

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 **September 13, 2023** **via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's September 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-2023-09-12/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

September 13, 2023

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 9:01 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 virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 11-12, in Redmond, OR and 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 September 12, 2023.

1. Fish and Wildlife Committee Update and Planning

Patty O'Toole, the Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director gave a quick update on this month's brief agenda, and shared the October 2023 and November 2023 Council

Meetings will be longer in length due to more agenda items. O'Toole suggested including a future agenda item for a presentation on ocean harvest based on interest; the committee agreed this presentation would be useful for the Council and for educating the members and the public.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18456/2023_09_f1.pdf.

2. Update the Intermountain Province Subbasin Data Management Project

Kris Homel, the Council's Biologist for Program Performance, introduced Dan McMeekan, Water Resources Specialist with the Intermountain Province Subbasin Data Management Project, Kalispel Tribe. McMeekan gave a presentation on the resources available to the region through the Intermountain Province Subbasin Data Management Project by the Kalispel Tribe and how this project relates to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This presentation addressed the seven questions on data management projects set by the Council to better understand the specific work that each data management project is doing, how they relate to each other, and how they relate to the Council's Program.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18458/2023_09_f2.pdf.

Power Committee

Member Grob, Power Committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on September 12, 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 the GENESYS model, and the continued tracking of market and transmission efforts across the west. Light also shared the news of a new power staff hire, Tomás Morrissey, and that the power division is preparing for an offsite retreat to plan for the mid-term assessment and the 9th power plan.

For the report and the presentation materials, see www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18460/2023_09_p1.pdf.

2. Avista 2023 Integrated Resource Plan

Tina Jayaweera, Council's Senior Advisor, introduced James Gall, Manager of Integrated Resource Planning, Avista. Gall gave a presentation on key findings from Avista's 2023 Electric Integrated Resource Plan covering their projected demand requirements and how to best meet divergent energy policies between Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) requirements and Idaho's least cost planning requirements.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18457/2023_09_p2.pdf.

3. PacifiCorp 2023 Integrated Resource Plan

Annika Roberts, Council's Resource Policy Analyst, introduced Randy Baker, Director of Resource Planning at PacifiCorp. Baker presented the findings from PacifiCorp's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), focusing on key trends and areas of interest. This plan continues to build on goals set in previous plans and identifies investments in modernized transmission, renewable energy, demand response, and advanced nuclear resources.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18459/2023_09_p3.pdf.

4. Recommendation for New Capital Expansion Model

John Ollis, Council's Manager of Planning and Analysis, presented a recommendation for a new modeling tool and change in approach that will enable the improvement of the Council's analytical capabilities. Ollis discussed the power plan process flow and the options available for modeling new capital expansion. The Committee asked for more time and more information before making its recommendation to the full Council. Staff will bring this item back in October.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18461/2023_09_p4.pdf.

Public Affairs Committee Report

Member Pitt Jr. shared discussion points from the Council's public affairs committee meeting held on Monday, September 11th. The topics of the meeting were the

congressional tour, government affairs strategy, and communications. The congressional tour was determined to be successful with 20 Congressional staff in attendance, whose knowledge of the Council expanded while forming relationships. Regarding government affairs strategy, the Council has been working with Chris Huckleberry, and there needs to be further discussion amongst the committee in determining a long-term strategy. Staff shared with the committee that the Council is hiring two communication staff members, one to be focused on power and one to be focused on fish and wildlife. Member Pitt Jr. stated it was determined that communication strategies need to be refreshed to meet the needs of the public to be informed of the Council's work.

Executive Director Report

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds highlighted the important work of the Council this year in resource adequacy and fish and wildlife performance measurement, effort that has contributed to laying the foundation for future fish and wildlife programs and the power plan. Excitingly, the Council is engaging in new ways to communicate about our work – and at the same time our work is becoming even more newsworthy. Edmonds shared that the 2024 Council Meeting calendar has been posted. The four cities for 2024 Council Meetings will be Coeur d'Alene, ID in February, Olympia, WA in April, Helena, MT in June, and Astoria, OR in September.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Update on Project #2017-005-00, Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative

Council staff Mark Fritsch began the agenda item with a brief overview of umbrella projects generally and why the Council is hearing about Pacific Lamprey Conservation & Restoration in the Columbia River Basin. Fritsch introduced presenters Ben Clemens, Kelly Coates and Max Calloway with the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative. The presentation provided an update and overview of this project's accomplishments and highlighted that it has been a cooperative effort among agencies and tribes. The project is aimed at securing funding for critical pacific lamprey restoration initiatives and aligns with concurrent efforts in the Columbia River Basin. This presentation offered a progress report on the project's achievements and outcomes, as advised in the Council's 2022 Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18464/2023_09_1.pdf.

2. Northwest Energy Coalition (NVEC) Remarks

The Council's Director of Power Planning, Jennifer Light introduced presenter Lauren McCloy, Policy Director at the Northwest Energy Coalition (NWECC), who spoke about the NWECC and explained the current priorities of the organization. During the presentation, McCloy presented insights on regional initiatives, focusing on BPA's post-2028 contracts. Additionally, McCloy highlighted NWECC's organized market priorities concerning regional market developments. McCloy also discussed energy efficiency, elaborating on the NEEA 2025-2029 strategic business plan.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18462/2023_09_2.pdf.

3. Perspective on Regional Transmission Planning Needs

John Ollis, the Council's Manager of Power Planning and Analysis introduced Spencer Gray, Executive Director, Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPCC). Gray initiated the presentation by delving into the operations and objectives of the NIPCC. Gray shared his background and his deep appreciation for the Council's endeavors. Furthermore, Gray provided his perspective on transmission needs, challenges, and opportunities within the Northwest region underlining the necessity for substantial new resource development. Acknowledging the critical requirement for extensive resource expansion within the region, Gray emphasized that NIPCC offers a distinctive viewpoint on the transmission needs and challenges. He delineated their comprehensive workplan, which involves closely monitoring market efforts, including a thorough analysis of day-ahead market offerings and transmission planning.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18465/2023_09_3.pdf.

4. Draft Policy for Provider of Choice

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning introduced Kim Thompson, Vice President of NW Requirements and Sarah Burczak, Policy Lead, at Bonneville Power Administration. Thompson began the presentation by providing a high-level overview of the Provider of Choice Policy elements and timeline. Thompson spoke about BPA's public engagement process, including dozens of meetings and numerous workshops held between April 2022-April 2023. These meetings explored topics including rate construct, acquisition or resources, net requirements, and carbon. Furthermore, Thompson discussed the draft policy overview comprised of a variety of important policy elements and concluded the presentation by sharing the formal public comment period.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18463/2023_09_4.pdf.

5. Council Business

Approval of August 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

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

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the August 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18450/2023_09_5minutes.pdf.

Authorization to contract with QW

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with QW Consulting LLC in FY 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$66,400, to continue to assist staff in enhancing and maintaining the functionality of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program Resource Tools and Maps and to continue the work on maintaining and updating the strategy performance indicators, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18451/2023_09_5qw.pdf.

Authorization to contract with Leslie Bach

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Leslie Bach in FY 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$32,200, to continue to assist staff with numerous tasks including work on assessing Fish and Wildlife Program performance and the redesign of the project review, as presented by staff.

Member Purce seconded.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18466/2023_09_5lb.pdf.

Authorization to contract with PSR for GENESYS license and maintenance

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with PSR Energy Solutions and Consulting Ltd in FY 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for renewal of the GENESYS model software license and software maintenance and technical, as presented by staff.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18454/2023_09_5psr.pdf.

Authorization to contract with Gwen Shearer for adequacy analysis support

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Gwendolyn Shearer in FY 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 to continue to support the effort to refine and enhance the GENESYS model and the resource adequacy modeling, as presented by staff.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18455/2023_09_5shearer.pdf.

Authorization to contract with Amy Milshtein for advisory committee minutes support

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Amy Milshtein in FY 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$29,391 to continue to produce the minutes of advisory committee meetings, 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/18453/2023_09_5milshtein.pdf.

Approve draft annual report to Congress for public comment

Member Golden moved that the Council approve the release of the draft annual report to Congress for a public review and comment period of at least 90 days, as presented by staff.

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

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18452/2023_09_5report.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comments

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m. PST.