

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 **February 10, 2026** **Council Central Office and via Webinar** **851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100** **Portland, OR 97204**

This is a summary of the Council's February 2026 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-2026-02-10/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

February 10, 2026

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the Council Meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, Doug Grob, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Chuck F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in person. Council Member KC Golden attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 10 & 11, in Portland, OR, and via webinar.

Executive director report and state updates

Executive Director Peter Cogswell thanked John Hairston for his 30 years of service in the region as Chief Administrative Officer at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and for his support of the Council. He also welcomed Ben Zelinsky to BPA as Executive Vice President. Director Cogswell thanked staff for their work on the public hearings on the draft Fish and Wildlife Program that have been taking place across the region. Lastly, he shared an update on the Central Office lobby remodel.

Members briefly spoke on the public hearings that have been held in their states and the significance of these meetings to the region.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program amendment update

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Mauren Hess and Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole provided a brief update on the current stage of the amendment process, highlighting the public review process and timelines, including the public hearing schedule.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19751/2026_02_1.pdf.

2. Bonneville Environment, Fish and Wildlife Program update

Director O'Toole introduced Jason Sweet, Executive Manager of the Fish and Wildlife Program at BPA, to provide an update for the Council on the Environment, Fish and Wildlife Program. This included department and staffing updates and a high-level look at the program's expense and capital budgets for fiscal year 2026, along with fiscal year 2025 spending levels.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19752/2026_02_2.pdf.

3. Regional coordinator reports on invasive species efforts

Policy Analyst/Biologist Stacy Horton introduced regional partners working on invasive species prevention and management: Jessica LaBelle with Washington Invasive Species Council, Russ Hartzell with Montana Invasive Species Council, Keith DeHart with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Blaine Parker with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Nic Zurfluh with Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The group presented on invasive species to raise awareness, identify potential pathways and threats to mitigation, and emphasize the importance of prevention efforts underway. They shared a cross-section of the work being done in the region to prevent and address invasive species.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19754/2026_02_3.pdf.

4. Preparing for invasive freshwater mussels, assessing hydropower and hatchery infrastructure

Policy Analyst/Biologist Stacy Horton introduced James Littlely with Okanagan Basin Water Board, Justin Bush with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Michael Stephenson with Idaho Power Company. The group discussed the potential impacts of invasive mussels to vulnerable raw water infrastructure that is important to the Fish and Wildlife Program and the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS).

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19750/2026_02_4.pdf.

5. Power Plan Update

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided an update on the status of scenario modeling, revisited the Power Plan's table of contents, and walked through upcoming Council meeting topics.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19747/2026_02_5.pdf.

6. Panel on supply side emerging technologies

Resource Policy Analyst Annika Roberts briefly summarized the previously discussed approach for incorporating emerging technologies through a proxy plant in the Ninth Plan. She then introduced a panel focused on additional emerging technologies and their relevance to the region: Ben Serrurier with Fervo (geothermal), Justin Klure with PacWave (wave), and Tom Bugert with Helion (fusion), who presented overviews of their respective technologies, including key characteristics and potential regional applications for the Council's consideration.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19753/2026_02_6.pdf.

7. Primer on scenario modeling results

Director Light, Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis, Senior Power Analyst Tomás Morrissey, and Power System Analyst Jake Kennedy provided background on the OptGen/SDDP model, a new tool used to analyze in-region resource optimization, ahead of the April discussion of final scenario modeling results. Staff reviewed the model's basic mechanics, key assumptions, and methodological updates, and described the types of data it produces and how those results could inform recommendations in the draft Power Plan. The discussion was intended to build a shared understanding of the model and gather member feedback to guide the next phase of analysis.

Presentation materials are available at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19748/2026_02_7.pdf.

8. Council business

Motion to approve summary of the January 2026 Council Meeting

Member Allen moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the January 2026 Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote - all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the January 2026 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19749/2026_02_8.pdf.

No public comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m. Pacific Time.