

**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 November 13 & 14, 2024 Portland, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's November 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-2024-11-13/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

### **November 13, 2024**

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) Purse and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, OR. The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 10 & 11 via webinar.

### **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

- 1. Council Work Session: Fish and Wildlife Amendment Preparation - Staff report on Program performance: Implementation assessment of Program habitat restoration and protection, wildlife, invasive species, predator management measures, related topics**

Fish and Wildlife staff Kris Homel and Kate Self, Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole, and consultant Leslie Bach presented excerpts from the third categorical assessment focused on implementation of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife

Program's habitat measures. The habitat assessment covered the implementation of measures across five topic areas: habitat restoration, habitat protection, wildlife, nonnative and invasive species, and predator management. The presentation began with a review of the Council's approach toward assessing program performance and key concepts. For each topic area, Program strategies, measures, the status of implementation, and key points were described. Implementation was described using Strategy Performance Indicators and other data sources. The implementation examples presented under each topic characterized the range of actions implemented throughout the Columbia Basin over the last 40 years. The presentation concluded with a discussion of Program-scale observations from these examples. The Habitat Protection portion of the presentation was deferred to January to allow for more discussion on the other parts of the assessment. The habitat assessment, along with recent categorical assessments on the hydrosystem and artificial production, provided critical information to the Council and region on the implementation and performance of the Program in anticipation of the upcoming Program amendment process.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18967/2024\\_11\\_1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18967/2024_11_1.pdf).

### **Report from Executive Director**

Executive Director Bill Edmonds provided a report to the Council, focused on discussing the Council's mission and responsibilities. As the Council remains nonpartisan and aims to serve the entire region, the work is always focused on the NW Power Act, and part of that work includes structured and systematic agenda planning for the Council meetings.

### **Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued**

#### **2. Update on Project #2010-077-00, Tucannon River Programmatic Habitat Project**

Fish and Wildlife Division Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch introduced Kris Buelow of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board to provide an update and overview of the Tucannon River Programmatic Habitat Project that coordinates watershed restoration within the Tucannon Subbasin of Southeastern Washington. Buelow presented on habitat protection, restoration and enhancement for salmon and steelhead. This presentation was intended to provide a periodic update on the project's accomplishments and results as a part of the Council recommendation associated with the Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review in April 2022. This was the last in a series of presentations on the umbrella habitat projects in the Fish and

Wildlife Program. The Council members requested regular updates on these projects in their recommendations for the last project review cycle.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18971/2024\\_11\\_2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18971/2024_11_2.pdf).

Member Golden moved that the Council meet in Executive Session on the afternoon of November 13, 2024, to discuss personnel matters.

Member Purce seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

### **3. Discuss draft outline of letter calling for Fish and Wildlife Program amendment recommendations**

Director O'Toole and General Counsel John Shurts presented details of the written request from the Council to state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, the region's Indian tribes, and the region as a whole for program amendment recommendations to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. O'Toole and Shurts discussed the letter's outline, required elements, and ideas. If the Council continues its current schedule, the decision to formally send that letter will happen in January 2025. The members provided feedback to staff which will be incorporated in the draft letter that will be discussed at the December Council meeting.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18968/2024\\_11\\_3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18968/2024_11_3.pdf).

### **4. Report on Bonneville Fiscal Year 2025 Start of Year Fish and Wildlife budget**

Director O'Toole introduced Jason Sweet and Rodrigo George of Bonneville Power Administration to provide an update on the Fish and Wildlife Direct Program's expense and capital budgets for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, along with past reported spending levels for FY 2024. The total Fish & Wildlife Program-level FY2025 start of year planning budget is set at \$327,502,577, which includes \$302,640,015 for expense, and \$24,862,562 for capital.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18969/2024\\_11\\_4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18969/2024_11_4.pdf).

## **5. Bonneville Energy Efficiency Action Plan Update**

Manager of Power Planning Resources Kevin Smit introduced Jamae Hilliard Creecy, Bonnie Watson and Eric Mullendore with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to present an update on the Bonneville Energy Efficiency Action Plan. Details were presented on BPA's plans to continue to meet its energy conservation goal of 300 aMW from 2022 through 2027. BPA continues to track this progress and share accomplishments, success stories, and plans for the future.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18966/2024\\_11\\_5.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18966/2024_11_5.pdf).

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m. Pacific Time.

The Council met in executive session at 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time to discuss personnel matters.

### **November 14, 2024**

Chair Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time. 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., and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, OR. Member Thomas L (Les) Purse attended virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 10 & 11 via webinar.

### **Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued**

#### **Power Division Update and Planning**

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided an update that included the Power Division timeline and how it will coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife program development. Director Light also highlighted the details of the upcoming power plan topics that will require Council direction to staff to help shape the power plan.

Presentation materials are at <https://vimeo.com/1029824323#t=0m25s>.

## **6. Proposed Approach to Transmission and Distribution Deferral**

Senior Power Analyst Tomás Morrissey presented a brief background on transmission and distribution (T&D) deferral and provided an outline to the draft T&D deferral methodology and next steps in finalizing this assumption for Power Plan analysis.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18965/2024\\_11\\_6.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18965/2024_11_6.pdf).

## **7. Report by the Independent Scientific Advisory Board on their review of the Fish and Wildlife Program**

Independent Science Manager Erik Merrill introduced Tom Quinn, John Epifanio, and Stan Gregory with the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) to present the 2024 Review of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. In this review, the ISAB highlighted several valuable improvements made after the 2018 review that strengthened the scientific basis of the Program. The ISAB also identified several areas that could be strengthened and recommended approaches to track progress toward achieving the mitigation goals of the Program.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18970/2024\\_11\\_7.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18970/2024_11_7.pdf).

## **8. Transmission Landscape Update**

Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis introduced members of the panel to discuss transmission planning on a national and regional level. Paul Wetherbee of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory presented on the National Transmission Planning study. Matthew Tisdale of Gridworks presented on the Connected West study. Jennifer Galaway of Portland General Electric provided an update on the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition, also known as WestTEC, which is embarking on a 20-year transmission study for the West. Kyle Kohne of Bonneville Power Administration provided an update on Bonneville's Evolving Grid efforts, including an overview of recently announced transmission projects identified through its most recent cluster study.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18963/2024\\_11\\_8.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18963/2024_11_8.pdf).

## **9. 2025 RTF Work Plan Approval, Presentation on 2025-2029 Funding**

Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Manager Laura Thomas presented the proposed 2025 RTF budget while seeking approval from the Council for the 2025 RTF Work Plan.

Thomas discussed the RTF activities outlined in the charter, presented the many values the RTF brings to the region, shared a list of RTF funders, and outlined process for developing the scope for the next five-year funding agreement. Details of the proposed 2025 RTF budget were discussed, with Thomas seeking approval from the Council for the 2024 RFT Work Plan and budget of \$2,106,300.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18964/2024\\_11\\_9.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18964/2024_11_9.pdf).

### **Motion to Approve RTF Work Plan and Budget**

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the work plan for the Regional Technical Forum for 2025, including the budget of \$2.1 million, as recommended by the RTF Policy Advisory Committee and presented by staff.

Member Purce seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

## **10. Council Business**

### **Motion to Approve Summary of October 2024 Council Meeting**

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the official summary of the October 2024 Council Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, 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 October 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18972/2024\\_11\\_10.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18972/2024_11_10.pdf).

### **Public Comments**

No public comment.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m. Pacific Time.