

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 **January 10, 2024** **at Portland, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's January 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-2024-01-09/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

January 10, 2024

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Pacific time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Louie Pitt Jr., Thomas L (Les) Purse, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, OR. Member KC Golden attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 6-7 in Coeur d'Alene, ID and via webinar.

Reports from the Committee Chairs and Executive Director

Fish and Wildlife Committee

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

1. Fish and Wildlife Committee Update and Planning

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director began the presentation by giving a brief division update and discussed each of the committee's agenda items,

followed by sharing the fish and wildlife agenda items for the Council meeting. O'Toole gave an update on feedback received stemming from the agenda item related to Pacific Ocean and Columbia River Harvest Management last month. Lastly, O'Toole noted staff are working on the work plan for the upcoming year that includes work related to performance on the program and a discussion of the next program amendment process.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18574/2024_01_f1.pdf.

2. Report on U.S. Government Commitments: Fish and Wildlife Related Topics

John Shurts, General Counsel for the Council and Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director provided a summary of the recently released commitments by the U.S. government that are a result of settlement discussions on river system litigation related to the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act. Some of the commitments raise issues for the Council and its fish and wildlife work. Shurts and O'Toole discussed how they intersect with Council functions.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18570/2024_01_f2.pdf.

3. Update on Informal Hatchery Workgroup Meeting

Council Staff Maureen Hess and Mark Fritsch updated the committee on the informal hatchery work group meeting held on January 8, 2024. The meeting focused on work by staff over the past two years related to the hatchery website and Program Tracker hatchery tool. The workgroup currently hosted by Council member Ed Schriever includes representatives from the states, tribes, and federal management agencies as well as representatives from utilities, non-profits, and data management organizations.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18571/2024_01_f3.pdf.

Power Committee

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

1. Power Committee Update and Planning

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, began her presentation with a brief preview of the meeting topics. Light also gave an update on the proposed approach to the Council's mid-term assessment of the 2021 Power Plan.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18573/2024_01_p1.pdf.

2. Report on U.S. Government Commitments: Power Related Topics

John Shurts, General Counsel for the Council and Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning discussed the U.S. Government commitments and how they relate to the Council's power planning obligations under the Northwest Power Act. Shurts and Light provided a summary of the commitments and outlined how those commitments intersect with the Council's ongoing power planning responsibilities under the Act.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18579/2024_01_p2.pdf.

3. Update on Long-Term Load Forecast Model Buildout

Council Principal Analyst, Steve Simmons, gave an update on the new long-term load forecasting model. With the collaboration of Council staff, Itron is in the process of building out the Statistically Adjusted End Use (SAE) Forecasting Framework to meet our long-term demand forecasting needs. The project kicked off in the fall of 2023 and is expected to be completed in April of 2024

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18575/2024_01_p3.pdf.

4. Idaho Power Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Council Energy Analyst, Dylan D'Souza introduced Idaho Power Staff Jared Ellsworth, Transmission, Distribution and Resource Planning Director, and Ian McGetrick, Senior Resource Planning Analyst, who presented on Idaho Power's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). This is the most recent plan to determine how Idaho Power will serve their customers over the next 20 years. Idaho Power faces increasing loads and transmission constraints, and the most recent plan calls for significant increase in clean energy resources, conversions of existing resources, transmission additions and improvements, and other preparations to provide adaptability and flexibility.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18577/2024_01_p4.pdf.

Public Affairs Committee

Member Pitt Jr, Public Affairs Committee chair, reported on the public affairs committee meeting held virtually on January 3, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress on the development of communications framework for the Council and to begin making further decisions regarding the next trip for the Council members to meet with the congressional delegation.

Council Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, along with communication consultants from Coates Kokes presented a draft of the current communications framework. This framework is an effort to develop high-level messaging about the work of the Council that will be targeted to those audiences new to the work of the Council. Edmonds explained we will still be delivering highly technical content for the region, however the use of high-level touchstones developed in the communication framework will help our various audiences better know the unique role of the Council. The key messages will help hold together the work of the Council on both fish and wildlife and power, so they are not seen as separate. The committee discussed the draft, and these comments will now result in some revisions to the framework. The development of this work is timely as the Council is in the process of hiring two communications professionals. Once finalized the framework will provide a useful foundation to help standardize communication efforts.

In the last public affairs committee meeting, it was decided that the Council will alternate on an annual basis between having a Congressional Staff Tour and having a trip to Washington D.C to include a Council member from each state to engage with the delegation. The date for this year's trip has not been set, but it looks promising to take place the week of April 29, 2024. Huckleberry provided a report on key Washington, D.C. items including the challenges congress faces to continue to fund government operations. He also reported on a congressional hearing regarding the U.S government commitment that was called by Congressman Cliff Bentz of Oregon's Second Congressional District.

Executive Director Report

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, following Member Pitt Jr., further discussed the efforts of the Council to inform and engage the public. Edmonds

highlighted how the work the Council is gaining in importance as broader audiences are focusing on and following the decisions that are being made by the Council. Edmonds discussed ongoing communications work by the Council including the Council's website, the monthly newsletter, and building our followers in the press.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Overview of Project #1990-077-00, Development of Systemwide Predator Control

Project Review and Implementation Manager, Mark Fritsch began the presentation providing a background on Project #1990-077-00, a basin-wide effort to harvest piscivorous northern pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*). Fritsch explained the uniqueness of this project as it has the most extensive interaction with the public of the region due to the way it is designed with sport-reward fishery. Fritsch introduced Allan Martin, Project Manager for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Eric Winther, Project Lead for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Grant Waltz, Project Lead for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Martin, Winther, and Waltz further provided an overview of the history, the recent effort to address conditions placed on the project during the project's last review by the Council, and discussed future challenges and directions for this project. The recent effort to address these conditions, based on the Independent Scientific Review Panel's (ISRP's) comments and Council recommendations, was a collective effort over the past three years by the co-managers to assess the projects implementation actions.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18576/2024_01_1.pdf.

2. Update on Carbon Emissions from the Power Sector

Annika Roberts, the Council's Resource Policy Analyst presented an update on carbon emissions from the power sector. This is a data set that has been maintained and updated with data as it is made available by both the EIA and the EPA. Roberts discussed the latest data coming from the 2022 regional and national carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation. The presentation focused on the relationship between generation source and emissions in the pacific northwest, how regional emissions compare to the wider nation, and how current resource builds, policies etc. might impact future emissions. Moving forward, this presentation update will be shared every other year.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18578/2024_01_2.pdf.

3. Council Business

Approval of December 2023 Council Meeting Summary

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for signature of the Vice Chair the summary of the December 2023 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 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18572/2024_01_3notes.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Rockcross Consulting for distributed energy resources technical support in FY 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$96,000, as presented by staff.

Member Purce seconded.

Discussion by Kevin Smit.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18569/2024_01_3rockcross.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the Council's Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2022, as presented by staff.

Member Burdick seconded.

Discussion by Bill Edmonds.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18580/2024_01_3annualreport.pdf.

Member Golden moved that Council nominate Jeff Allen for a second year as Chair.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Member Schriever moved that the Council nominate KC Golden for a second year as Vice Chair.

Member Burdick seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Pacific time.