

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 13 & 14, 2024** **via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's August 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-2024-08-13/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

August 13, 2024

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:00 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 virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 10 & 11 in Astoria, OR and via webinar.

Report from Public Affairs Committee

Member Louie Pitt Jr. discussed the Public Affairs Committee meeting that took place on August 12, 2024. At the meeting, staff shared updates on the Council's communication channels and will be following up with additional website and media coverage analytics. Other discussions included: how the Council's resource adequacy work is being shared, how media coverage differs across the region, and a potential story about the steelhead returns. It was announced that Carol Winkel, the Council's Senior Writer and Editor, will be retiring after 24 years of service with the Council. Member Pitt thanked Winkel for her many years of service.

Report from Executive Director

Bill Edmonds, the Council's Executive Director, shared his excitement regarding the recent work of the Council's Public Affairs team and encouraged all attendees to sign up for the Council's Spotlight newsletter. During the presentation, it was announced that Council work is increasing, and this will result in longer Council meetings. Edmonds thanked staff for their extra efforts during this increased workload. Edmonds briefly shared his enthusiasm for the agenda item on the update on the Columbia River Treaty negotiations as this presentation highlights the role of the Council as an important convener on issues critical to the region.

Fish and Wildlife Division Update and Planning

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director provided an overview of agenda items related to Fish and Wildlife. These include an update on the Columbia River Treaty negotiations and a staff discussion of how the treaty information will be tracked to understand the implications for the Council's fish and wildlife and power planning work. Other items include: an avian predation overview, an update on the response to the detection of quagga mussels, and a staff update on the July Regional Coordination Forum meeting. Lastly, O'Toole briefly discussed the upcoming Fish and Wildlife program amendment process by presenting a timeline and calendar of program amendment topics for the remainder of 2024.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Update on Columbia River Treaty Negotiations

Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, Patty O'Toole, welcomed the representatives of the federal negotiating team on the Columbia River Treaty, including Jill Smail with the U.S. Department of State, Pete Dickerson with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ryan Couch with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Roland Springer with the Bureau of Reclamation, and Hub Adams with the Bonneville Power Administration. The presentation provided a background of the Treaty that has been in effect between the U.S. and Canada for 60 years. The two countries announced an agreement in principle to modernize the Treaty on July 11, 2024. Presenters discussed coordinated power operations, provisions for flood risk management, flows for salmon, studies regarding future transmission expansion, coordination of salmon reintroduction studies and the development of an indigenous-led body to advise on how Treaty operations can better serve ecosystem needs.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18848/2024_0813_1.pdf.

2. Staff Discussion of Columbia River Treaty Agreement in Principle

Jennifer Light, the Council's Power Planning Division Director, and Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director briefly discussed the implications of some of the changes in operations represented by the agreement in principle for the Council's power planning and fish and wildlife work. Light discussed details of the coordinated power operations/Canadian entitlement. O'Toole spoke to flood risk management and flows for salmon migration. The presentation highlighted the need for further information to fully understand these implications and to integrate the agreement into the Council's work.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18848/2024_0813_1.pdf.

3. Avian Predation on Salmon and Steelhead in the Columbia River Basin- An update on lessons learned, successes, and emerging issues

Windy Schoby, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Idaho Policy Analyst, provided a brief background on avian predation on salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin and introduced Allen Evans, a Scientist with Real Time Research, Inc, to discuss impacts of fish-eating waterbird species and how they impact salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River. Evans provided a brief history of the avian work and then summarized three specific avian predation management plans. He highlighted lessons learned, successes, and emerging issues associated with the management plans that address concerns regarding Caspian Terns, Double-Crested Cormorants, various gulls and White Pelicans. Management strategies discussed include reducing the size of breeding pair colonies, creating alternative habitats and reducing habitat, culling eggs, conducting monitoring, and various adaptive management strategies.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18847/2024_0813_3.pdf.

4. Update on Response to Detection of Quagga Mussels

Council's Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst and Biologist introduced Nic Zurfluh with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and Justin Bush with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The presentation is a follow up on the presentation in November 2023 from the Idaho Department of Agriculture following the discovery of detection of quagga mussel larvae in the Snake River. Zurfluh shared an update on the rapid response treatment, lessons learned and ongoing efforts to understand results.

Bush summarized the efforts of the State of Washington to increase prevention and early detection monitoring and readiness, including activities to prepare for downstream detections, and outreach with partners. He also provided information on the environmental and economic risk of an invasion. Zurfluh then shared an update on the rapid response efforts following the detection verification in September 2023. He described the ongoing containment measures, the various stream surveys, and the specific chemical treatment used for larvae detection.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18851/2024_0813_4.pdf.

5. Staff Update on Regional Coordination Forum

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist, Maureen Hess, and Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, provided a brief update on the highlights from the July 11, 2024, Regional Coordination Forum meeting. Topics discussed included an update on Program performance, an update on the Program amendment process, and an update on Project review. The Forum also included a continued discussion on both funding adequacy and defining roles. The next Forum meeting will occur in October to discuss the upcoming Fish and Wildlife amendment process.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18849/2024_0813_5.pdf.

6. Update on Project Review

The Council's Fish and Wildlife staff Patty O'Toole, Mark Fritsch, and Maureen Hess began the presentation by discussing the background for the project review process. Presenters shared a summary of the updated project review process for existing projects (details described at the May 2023, October 2023, and May 2024 Committee meetings). Presenters explained that the premise for revising the review process is that existing projects have been reviewed many times and that the scientific soundness of existing projects has been accepted. It was explained that the next review will focus on lands projects – these were selected because most have not been reviewed recently (2017 for most projects) and this review aligns with work to assess program performance. It was highlighted that based on feedback from regional fish and wildlife managers regarding the overlap in timing with the Program amendment process, staff proposed to send a follow up notice to project managers to defer the start of the Lands project review to spring/summer 2025. Council members were supportive of the staffs suggestion to defer the start of the review, in response to feedback from project sponsors..

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18841/2024_0813_6.pdf.

Power Division Update and Planning

Jennifer Light, the Council's Power Planning Division Director, provided an update on how the meeting agenda connects to the Power division work plan. Light said the update on the market price forecast and the marginal emissions forecast is one of the regular studies developed by staff. Other meeting agenda items are a part of the ongoing primer series to help the Council prepare for the ninth power plan. These primers include highlights of the new load forecast model, the approach to generating resource reference plants, and approach to distributed solar.

7. Wholesale Price and Marginal Emissions Forecast

John Ollis, Council's Manager of Planning and Analysis, presented on the process used to create the market price forecast and an analysis of the underlying buildout information for different scenarios. Ollis then shared how these buildouts are projected to affect both prices and avoided emissions rates in the region over the next 20 years. Lastly, Ollis discussed the feedback on the work provided by the System Analysis Advisory Committee as well as the planned next steps.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18840/2024_0813_7.pdf.

8. New Long-Term (20 year) Load Forecast Model and Updates Planned for Ninth Plan

The Council's Senior Energy Forecasting Analyst, Steven Simmons, provided a review of the new long-term load forecast model in cooperation with the Council's Senior Power Analyst, Tomás Morrissey. Simmons also introduced Michael Russo, the Senior Forecast Consultant at Itron Inc. Simmons began the presentation by providing a background on demand forecasting at the Council, describing the evolving demand picture, the model required, and the future milestones for this work. Russo presented an overview of Itron's tool. Lastly, Simmons and Morrissey presented the forecast framework showing the model's use of individual balancing authorities; exploring various residential, commercial, and industrial inputs to demand; describing the model's use of various temperature inputs from multiple weather stations; and more.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18842/2024_0813_8.pdf.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m. Pacific time.

August 14, 2024

Chair Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Pacific time.

Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued

9. Remarks from Bear Prairie, ID Falls Power General Manager: Perspective on Gas Peaker

Nate Clayville, the Council's Idaho Energy Policy Advisor, introduced Bear Prairie the General Manager of Idaho Falls Power, to speak about the utility's decision making process to determine its need for future generating resources. Prairie presented a detailed overview of Idaho Falls Power and the purpose of the white paper he prepared on resource selection. Specifically, Prairie discussed Idaho Falls Power's framework and decision regarding the development of a gas peaker.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18843/2024_0813_9.pdf.

10. Developing Reference Plants Primer and Assessment of Resource Plant Options for the Plan

The Council's Resource Policy Analyst, Annika Roberts, presented a primer on developing reference plants. She also provided an early review of resource options to be considered in preparation for the ninth power plan. Roberts began the presentation by providing a roadmap to building the power plan and some detail on progress along this timeline. She discussed specifics regarding the development of a reference plant and then presented a few details on resource categories, emerging technology, and next steps.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18846/2024_0813_10.pdf.

11. Distributed Solar Primer

Council Power Staff Kevin Smit and Joe Walderman presented on distributed solar in the Pacific Northwest and covered the approach for analyzing distributed solar in preparation for the ninth power plan. The presentation began with context including a look at the numbers of small-scale solar installations around the country and their distribution by state. They then provided background on distributed solar system

characteristics including solar panel characteristics, inverter considerations, and solar plus battery configurations. The presentation included discussion of community, solar cost trends, and estimates for distributed solar potential.

Presentation materials are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18852/2024_0813_11b.pdf.

12. Council Business

Approval of July 2024 Council Meeting Summary

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the July 2024 Council Meeting held in Portland, OR, and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Burdick seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the July 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18845/2024_0813_12minutes.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council approve a one-year extension to the final term on the Independent Scientific Review Panel for Kurt Fausch and also approve the renewal of the ISRP membership of Tom Turner for another four-year term, as presented by staff.

Member Purce seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18844/2024_0813_12isab.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comment.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Pacific time.