

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 **August 16, 2023** **at Portland, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's August 2023 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-2023-08-15/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

August 16, 2023

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. PST. 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 September 12-13, 2023, via webinar.

Reports from Committees 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 August 15, 2023.

1. Fish and Wildlife Committee Update and Planning

Member Pitt gave an update on his recent meeting with Warm Spring Tribe. He reported it was a productive meeting, in which he and Council staff discussed the work on the Council with Tribal Council members and staff.

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, gave a quick update on the agenda, and the recent retirement of Leslie Bach. O'Toole also mentioned the concern over the recent warm water mass heating up the Pacific in recent months but also mentioned the persistence of cold-water upwelling along the coast that is a positive sign for Columbia River salmon.

For the report and the presentation materials, see www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18433/2023_08_f1.pdf.

2. Update on StreamNet Program: Supporting the Fish and Wildlife Program's information needs since 1988

Dr. Nancy Leonard, Program Manager for StreamNet and Co-Lead on the Coordinated Assessments Project, delivered a presentation on the resources available to the region through StreamNet, a project of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The presentation included information on how StreamNet resources relate to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and how the information are accessed and shared, along with a discussion of emerging tools and innovations. The staff over the course of this year is scheduling presentations for all seven of the data management projects.

For the report and the presentation materials, see www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18438/2023_08_f2.pdf.

Power Committee

Member Grob, power committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on August 15, 2023.

1. Power Committee Update and Planning

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, gave an update on power staff work, including enhancement of modeling tools and work on a new capacity expansion model. Light also covered future presentations on transmission and the continued work by power staff on distributed energy resources and the regional natural gas forecast.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18435/2023_08_p1.pdf.

2. Portland General Electric Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) and Clean Energy Plan

Tomás Morissey, Principal Strategy & Planning Analyst and Seth Wiggins, Integrated Resource Plan Manager, Portland General Electric, presented a summary of key findings from Portland General Electric's 2023 Clean Energy Plan and Integrated Resource Plan, which determines how PGE will serve their customers' needs over the next 20 years. This is PGE's inaugural clean energy plan in response to Oregon legislature passing House Bill 2021 (Clean Energy Targets Bill).

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18436/2023_08_p2.pdf.

Executive Director Report

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, spoke on the importance of engaging with the region. Edmonds shared his and Light's recent experience joining stakeholders from around the region to meet with representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy and others to kick off the Northwest Regional Reliable Decarbonization Planning Effort. Components of this effort can help with the work of the Council. Edmonds also mentioned the upcoming Congressional staff tour, which will connect the Council to build relationships with Congressional staff. Edmonds also announced there are two new communications positions at the Council that are now posted.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Update on Project #1992-026-01, Grande Ronde Model Watershed

Council staff Mark Fritsch began the agenda item with a brief overview of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. Fritsch introduced presenter Jesse Steele, Executive Director, Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW). Steele provided a history of Oregon's "Model Watershed", followed by an update and overview of the accomplishments administered by this project that coordinates watershed restoration within the Grande Ronde River and Imnaha River subbasins of Northeastern Oregon. The watershed activities are focused on habitat protection, restoration and enhancement for salmon and steelhead and other native fishes, while encouraging and

supporting land and water management, economics, and multiple land uses consistent with sound ecosystem management.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18431/2023_08_1.pdf.

2. Oregon Energy Legislation Round Up

Member Burdick introduced presenter Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator, Oregon Department of Energy. Splitt began the presentation with an overview of the Oregon Dept of Energy, then dove into the update on the 2023 legislative session. A significant outcome of that session was a \$90 million “Climate Package” combining two bills and establishing many new programs. Splitt shared that energy efficiency was the biggest theme in the Oregon legislature. Other major topics of the session included facility siting, planning and resilience.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18430/2023_08_2.pdf.

3. Bonneville’s Evolving Grid Effort and 2023 Cluster Study

John Ollis, the Council’s Manager of Power Planning and Analysis, introduced Jeff Cook, Vice-President, Transmission Planning and Asset Management, Bonneville Power Administration. Cook discussed that BPA is recognizing the influence of national and regional de-carbonization goals, shifting energy demands and resource distribution, increased electrification, and other relevant dynamics on the operational landscape of BPA Transmission in the upcoming twenty years. Cook reviewed the details of how BPA has initiated a strategic approach, named the Evolving Grid, aimed at effectively addressing the requirements of its customers’ needs.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18429/2023_08_3.pdf.

4. Update on Douglas PUD Operations and Hydrogen project

Member Golden introduced Gary Ivory, General Manager, Douglas PUD. Ivory provided an update on the PUD’s operations and its innovative renewable hydrogen project. Ivory celebrated the habitat conservation plans, highlighting the success of the survival studies, the hatchery, natural programs, and re-introduction. Ivory walked through the details of the East Embankment Dam Safety Drilling Program. Ivory also spoke on the hydrogen facility, specifically the hydrogen electrolyzer and how it will help them produce renewable hydrogen using hydropower that would otherwise go unused or sold at negative prices to meet the growing market for this product.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18432/2023_08_4.pdf.

5. Public Power Council Remarks

Edmonds introduced Scott Simms, CEO and Executive Director, Public Power Council (PPC). Simms began the presentation with a Public Power Council overview and an introduction to the PPC staff and capabilities. All PPC's initiatives focus on PBA competitiveness to reduce costs and boost revenue. Simms discussed the current PPC plan that includes engagement on behalf of its members in areas such as BP-24 Rate Case, post-2028 contracts, fish & wildlife mitigation/LSRDs, market development, Columbia River Treaty, and legislative efforts.

Presentation materials are at:
https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18437/2023_08_5.pdf.

6. Council Business

Approval of July 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for signature of the vice chair the minutes of the July 2023 Council Meeting, held at Portland, OR and via webinar as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.
No discussion.
Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.
Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the July 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18434/2023_08_6.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comments

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m. PST.