

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 **May 14 & 15, 2024** **at Portland, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's May 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-2024-05-14/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

May 15, 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 in Portland, OR.

Reports from the Committee Chairs

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Member Milburn, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported on the fish and wildlife committee meeting held on May 14, 2024.

1. Fish and Wildlife Division Update and Planning

Patty O'Toole, Council's Fish and Wildlife Division Director briefly discussed the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting and Council meeting topics. O'Toole recognized three notable people who have recently passed away that made significant contributions to

fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin: Jim Lichatowich, Tim Counihan, and Jim Gieselman.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18728/2024_05_f1.pdf.

2. Step 1 Review for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Waterwheel Hatchery Program, Project #2008-906-00

Mark Fritsch, the Council's Project Review and Implementation Manager introduced the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe members who presented the Step One review of the Waterwheel Hatchery Program. The Committee supported making a recommendation to the full Council in July that it approve the master plan and moving to Step Two Planning and Design activities. The Committee also recommended that the tribes continue to address issues raised by the ISRP.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18725/2024_05_f2.pdf.

3. Asset Management Strategic Plan Priorities for FY2025 for Fish Screens

Mark Fritsch introduced Eric Leitzinger, Andy Traylor and Jason Sweet from the Bonneville Power Administration. The presentation provided Council and Bonneville staff asset management priorities for fish screens and included a brief update on last year's decision to use funds from Bonneville's reserves distribution clause for non-recurring maintenance at program hatcheries. The Committee supported sending a recommendation to the full Council in June to support ~\$1.8 million for fish screens for fiscal year 2025.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18727/2024_05_f3.pdf.

4. Update on Project Review

Council Fish and Wildlife staff Maureen Hess and Mark Fritsch provided a brief overview of the next project review process and updates on progress since the last update in October 2023. The presentation included a summary of the finalized project mapping effort to categorize all fish and wildlife program projects based on the type of work implemented. Staff also outlined the general components, schedule, and rationale

for initiating the review cycle with a subset of 38 projects focused on mitigation lands benefiting fish and wildlife.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18730/2024_05_f4.pdf.

5. Overview and Discussion of the Ocean Survival of Salmonids Project and Funding #1988-014-00

Council staff Kris Homel and Patty O'Toole described the impetus for ocean and plume research, monitoring, and evaluation and how implementation scope and funding have changed over time. The staff noted that reductions in ocean funding over time, along with flat budgets in recent years are affecting the scope of the last remaining ocean project. Staff will continue to coordinate with Bonneville and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center to clarify near-term needs and develop possible options for consideration by the Council.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18731/2024_05_f5.pdf.

Power Committee

Member Grob, Power Committee chair, reported on the Power Committee meeting held on May 14, 2024.

1. Power Division Update and Planning

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, shared a Power Committee update and gave a preview of the topics planned for the May Council meeting and how they relate to the Council's work plan.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18729/2024_05_p1.pdf.

2. Review of Hydro Operations

Council Power Staff Dor Hirsh Bar Gai and John Ollis gave a summary of changes to hydro modeling to reflect changes to hydro operations resulting from the US Government commitments agreed to in December 2023, focusing on the impacts on hydro generation.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18732/2024_05_p2.pdf.

3. Update on BPA's 2024 Resource Program and Resource Acquisition Process

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, introduced Ryan Egerdahl, Manager of Long Term Power Planning and Eric Federovitch, Manager of Long Term Power Sales and Purchase, at Bonneville. The presentation provided an update on the resource program and an overview on the resource acquisition process including how it connects to Bonneville obligations under the Northwest Power Act.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18734/2024_05_p3.pdf.

4. Short-Term Hourly Load Forecast for Adequacy Assessment

Council's Power Staff Steve Simmons and Daniel Hua presented the updated short-term load forecast to inform the upcoming Adequacy Assessment. Hua shared that the annual averaged load forecast for 2029 is higher than that estimated in the 2021 Power Plan for the same year due to three main drivers: the load growth per unit population, associated economic activities, and the rates of load growth of electric vehicles and data centers.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18735/2024_05_p4.pdf.

5. Update to Mid-Term Assessment Language

Council's Director of Power Planning, Jennifer Light discussed staff's proposed updates to the summary for the 2021 Power Plan Mid-Term Assessment. The update accounts for new information and analysis presented at the March and April meetings since the first released Mid-Term Assessment in February 2024, along with the load forecast information shared earlier in the Power Committee. The committee provided some updates to the summary and directed staff to post the final materials on the Mid-Term Assessment page.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18733/2024_05_p5.pdf.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Basin Climate and Water Supply Outlook

Council Staff Kate Self and Daniel Hua introduced Amy Burke, Senior Hydrologist at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Burke shared an update on current hydrologic and climatic conditions and seasonal water supply forecasts for the Columbia Basin. Included in the presentation was a brief background on the methods used by NOAA to develop the forecasts and discuss the current conditions and expectations for the upcoming water management season. This information is critical for informing decisions regarding dam management, hydropower production and fisheries operations across the Columbia River Basin.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18718/2024_05_1.pdf.

2. Discussion of the Agreement on the Phase 2 Implementation Plan by the Upper Columbia Tribes and US Government

Council Staff Patty O'Toole welcomed Jarred-Michael Erickson, Chairman of Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Greg Abrahamson, Chairman of Spokane Tribes of Indians; Caj Matheson, Council Member and Natural Resources Director of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; Roland Springer, Deputy Regional Director of the Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region at the Bureau of Reclamation; Ben Zelinsky, Senior Policy Advisor at Bonneville Power Administration; Tim Dykstra, Senior Fish Program Manager at the US Army Corps of Engineers; Michael Garrity, Special Assistant for Columbia River Policy at the State of Washington; Casey Baldwin, Salmon Reintroduction Division Manager at the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Conor Giorgi, Anadromous Program Manager at the Spokane Tribe of Indians; and Tom Biladeau, Anadromous Division Lead at the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The Council heard remarks regarding the agreement to implement the Phase 2 Implementation Plan (P2IP): Testing Feasibility of Reintroduced Salmon in the Upper Columbia River Basin. This work implements a measure in the Council's 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program that calls for a science-based phased approach to studying the feasibility of reintroduction of salmon. Staff for the three tribes presented current and near-term work including research, hatchery production, and fish passage.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18719/2024_05_2.pdf.

3. PNUCC Northwest Regional Forecast

Jennifer Light, the Council's Director of Power Planning, introduced Crystal Ball, Executive Director, and Aliza Seelig, Analytics and Policy Director, at Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC), and Gillian Charles at Red Kite Consulting. Ball, Seelig and Charles presented PNUCC's Northwest Regional Forecast (NRF) and the key takeaways from this year's update. Last year, the 2023 NRF identified important new trends, particularly around growth in regional loads. This 2024 NRF builds on those trends, anticipating a surge in electricity demand driven in large part by data centers, high-tech manufacturing, and increasing electrification. The forecast also shows significant plans for new resources. Key takeaways include surge in projected demand for electricity, urgent need to upgrade the region's electricity infrastructure unprecedented amount of new generation, prioritizing resource adequacy and reliability, and using energy efficiently continues to be a crucial component of an adequate power supply.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18720/2024_05_3.pdf.

4. Approval of Climate and Weather Advisory Committee

Council Power Division staff Daniel Hua and Christian Douglass requested Council authorization for the creation of, and approval for a two-year charter for, a Climate and Weather Advisory Committee. The purpose of this advisory committee is to advise the Council regarding climate and weather data that have significance to the development and implementation of the Power Plan. Objectives include hydro-system modeling, wind generation modeling, solar generation modeling, energy efficiency and demand response modeling, load forecasting, system adequacy modeling, and system expansion modeling.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize the creation of a Climate and Weather Advisory Committee and approve the two-year charter for the advisory committee, as presented by staff.

Member Milburn seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – Member Schriever voted no.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18722/2024_05_4.pdf.

5. Council Business

Approval of April 2024 Council Meeting Summary

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the official summary of the April 2024 Council Meeting held in Olympia, Washington, 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 April 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18724/2024_05_5minutes.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council approve for release the draft Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2025 revised budgets for a public comment period through June 28, 2024, as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

Discussion of motion followed.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18721/2024_05_5budget.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Energy350 in an amount not to exceed \$63,729 to conduct research on commercial building performance standards and provide electric energy use intensity data sets for the Pacific Northwest, 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/18726/2024_05_5energy350.pdf.

Member Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Cadeo Group in an amount not to exceed \$43,360 to update the Council's commercial and industrial motor-related energy efficiency measures, 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/18723/2024_05_5cadeo.pdf.

Public Comments

No public comment.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m. Pacific time.