

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 **July 12, 2023** **at Portland, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's July 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-2023-07-11/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

July 12, 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, Thomas L (Les) Purse, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, OR. Member Louie Pitt Jr. was in attendance virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 15-16, 2023, in Portland, OR and via webinar.

Motion to Add Agenda item to Council Business

Vice Chair Golden moved the Council to add to the agenda of this meeting a discussion of a staff recommendation for authority to contract for government affairs services. All members were in favor of the motion.

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 July 11, 2023.

1. Fish and Wildlife Committee Update and Planning

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, noted that beginning with this meeting, the Fish and Wildlife Committee meetings will commence with a new committee update and planning agenda item, allowing staff to address essential monthly topics briefly. The content included a check-in on the division work plan, updates on regional fish and wildlife developments, follow-ups from prior Council discussions, and a preview of activities progressing toward Council deliberation, providing Committee members an opportunity to discuss and participate.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18363/2023_07_f1.pdf.

2. Update on Columbia River (DART) Data Access in Real Time

Dr. Jennifer Gosselin, Co-Director of Columbia Basin Research (University of Washington) and DART Principal Investigator; and Susannah Iltis, Web Computing Specialist for Columbia Basin Research (UW), delivered a presentation on the resources available to the region through the Data Access in Real Time (DART) project of the University of Washington. The presentation included information on how DART resources relate to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and how they are assessed and shared, along with a discussion of emerging tools or innovations.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18364/2023_07_f2.pdf.

3. Presentation on Improved productivity of naturalized spring Chinook salmon following reintroduction from a hatchery stock in Lookingglass Creek, Oregon

Hayley Nuetzel, Fishery Scientist/Project Leader, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, gave an update on a recent publication, associated with Project #2009-009-00, which showed that fish reintroduced from a hatchery stock possess the adaptive capacity to positively contribute to natural productivity and recovery goals.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18365/2023_07_f3.pdf.

4. State of Washington Interagency Northern Pike Rapid Response Plan Overview

Jesse Schultz, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Planner 5 and Dr. Erika Rubenson, Four Peaks Environmental & Data Science, Senior Scientist, provided an overview of the new state of Washington interagency Northern Pike rapid response plan. They highlighted the plan's purpose, goals, and objectives and walked through key components of the plan. Their presentation highlighted prevention and early detection, detection verification, rapid response, and extended response activities available in the plan.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18366/2023_07_f4.pdf.

Power Committee

Member Grob, power committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on July 11, 2023.

1. Power Committee Update and Planning

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, noted that beginning with this meeting, the Power Committee meetings will open with a new Committee update and planning agenda item, allowing staff to address important monthly topics, provide an introduction to agenda items and their connection to the division's work plan, and update the Committee on ongoing division work, including follow-ups from Council discussions and a preview of upcoming activities for future Council deliberation. Additionally, this item will offer an opportunity for Committee members to ask questions, discuss items, and propose future discussion or agenda items.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18367/2023_07_p1.pdf.

2. Considering Emerging Technologies in Power System Planning

John Ollis, the Council staff's Manager of Planning and Analysis, and Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning, presented on the role of emerging technologies in power system planning. Ollis and Light explained what power system gaps are currently seen with the use of conventional technologies, what emerging technologies are under development, and how emerging technologies are considered in the power plan development process.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18368/2023_07_p2.pdf.

3. Emerging Trends in Battery Storage

Council staff, Dylan DSouza, Energy Analyst, and Annika Roberts, Resource Policy Analyst, presented on trends in the development and use of storage technologies, especially battery storage. They noted that the evolving energy landscape, characterized by clean energy policies, renewable energy expansion, and electrification, requires a flexible system that can work with intermittent resources and ensure grid reliability without overloading transmission. The presentation focused on utility-scale battery storage, a rapidly advancing technology generating substantial interest, while also highlighting other storage forms with similar benefits. Staff discussed policies driving storage adoption, existing and planned storage resources, and current and emerging technologies.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18369/2023_07_p3.pdf.

4. 2023 Puget Sound Energy Electric Progress Report

Elizabeth Hossner, Manager of Planning and Analysis, Puget Sound Energy, presented a summary of key findings from the 2023 Electric Progress Report from PSE to determine how PSE will serve their customers' needs over the next 20 years. Due to increasing loads and changing Washington and federal policies, this progress report featured increased future reliance on non-emitting resources and distributed energy resources (DERs) and discussed options for addressing resource deliverability issues.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18370/2023_07_p4.pdf.

Executive Director Report

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds began by expressing gratitude to the Division Directors for presenting to the Council more detailed context for each of their committee presentations during the meetings.

Edmonds discussed with the Council a book written by the Council's first Chair, former Washington Governor and Senator Dan Evans, and shared the concept of "facing the public" and the importance of engaging with the public by regional outreach.

Chair's Comments on Letter from Governors

Chair Allen shared with the Council a comment letter received from all four regional Governors. The letter highlighted their support for the Council's budget, for resolving long-term funding needs, and for the work of the Council generally.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. ISRP Review of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Spring/Summer Chinook Program

Council staff Mark Fritsch and Erik Merrill began the agenda item with a brief overview and history of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP), including operations and maintenance funding and the history of review by the Council's Independent Scientific Review Panel(ISRP). Fritsch highlighted that since 2001, Bonneville has directly funded the operations and maintenance expenses of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Program (LSRCP) through a "direct fund" agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), despite this still being categorized as a "reimbursable" funding activity. Fritsch also explained the relationship between the LSRCP and the ISRP and Council project review.

Merrill introduced presenters Stan Gregory, ISRP Chair, and Richard Carmichael, ISRP Vice Chair, to share the (ISRP's key findings and recommendations from its review of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) Spring/Summer Chinook Program.

Carmichael began with background information on the LSRCP, a program designed to mitigate the impact of construction and operation of the four lower Snake River federal dams. Carmichel explained that the LSRCP aims to achieve a target of 58,700 adult spring/summer Chinook salmon returning to and passing through the LSRCP project area. However, the program has experienced a decline in adult returns in recent years, ranging from over 50,000 in its early years to less than 10,000 in 2017. Despite efforts, the returns have remained low, and the ISRP's presentation highlighted the management objectives and challenges, along with recommendations to enhance program performance, acknowledging that certain obstacles hindering program success cannot be addressed solely by LSRCP program actions.

Carmichael highlighted several program limitations of the LSRCP, including very low smolt to adult return ratios (SARs) due to high mortality rates at various life stages, difficulties achieving broodstock and smolt production objectives due to low adult returns, and the lack of natural-origin returns close to the assumed annual number after dam construction. Moreover, limited distribution of Chinook adults to traditional Tribal fishing areas, climate change impacts on smolt-to-adult survival and hatchery operations, and flat funding restricting hatchery operations, maintenance, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management were also identified as challenges.

Gregory presented 12 key findings and recommendations for the LSRCP program and its cooperators, including adapting to meet adult return goals, enhancing ESA considerations in monitoring, reducing hatchery fish straying, accounting for age-at-maturity, and conducting program-wide assessments. The suggestions also covered tribal harvest share, climate change assessments, improved decision-making, standardized methods, and additional metrics for performance assessment.

Fritsch shared that Council staff will draft a letter to request that Bonneville, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and partners consider the 12 ISRP key findings and programmatic recommendations for the spring/summer Chinook program, and later report to the Council on how these findings and recommendations are being addressed across all programs after the follow-on steelhead and fall Chinook program reviews.

Presentation materials are at:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18384/2023_07_c1updated.pdf.

2. Western Resource Adequacy Program Update

Jennifer Light introduced Ryan Roy, Director of Operations & Technology, Western Power Pool, to provide the Council an update about the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP). Roy began the presentation by providing a brief history of WRAP, and the implementation ahead. Roy explained WRAP's 2023 focus, which includes business practice development, review and approvals, and implementation of the non-binding operations program.

Roy noted that WRAP participants are also evaluating market alternatives like CAISO's Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM) and SPP's Markets+. Ensuring WRAP's value proposition requires consideration of transmission interactions with these markets. A recent whitepaper analyzed hypothetical transmission transfer scenarios, highlighting the need for documented tariff language to accommodate WRAP capacity delivery.

Roy also discussed WRAP's Summer 2023 status. He highlighted the importance of both having sufficient capacity allocated appropriately to meet the demand and reducing reliance on competitive market imports to mitigate load risks.

During the meeting, Member Grob inquired about the fluidity provided by the WRAP in the presence of two evolving markets, and Roy confirmed that participants in the WRAP are interested in ensuring the recognition of economic dispatch. Member Burdick raised questions about the inclusion of renewable energy in WRAP's program, to which Roy mentioned that there is a capacity contribution for renewable energy and WRAP provides accreditation for such energy. Responding to a question about how energy efficiency is considered, Roy explained that it is aggregated to historical loads and credited accordingly. Member Golden expressed appreciation for the work of the WRAP and sought clarification on ensuring the value proposition WRAP in relation to markets. Roy explained that they utilize day-ahead markets to predict needs and optimize energy supply to address these concerns, and it is important that any transmission assumed for the WRAP requirements continues to be available to the WRAP and not impacted by the market. Roy also shared WRAP's governance structure.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18372/2023_07_c2.pdf.

3. Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance Cycle 7 Business Planning

Jennifer Light introduced Becca Yates, Executive Director, and Jeff Harris, Chief Transformation Officer with the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) to present an overview of NEEA's work, its business planning process, and highlights of the next business plan for cycle 2025-2029.

Yates provided an introduction to NEEA and its market transformation efforts, which includes identifying barriers and opportunities and evaluating market progress. Yates highlighted the value of a regional alliance which includes emerging technologies, market strategy and execution, codes and standards, collaboration, and research and evaluation. Yates discussed that NEEA has successfully introduced over 500 incentivized energy-efficient products in more than 270 store locations throughout the Northwest. These products not only save consumers energy and money, particularly in cold climates, but NEEA also focuses on raising awareness and training installers in rural areas of the region. Yates emphasized that NEEA strives to provide a strong value proposition and ensures that their technology is effective even in cold climates, using developed curriculums to support the region.

Yates outlined the key themes from the Strategic Plan, emphasizing the growing need for energy efficiency, market transformation as their primary focus, evolutionary opportunities, and common ground amidst shifting utility needs and policy drivers. Presenter Yates shared NEEA's draft strategic goals and metrics for 2025-2029, focusing on transforming energy efficiency markets, accelerating grid-enabled end-use technologies adoption, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and ensuring equitable energy efficiency benefits for Northwest consumers.

Member Golden expressed appreciation for NEEA's goals and prioritization during the meeting. Golden inquired about additional opportunities that substantial public investments could provide to NEEA. Yates responded that having funding security and clarity on its use are crucial in expanding their existing work and achieving their goals. Member Burdick raised a question about the commitment to rental property and delivering energy efficiency in an equitable manner. Harris explained the need for engagement with property owners, who are the decision-makers for the properties. NEEA is working to understand their motivations and adapt business propositions to encourage property owners to accept and adopt energy efficiency resources.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18373/2023_07_c3.pdf.

4. State Utility Commissioner Panel

Jennifer Light introduced Megan Decker, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission; James Brown, President, Montana Public Service Commission; David Danner, Chair Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission; and Edward Lodge, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission to share their current priorities and key work over the next year. The panel addressed many of the same issues the Council grapples with, including ensuring resource adequacy with an evolving system, reserves, and the impacts on load of decarbonization policies.

Decker shared updates about the work the Oregon Public Utility Commission is doing. Decker mentioned experiencing increased extremes in load and weather conditions and highlighted the PUC's responsibility in overseeing transportation and distribution system plans, including a wildfire mitigation plan. Decker discussed the requirements of clean energy plans mandated by Oregon's 100% clean electricity law and their gas integrated resources plan with a focus on climate protection. Oregon's strategy also involves supporting and engaging with the WRAP while being mindful of its limitations. Furthermore, Decker emphasized the importance of continuing reliability planning and expressed interest in the innovative metrics being reviewed by the Council. For this

year, the PUC's focus will be on reviewing integrated resource plans and clean energy plans, with plans to update PUC oversight guidelines accordingly.

Connected by webinar, Brown gave an overview of the Montana Public Services Commission, which regulates the utilities serving two-thirds of customers in the state. Their focus is on an integrated resource plan, with significant reliance on green energy from the hydro system. Northwestern Energy aims for carbon neutrality by 2050. Challenges include resource adequacy, cold weather supply, and legal issues related to a natural gas plant. Montana's laws on electric resource planning were revised to include stakeholder involvement, and Brown is part of a committee reporting to the governor on the need for further statutory changes. The Commission hosted a resource adequacy forum in December 2022 to enhance communication with neighboring states.

Danner provided an overview of the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission's activities. Danner explained that the commission aims to set rates as low as possible while ensuring utilities can still make profits for their investments. Danner highlighted that Washington has passed significant legislation, requiring all utilities to be off coal by 2025 and become carbon-free by 2045. To achieve this, utilities have to reduce their emissions or pay allowances. However, climate change and extreme weather events have made planning more challenging. The Washington legislature has expanded its focus to include economic development and environmental concerns. Resource adequacy is a major issue, and WRAP plays a crucial role in the region's plans. About half of the utilities in Washington are regulated by the commission, and they encourage participation in WRAP to create the highest and best value for the entire region. The commission also promotes new infrastructure and energy efficiency initiatives. Moreover, the electrification of transportation will have a large impact on electricity loads.

Lodge presented an overview of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's work. Lodge informed the attendees that the commission recently approved a transmission line project, which will contribute to regional resource adequacy. He also noted the advantages of operating efficiencies and resource sharing that has been instrumental in ensuring adequacy in the region.

The Council members then engaged in a broad discussion with the commissioners.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18374/2023_07_c4.pdf.

5. Council Perspective on Conservation Savings

The Council's Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided a perspective on how the Council tracks conservation in the region. Light discussed four different areas of conservation savings: program saving, NEEA Initiative savings, market savings, and codes and standards. Light specifically spoke to Bonneville's portion of NEEA initiative savings and how in general the Council's 2021 Power Plan explains how Bonneville is to acquire efficiency for its portion of the conservation program.

Light discussed the 2021 Plan's Conservation Program outlining the regional and Bonneville targets for energy efficiency. The regional target aims for 750-1000 aMW by the end of 2027, with cost-effectiveness based on achieving 750 aMW, and a 20-year target of at least 2,400 aMW by 2041. The Bonneville target is set at 270-360 aMW by the end of 2027, with 243 aMW from programmatic savings. The Bonneville target was established based on the portion of cost-effective energy efficiency available within the Bonneville customer utilities' footprint. The Council's decision on the cost-effective amount of efficiency took into account model results and other values that efficiency offers, such as hedging against reliance on future resource development and market prices, non-quantifiable benefits like enhanced resilience and grid flexibility, and its ability to support jurisdiction-specific decarbonization goals.

Light highlighted the plans for tracking the region's progress against the 2021 Power Plan conservation program through the annual Regional Conservation Progress Report (RCP). The RCP involves an annual survey of utilities, Bonneville, NEEA, and Energy Trust of Oregon. The report will include identifying cost-effective energy efficiency achieved in support of the target, as well as other, more expensive, efficiency achieved in support of other goals of the conservation program. The report's findings and updates will be presented at the upcoming September Council meeting.

Presentation materials are at:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18375/2023_07_c5.pdf.

6. Council Business

Approval of June 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for signature of the vice chair the minutes of the June 2023 Council Meeting, held at Victor, WA 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 June 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18378/2023_07_c6a.pdf.

ISRP Member Appointment and Term Renewal Decision

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize the appointment of Yolanda Morbey to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and approve second terms on the ISRP for Dana Infante and Kenneth Rose.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18376/2023_07_c6b.pdf.

Authorization to contract for government affairs services

Member Golden moved that Council authorize staff to execute a short-term contract for government affairs services in an amount not to exceed a total of \$90,000 spread over the end of FY2023 and for a short but indefinite period into FY2024.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18380/2023_07_c6d.pdf.

Decision to adopt Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2024 Revised budget

Member Golden moved that the Council adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2024 revised budget as presented by staff, and also authorize reprogramming of available Fiscal year 2023 funds for unanticipated Fiscal year 2023 costs.

Member Burdick seconded.
No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.
Motion was approved.

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18377/2023_07_c6c.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comments

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m. PST.