

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 **October 12, 2023** **at Redmond, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's October 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-2023-10-11/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

October 12, 2023

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Pacific time. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Mike Milburn, Louie Pitt Jr., Thomas L (Les) Purse, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Redmond, OR. Member Doug Grob was in attendance virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 14-15 in Portland, OR 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 October 11, 2023.

1. Fish and Wildlife Committee Update and Planning

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director began the presentation by briefly going through the committee's agenda. O'Toole discussed the recent agreement between the Upper Columbia tribes and federal government related to reintroduction above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dam. O'Toole then mentioned the recent presidential memorandum concerning Columbia basin salmon and other native species. And she discussed the recent detection of quagga mussels in Idaho and how the state is being aggressive and proactive.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18486/2023_10_f1.pdf.

2. Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership: Supporting the Fish & Wildlife Program Since 2004

Kris Homel, the Council's Biologist for Program Performance, introduced Jen Bayer, Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) through the U.S. Geological Survey, and Co-Lead on the Coordinated Assessments Project. During the presentation, Bayer discussed the resources offered by the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) and their relevance to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, emphasizing access and sharing methods. The presentation also covered emerging tools and innovations in this context.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18485/2023_10_f2.pdf.

3. Update on Project Review

Mark Fritsch, the Council's Project Review and Implementation Manager and Maureen Hess, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program Analyst, presented on the concepts for the next project review, which includes continuing improvements in the use of independent scientific review, continuing to emphasize transparency and accountability, and recognizing the maturity of the program and creating efficiencies where possible. Staff noted that valuable information and input has been received over the last several months from the fish and wildlife managers at the Regional Coordination Forum, from the Independent Scientific Review Panel, and from Bonneville. Next steps include confirming existing information about projects to be reviewed and working out the steps, order and other details of the project and scientific review process.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18489/2023_10_f3.pdf.

4. Hydrosystem Categorical Assessment: Overview and Examples

Council Fish and Wildlife staff Kris Homel and Kate Self, former staff and now contractor Leslie Bach, and director Patty O'Toole presented their continuing efforts to develop methods and reports for evaluating overall Fish and Wildlife Program performance and progress. The assessment presented to the committee connected hydrosystem actions called for in the Council's program over the last 40 years with implementation of those actions. Staff reviewed in detail two examples: First, they discussed juvenile migration and spring seasonal flows for salmon and steelhead, and then discussed reservoir operations at Libby dam for the benefit of resident fish. Staff included a summary of how adaptive management, hydrosystem priorities and environmental conditions have influenced implementation of these operations.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18487/2023_10_f4.pdf.

Power Committee

Member Grob, Power Committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on October 11, 2023.

1. Power Committee Update and Planning

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, gave an update on the work of the power staff and the steps moving forward in developing the Council's mid-term assessment of the 2021 Power Plan, including a proposed outline. Light also provided early thinking about the timeline for the ninth Power Plan.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18488/2023_10_p1.pdf.

2. Energy Efficiency for Small and Rural Utilities

Kevin Smit, the Council's Manager of Power Planning Resources introduced Dave Moody, Manager of Planning and Evaluation, Bonneville Power Administration and Thomas Elzinga, Energy Services Manager, Central Electric Cooperative. Their presentations reviewed the difficulties that small and rural utilities have in acquiring energy efficiency, and what actions have been taken to address these concerns and

begin discussing innovative ideas going forward. The biggest challenge shared was the lack of infrastructure and resources in the rural territories.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18490/2023_10_p2.pdf.

3. Revisit Staff Recommendation for OptGen Capital Expansion Model

John Ollis, Council's Manager of Planning and Analysis, presented a follow up to the September Council Meeting, revisiting the proposed recommendation to invest in the OptGen Capital Expansion Module. Staff shared stakeholder feedback and other information, and renewed their request for Power Committee support to use OptGen as a regional capital expansion and portfolio optimization tool. At the end of the presentation, the Committee agreed to recommend the OptGen module to the full Council.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18493/2023_10_p3.pdf.

Public Affairs Committee

Member Pitt Jr. took a moment to welcome everyone in attendance to the Redmond, Oregon area. Pitt introduced Ray Tsumpti, Government Affairs Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Executive Director Report

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, shared that the Council recognized Indigenous People Day and spoke a bit on the importance of this holiday in honoring the land's first people. Their legacy of stewardship is continued through the Council's work with the region's tribes under the Northwest Power Act, especially in developing the Council's fish and wildlife program. Edmonds highlighted that the Upper Columbia Basin Tribes and the federal government signed an agreement to begin work on phase two of the reintroduction of salmon to the Upper Columbia, a measure in the Council's program based on recommendations from the Tribes. By this agreement, Bonneville Power Administration agreed to provide \$10 million per year for 20 years towards these reintroduction studies. Edmonds also highlighted the Council's ongoing program performance efforts, noting that the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting the day before included a long discussion with staff on program implementation, focusing

specifically on mainstream flow and passage operations. Similar reports on other program categories will come from the Council's fish and wildlife staff as time allows.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Restoring Streamflow in the Deschutes River Basin

Cathy Kellon, Council's Oregon Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst, introduced Kate Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Deschutes River Conservancy and Bobby Brunoe, Secretary Treasure, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and Board Chair, Deschutes River Conservancy. Kellon provided a short background on the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC). Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the DRC's responsibilities as a Qualified Local Entity participating in the implementation of the Columbia Basin Water Transaction's Program. Fitzpatrick highlighted the DRC's collaborative efforts in securing voluntary water right leases and transfers and stressed the significance of maintaining instream flow for the well-being of fish and wildlife in the Deschutes River basin. Brunoe added to the presentation with further information of the purpose of why the work of the DRC is important.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18492/2023_10_1.pdf.

2. NorthernGrid Transmission Plan

The Council's Montana Senior Energy and Policy Analyst, Brian DeKiep introduced presenter Chelsea Loomis, Manager of Regional Transmission Planning Services, Western Power Pool. Loomis presented on the structure and work of NorthernGrid, and summarized the details of NorthernGrid's final 2030 regional transmission plan and the projects and issues underlying the work on the upcoming 2022-2032 regional transmission plan. Loomis began the presentation with an overview of NorthernGrid's balancing authority areas and the way the effort is organized. Loomis proceeded to review the schedule of deliverables for the Regional Transmission Plan, what has changed in the region since the last plan, and how the plan and proposed projects under consideration are also changing. Loomis also highlighted studies underway on the transmission needs of offshore wind, pump storage and other matters.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18491/2023_10_2.pdf.

3. Remarks from Government Affairs Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director, on behalf of Member Louie Pitt Jr., introduced Raymond Tsumpti, Government Affairs Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS). Tsumpti began the presentation by providing information on the people and cultural background of the CTWS while also speaking to the importance of natural resources to the tribes. Tsumpti shared details of the treaty signed with the US Government in 1855 and what it continues to represent to the tribes, and how the U.S. Government has the responsibility to uphold the treaty and continue to protect resources for future generations.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18479/2023_10_3.pdf.

4. 2024 Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Work Plan Approval

The Council's Regional Technical Forum (RTF) Manager, Laura Thomas, presented with the purpose of seeking Council approval of the 2024 RTF work plan and budget. Thomas provided an overview of activities outlined in the charter and highlighted values of the RTF. Next, Thomas reviewed the source of RTF funding and described past agreed-upon funding levels. The current 5-year business plan budget ends in 2024. Thomas discussed the RTF work plan development timeline and requested Council approval of the 2024-year budget.

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the work plan and budget of \$2.56 million for the Regional Technical Forum for 2024, 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.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18483/2023_10_4.pdf.

5. Regional Conservation Progress Results

Annika Roberts, the Council's Resource Policy Analyst and Laura Thomas, RTF Manager presented the 2022 Regional Conservation Progress survey, offering an update on the region's progress concerning energy efficiency goals outlined in the Council's 2021 Power Plan. The report encompassed data from various efficiency programs across the region, including those of Bonneville, customer utilities, investor-owned utilities, mid-Columbia utilities, Energy Trust of Oregon, and the Northwest

Energy Efficiency Alliance. This provided the cost-effective energy efficiency savings and related expenditures for 2022. This report marked the inaugural year of the 2021 Power Plan's Action Plan period and constituted the first assessment of progress towards these goals.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18478/2023_10_5.pdf.

6. Approval of BPA Provider of Choice comments

The Council's Director of Power Planning, Jennifer Light, presented a draft of proposed comments to Bonneville on its draft Provider of Choice Policy. Light summarized three recommendations in the comments. The first recognizes that the region is going to need to acquire significantly more resources to meet loads and that not all of that will fall on Bonneville, utilities will also be responsible. In the comments the Council would recommend generally to Bonneville that the policy and its implementation should support and not be an obstacle to new resource development. The second recommendation focuses on the situation where utilities are acquiring new resources, calling on Bonneville to provide pathways to make it easier for utilities to acquire and integrate non-federal generating resources. The final recommendation supports market developments and the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP), making sure Bonneville is building in sufficient flexibility to allow for those developments.

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the comments to Bonneville on Bonneville's draft Provider of Choice Policy, 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/18480/2023_10_6.pdf.

7. Council Business

Approval of September 2023 Council Meeting Summary

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for signature of the vice chair the summary of the September 2023 Council Meeting, held via webinar as presented by staff.

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

The approved summary of the September 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18481/2023_10_7minutes.pdf.

Authorization to contract for OptGen Module

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with PSR Energy Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$63,000 for the OptGen capital expansion and resource optimization module for the Council's GENESYS model, as presented by staff.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18484/2023_10_7psr.pdf.

Authorization to contract with Coates Kokes for communications support

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Coates Kokes for another six months in an amount not to exceed \$51,000 for strategic communications support, as presented by staff.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18482/2023_10_7coates.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m. PST.