jr. presented an update on the Public Affairs Committee meeting held on December 16, 2024. Agenda items covered included: consultant Chris Huckleberry providing a government affairs update, a Council staff presentation on the fiscal year 2023 fish & wildlife expenditure report followed by Council discussion and recommendations for next year's report. Other topics included updated branding for the upcoming Fish and Wildlife Program and Power Plan, website updates, and recent media coverage.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director, Bill Edmonds discussed the annual January Council member elections and specifically recognized Chair Jeff Allen and his work with the Council. Edmonds also recognized the recent passing of President Jimmy Carter and his role in creating the Council by signing the Northwest Power Act on December 5, 1980.

2. Council decision on the Asset Management Strategic Plan: screen priorities for FY2025-FY2027

Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch introduced Jason Sweet, Eric Leitzinger, and Andy Traylor with BPA to share details of the Asset Management Strategic Plan screen priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2025 - FY 2027. This presentation was for a Council decision to recommend to Bonneville that it implement the request for nonrecurring maintenance for Fish and Wildlife Program fish screens in FY 2025 through FY 2027 at \$16,570,007 with a contingency of \$2,429,993 totaling \$19 million as recommended by the Asset Management Subcommittee.

Member Golden moved that the Council recommend to Bonneville that it provide funding for nonrecurring maintenance for Fish and Wildlife Program fish screens in Fiscal Years 2025 through 2027 in the amount of \$16,570,007 with a contingency of \$2,429,993, for a total commitment of \$19 million, as recommended by the Asset Management Subcommittee and presented by staff.

Member Purce seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19032/2025_01_2.pdf.

3. Overview and implementation update on the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement

Director O’Toole introduced representatives of a group of two Columbia basin states and four tribes consisting of Kate Marckworth with Yakama Nation, Jay Hesse with Nez Perce Tribe, Eric Quaempts with Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Jim McKenna with State of Oregon, and Michael Garrity with State of Washington. These representatives provided an overview and updates on the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement, a set of federal commitments related to Columbia River regional energy planning and salmon and steelhead.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19029/2025_01_3.pdf.

4. Bonneville 2024 Resource Program Results

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light introduced Bonneville staff Suzanne Cooper, Ryan Egerdahl, Allie Mace, and Eric Federovitch, to share the results of Bonneville’s 2024 Resource Program. The panel also shared early thinking on preparations for its next resource program, which is planned to be completed in September 2026.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19031/2025_01_4.pdf.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m. Pacific Time.

January 15, 2025

Council Chair Jeff Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Louie Pitt Jr., Thomas L (Les) Purce, and Ed Schriever were in attendance. The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 11 & 12 in Portland, Oregon and via webinar.

Member Golden moved that the Council add an item to the Council Business portion of this Council meeting agenda to authorize the Council to contract with a personnel search firm and find that Council business necessitates this agenda addition, and no earlier notice was possible.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued

5. Council Work Session Power Plan Preparation

a. Briefing on Northwest Power Act Framework for Power Plan

Director Light and General Counsel Shurts provided a detailed briefing on the framework and requirements in the Northwest Power Act for the power plan development process. The briefing included the general provisions and timing, process elements, and an outline of the specific requirements and considerations for the power plan as described in sections 4(d)(1), 4(e), and 4(f) of the Power Act, as well as details on the relationship of the Council's Power Plan to Bonneville and the rest of the region.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19038/2025_01_5a.pdf.

b. Briefing on Scoping Questions in Preparation for the Ninth Plan

i. Proposal of Existing Policies to Incorporate in Plan Starting Point

Resource Policy Analyst Annika Roberts and Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis shared an outline of existing policies to be represented in the Ninth Plan starting point and a high-level understanding of how they will be incorporated. The summary covered regional, WECC-wide, and federal energy policies. It also addressed which policies impact our approach to planning and how the different policies interact with each other. Staff need to finalize the list of policies to be included in the starting point by February as they prepare new resource options, load forecasts, and models.

Presentation materials are at:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19033/2025_01_5b1.pdf.

ii. Representation of Extreme Weather in Climate Change Data

Power System Analysts Dan Hua and Dor Hirsh Bar Gai shared how extreme weather is currently captured in the climate change data used in the Plan. This included extreme temperatures and correlation of wind generation to extreme temperatures. Staff are still considering how best to represent this wind/temperature correlation, as well as the proposed scope of analysis focusing on extreme weather and will report back at a future meeting.

Presentation materials are at:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19034/2025_01_5b2.pdf.

iii. Approach to Modeling Operational Risks from Wildfires

Dor Hirsh Bar Gai presented the approach to modeling the operational risks from wildfires, including the risk of transmission derating, smoke-induced reduction of solar generation capacity factors, and considering the location value of resources due to smoke cover. By embedding the operational risk of wildfires in the modeling and data, the goal is to have “wildfire-informed” planning included across the scenario modeling. Staff’s goal is to have this approach to modeling operational risks from wildfires finalized by spring of this year in advance of the needs assessment and scenario modeling.

Presentation materials are at:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19035/2025_01_5bc.pdf

6. Council Business

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize a contract with Korn Ferry Organizational Consultant to assist the Council members in searching for a new Executive Director, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Member Burdick seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Motion to Approve Summary of December 2024 Council Meeting

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the official summary of the December 2024 Council Meeting 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 December 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19036/2025_01_6.pdf.

Election of Officers

Chair Allen called for nominations of Council Chair of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Member Schriever nominated Member Mike Milburn for Council Chair.

Member Purce seconded.

Member Schriever spoke in support of the motion by speaking in favor of Member Milburn's work with the Council.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Chair Allen called for nominations for Council Vice Chair of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Member Pitt nominated Member Thomas L (Les) Purce for Council Vice Chair.

Member Allen Seconded.

Members Milburn and Schriever spoke in support of Member Purce for Council Vice Chair.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Public Comments

Written comments related to recent statements by Council members regarding recent progress on Columbia Basin salmon conservation efforts were submitted by David Moskowitz, Executive Director at The Conservation Angler.

Presentation materials are at:

<https://nwcouncil.box.com/s/5y5y7ul9l8qwe9f1kbjzpy5c445dorec>

Bruce Jim, Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, submitted a handwritten comment expressing concern for the fish runs and habitat, and Native American Treaty rights, that was read into the record.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m. Pacific Time.