

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

Margaret Hoffmann
Oregon

Charles F. Sams III
Oregon

Council Meeting Summary **March 11 & 12, 2025** **Council Central Office and via Webinar** **851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100** **Portland, Oregon 97204**

This is a summary of the Council's March 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-2025-03-10/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

March 11, 2025

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L (Les) Purce, Charles F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, Oregon. The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 8 & 9 in Portland, Oregon and via webinar.

Chair Introductions to Oregon Council Members

Chair Milburn began the meeting with introductions of the two new Oregon Council Members, Margaret Hoffmann and Charles F. Sams III. Members Hoffmann and Sams spoke a bit about their background and how they both look forward to contributing to the Council's work.

Motion for Executive Session

Member Purce moved that the Council meet in Executive Session on the afternoon of March 11, 2025, to discuss personnel matters.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Power Plan Update

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided a Power Plan update that included an overview of material covered at the February Council meeting, a discussion on the social cost of carbon, where staff are currently in the process, and proposed topics for upcoming Council meetings.

Presentation materials are at

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19137/powerplanupdate_2025_03.pdf.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Proposed Reference Plants for the Ninth Plan (Part 2)

Resource Policy Analyst Annika Roberts provided a follow-up presentation to the February Council meeting, where staff began the process of reviewing proposed reference plants to be analyzed in the Ninth Plan. During this presentation, Roberts outlined details of each reference plant. This included costs, availability, and timing for each resource. The presentation also incorporated feedback from the Generating Resource Advisory Committee.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19129/2025_03_01.pdf.

2. Proposed Conservation Resources Part 1

Power Planning Resources Manager Kevin Smit and Senior Resources Analyst Christian Douglass presented on energy efficiency and how this resource is defined for the purposes of building it into the Council's modeling ecosystem. This presentation included a background on energy efficiency; what's new for energy efficiency in the Ninth Plan; and a summary of the status to date (including the public review process). Over the next few months, Power staff will be finalizing all the energy efficiency supply curves. These supply curves will then be used by staff as inputs to the OptGen model to ultimately be compared alongside generating resources.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19133/2025_03_02.pdf.

3. Ninth Plan Demand Forecast Part 1

Senior Energy Forecasting Analyst Steve Simmons and Senior Power Analyst Tomás Morrissey presented a framework for the Ninth Plan demand forecast. Power staff outlined three goals for the forecast, including creating an accurate and comprehensive long-term forecast of demand for the region, delivering an informative set of inputs to the power planning models, and developing a spread of potential future demand trajectories and characteristics.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19131/2025_03_03.pdf.

4. Primer on Market Availability Study

Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis reviewed the process used to create the market availability forecast and how that process ties into the Ninth Power Plan analysis. Ollis provided a background on wholesale market resources and an overview of how the market availability forecast is developed for the power plan.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19134/2025_03_04.pdf.

5. Primer on Needs Assessment

Power System Analyst Dor Hirsh Bar Gai presented on the role of the needs assessment and the overall methodology of conducting one as part of a Power Plan. This presentation outlined how the needs assessment evaluates the resource gap in future years to guide the portfolio optimization that occurs later in the process.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19132/2025_03_05.pdf.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m. Pacific Time.

The Council met in Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time to discuss personnel matters.

March 12, 2025

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L (Les) Purce, Charles F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, Oregon. The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 8 & 9 in Portland, Oregon and via webinar.

Fish and Wildlife Committee Report

Member Schriever presented details of the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting on March 10, 2025. Included in his report were details on the Tucannon Spring Chinook population and Safety Net Strategy (SOS) presentation and the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) presentation.

Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued

6. Council Work Session Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment

a. 2025-2026 Amendment Process Update

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole provided an update on the 2025-2026 Amendment Process. An overview was provided of the program amendment process that briefly highlighted key steps and dates.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19140/2025_03_6_intro.pdf.

b. Part Two, Section III: Assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economic and reliable power supply (AEERPS)

General Counsel, John Shurts discussed in detail the Northwest Power Act, Section 4(h)(5), on assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply. Presentation materials are at <https://vimeo.com/1065242451#t=20m5s>.

c. Part Four: Adaptive Management (monitoring, effectiveness, research, data management, reporting, evaluation)

Fish and Wildlife Staff provided an overview of the adaptive management cycle, including monitoring, effectiveness, research, data management, reporting, evaluation, and the risk uncertainty matrix. The presentation gave an update on the status of adaptive management in the Program and highlighted key issues.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19139/2025_03_6_adaptive.pdf.

d. Part Five: Subbasin Plans

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O’Toole and Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Heather Hendrixson presented on subbasin plans. Details included why the plans exist, the history of the process that was used to develop them, how they are adopted into the Program, how they are being used today, some of the issues around them, and potential next steps.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19138/2025_03_6_subbasinplans.pdf.

Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued

7. RTF Policy Advisory Committee Charter Renewal

Regional Technical Forum Manager, Laura Thomas requested a renewal of the Regional Technical Forum Policy Advisory Committee (RTF PAC) charter with revisions and to appoint member organizations.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19130/2025_03_07.pdf.

Motion to Approve the RTF Policy Advisory Committee Charter Renewal

Member Purce moved that the Council approve the renewal with revisions of the charter for Regional Technical Forum’s Policy Advisory Committee, and approve the list of member organizations of the RTF PAC, as presented by staff.

Member Golden seconded.

Member Sams asked a question regarding who the Federal Officer is.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

8. Council Business

Motion to Approve Summary of February 2025 Council Meeting

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the official summary of the February 2025 Council Meeting via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Allen seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the February 2025 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19128/2025_03_8.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m. Pacific Time.