

**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 15, 2023** **at Portland, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's November 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-2023-11-14/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

#### **November 15, 2023**

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:30 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 12-13 via webinar.

#### **Reports from the Committee Chairs and Executive Director**

Member Allen began the meeting by taking a moment to pause and speak on the loss of Tina Jayaweera, Sr. Advisor, Power Planning Resources, and how she made a large positive impact to the Council during her time with the organization by sharing words from Council staff.

#### **Fish and Wildlife Committee**

Member Milburn, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported on the fish and wildlife committee meeting held on November 14, 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 discussing each of the committee's agenda items and followed by sharing the fish and wildlife agenda items for the Council meeting. O'Toole provided a background on the implementation of the Fish and Wildlife program and a bit of what can be expected from the Council staff on the Regional Coordination Forum small workgroup meetings. Lastly, O'Toole spoke about the loss of Council power staff member Tina Jayaweera and expressed support from the Fish and Wildlife division to those in the Power division.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18526/2023\\_11\\_f1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18526/2023_11_f1.pdf).

## **2. Discussion on the Implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program**

Mark Fritsch, the Council's Project Review and Implementation Manager, Fish and Wildlife Director Patty O'Toole, and the Council's General Counsel, John Shurts discussed the recent challenges in the ability to track implementation of the Fish and Wildlife program. Staff provided a brief overview of the situation and outlined the potential solutions to provide transparency and accountability. One potential solution is to return to quarterly reports from BPA where Bonneville would provide information associated with project changes to the Fish and Wildlife Committee.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18527/2023\\_11\\_f2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18527/2023_11_f2.pdf).

## **3. Staff update on the Regional Coordination Forum (RCF) small workgroup meetings**

Council Fish and Wildlife Division staff Kris Homel and Kate Self, and Director Patty O'Toole presented a report on the Regional Coordination Forum (RCF) small workgroup meetings. Staff had a work group meeting with fish and wildlife managers to discuss the Council's Governor's Report of Bonneville mitigation expenditures and there was support from the managers for continuing to report. Staff are considering all feedback from the RCF and will be developing a set of recommendations for consideration by the Public Affairs committee in preparation for the next report. Staff also reported on a work group meeting with the fish and wildlife managers associated with the issue of flat funding and heard their concerns associated with the issue. Staff are talking about next

steps and planning additional discussions with the RCF and anticipating a Spring 2024 follow-up.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18528/2023\\_11\\_f3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18528/2023_11_f3.pdf).

## **Power Committee**

Member Grob, Power Committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on November 14, 2023.

### **1. Power Committee Update and Planning**

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, began her presentation recognizing Tina Jayaweera. Light briefly discussed the importance and purpose of each of the committee's agenda items and followed with sharing the power divisions agenda item for the Council meeting.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18529/2023\\_11\\_p1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18529/2023_11_p1.pdf).

### **2. Western Markets Exploratory Group Study**

The Council's Director of Power Planning, Jennifer Light, introduced presenters Arne Olson, Senior Partner, and Jack Moore, Senior Director at Energy and Environmental Economics (E3). An overview was provided of the results from the Western Market Exploratory Group (WMEG) Cost Benefit Study performed by E3. The study previously discussed in a Bonneville Power Administration October 23, 2023 public workshop. This analysis will inform Bonneville Power Administration and others in their determination on potential day-ahead market participation.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18530/2023\\_11\\_p2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18530/2023_11_p2.pdf).

### **3. Energy Efficiency Emerging Technology**

Kevin Smit, the Council's Manager of Power Planning Resources introduced Ammi Amarnath, Principal Technical Executive at EPRI. Amarnath presented examples of emerging energy efficiency (EE) technologies in residential and commercial areas and described the good progress underway in their development. Insights were shared from

both national and international research that is happening in the EE field. A few points made during Amarnath's presentation were a focus on end-use decarbonization, how EE and efficient electrification go hand in hand, and that industrial decarbonization requires further work.

For the report and the presentation materials, see [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18531/2023\\_11\\_p3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18531/2023_11_p3.pdf).

## **Public Affairs Committee**

Member Pitt Jr. informed the group that the public affairs committee met virtually on November 2, 2023. One purpose of the meeting was to work through the current draft of the government affairs strategy. Council Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, reviewed the draft document that focused on issues where the congressional delegation may be involved. Policy issues were discussed, these included items like engagement on federal energy and efficiency standards and the Council's work with other federal agencies. The group also discussed the latest tactics they want to use to engage with the congressional delegation. There are plans for Edmonds and Chris Huckleberry, of Bluestone Strategies, to visit Washington, D.C. on the Council's behalf. Staff recommendations on the various ways Council Members engage with policy makers were discussed and a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with delegation and congressional staff was decided upon. It is agreed that both the Council member trip to Washington, D.C. and the congressional staff tour held in the region are valuable. These activities will be alternated each year.

## **Executive Director Report**

The Council's Executive Director, Bill Edmonds, spoke about what a huge asset Tina Jayaweera was to the Council and as a mentor to many, she will be missed. Bill then expressed appreciation for the Council staff that continuously work together to make the Council meetings take place. The Council and committee meetings are a success for those attending in person and for the many who attend remotely thanks to the staff behind the scenes that work hard to make them a success.

## **Motion for Executive Session**

Member Golden moved that the Council meet in Executive Session after the conclusion of the Council's public meeting on the afternoon of November 15, 2023, to discuss matters pertaining to civil litigation.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

## **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

### **1. Quagga Mussel Detection and Response in the Snake River, Idaho**

Windy Schoby, the Council's Idaho Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst provided a short background on the quagga mussels invasion and how important it's been to the Council that this specific invasive species has been carefully tracked so that it would be detected if it entered our basin. Schoby then introduced Nic Zurfluh, Invasive Species Bureau Chief of Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), to present an update on the recent detection of quagga mussels in the Snake River. Zurfluh discussed how ISDA has taken an aggressive approach with a 10-day treatment across a sixteen-mile section of the Snake River that is intended to eradicate quagga mussels at all life stages. Zurfluh informed the group that this treatment plan was developed with the involvement of many entities and will be monitored long-term.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18523/2023\\_11\\_1.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18523/2023_11_1.pdf).

### **2. Panel Discussion: Regional Coordination and Summer 2023 Conditions in the Western Grid**

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning turned over the introduction of the panel to Adam Schultz, Manager of Regional Coordination at California Independent System Operator (ISO). Schultz introduced Elliot Mainzer, President and CEO of California ISO; Larry Bekkedahl, Senior Vice President of Advanced Energy Delivery at Portland General Electric; Ricky Bustamante, Vice President of System Operations at Bonneville Power Administration; and Kathy Anderson, Senior Manager of Transmission and Markets at Idaho Power. Mainzer gave a brief background as to how recent summers have provided reliability challenges and highlighted the importance of regional coordination to maintain reliability. Each panelist discussed this past summer's heat event in the Northwest and shared examples of the power of collaboration between states, and specifically in this event, between Portland General Electric, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the California ISO, to ensure system reliability.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18522/2023\\_11\\_2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18522/2023_11_2.pdf).

### **3. Astoria-Megler Bridge Double-Crested Cormorant Value Engineering Study**

Kate Self, Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist, shared brief information on the Astoria-Megler Bridge double-crested cormorant Value Engineering (VE) Study including the purpose behind it and what questions and issues the study addressed. Self introduced John Raasch; Rod Thompson; Paul Benton; and Rebecca Burrow of Oregon Department of Transportation; and James Lawonn and Art Martin of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The group announced the finalization of the VE Study, which is available on the Council's website, and provided an overview of the study conducted to evaluate the effects of double-crested cormorant colony nesting on the Astoria-Megler Bridge and potential solutions to address the damage caused by the cormorants. Concerns about the structural and safety impacts of having the colony nesting on the bridge were explained. The speakers shared the proposed solution of moving cormorants from the bridge and luring birds back to East Sand Island.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18524/2023\\_11\\_3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18524/2023_11_3.pdf).

### **4. 2024 Groundwater Replenishment Approaches to Improve Water Resiliency in the Walla Walla Basin**

Stacy Horton, Washington Staff Policy Analyst/Biologist shared how the 2024 groundwater replenishment approaches to improve water resiliency in the Walla Walla Basin help strengthen the eco system function strategy. Horton introduced Troy Baker, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council and Steven Patten the Public Works Engineering Technician of the City of Milton-Freewater, OR. The presenters discussed projects occurring on the valley floor and higher in the watershed. Through these projects, they highlighted the innovative tools and methodologies used to bolster water resiliency within the Walla Walla Basin. Additionally, they discussed basin characteristics that help the area be more resilient to droughts, emphasizing the critical interplay between surface flow and groundwater.

Presentation materials are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18532/2023\\_11\\_4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18532/2023_11_4.pdf).

### **5. Council Business**

**Approval of October 2023 Council Meeting Summary**

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

Member Purce seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the October 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at: [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18525/2023\\_11\\_5.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18525/2023_11_5.pdf).

### **Public Comments**

No public comments.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m. PST.