

**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** **December 10 & 11, 2024** **via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's December 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-2024-12-10/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

#### **December 10, 2024**

Council Chair Jeff Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:04 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 January 14 & 15 in Portland, OR and via webinar.

#### **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

##### **1. Council Work Session and Fish and Wildlife Amendment Preparation**

###### **a. Fish and Wildlife Program amendments**

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and General Counsel John Shurts presented a review of the draft letter calling for Fish and Wildlife Program amendment recommendations. Staff discussed with the Council the first draft of the letter, based on staff recommendations and feedback from Council members on the draft outline at the November meeting. The letter contains information about the process, including why the

Council needs to call for recommendations to amend the program at this time, the requirements for that request, and instructions for how people should submit their program amendment recommendations to the Council. The estimated timeline for this process was shared and the Council is on track to make the decision to send the letter in January 2025. The staff will take the input from members at the December meeting and incorporate that feedback into the next draft.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19014/2024\\_12\\_1a.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19014/2024_12_1a.pdf).

**b. Staff report on Program goals and objectives and latest developments for the Program tracker**

Biologist for Program Performance Kris Homel and Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self presented on progress toward meeting goals and objectives, as described in the Fish and Wildlife Program 2020 Addendum. Program goals include objectives for salmon and steelhead, other native aquatic species, wildlife, ecology/habitat, and communication, assessment and coordination. For each goal and objective, staff presented a summary of background and context, data on progress where available (typically using Strategy Performance Indicators), and identified where edits to the text of the goal or objective could better match existing data sets or be more quantitative or trackable. This work is part of a broader effort by staff to provide critical information to the region and the Council in advance of the next amendment process.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19015/2024\\_12\\_1b.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19015/2024_12_1b.pdf).

**Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued**

**2. Report on Regional Demand Response Efforts**

Resource Analyst Joe Walderman presented a regional “round-up” that showcased the progress made across the region to develop demand response programs and how they support either regional or individual utility needs. Staff highlighted information from utilities about their demand response activities and programs, as well as opportunities for growth.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19010/2024\\_12\\_2.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19010/2024_12_2.pdf).

**3. Ninth Plan Methodology for Ensuring Consistent Treatment of Costs Across New Resource Options**

Resource Policy Analyst Annika Roberts and Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light presented the proposed framework to ensure consistent treatment of costs for new resource options in the Ninth Power Plan. This methodology is an important element of ensuring resources are treated consistent with the Power Act.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19016/2024\\_12\\_3.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19016/2024_12_3.pdf).

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m. Pacific Time.

## **December 11, 2024**

Council Chair Jeff Allen brought the meeting to order at 8:32 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 January 14 & 15 in Portland, OR and via webinar.

### **Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued**

#### **4. Data Center Landscape Panel**

Chair Jeff Allen and Vice Chair KC Golden introduced Brian Janous with Cloverleaf Infrastructure, Dr. Sarah Smith with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Consultant Robert Cromwell to present a high-level look at data centers, with details surrounding their operation and energy needs, the key opportunities and challenges for utilities in serving this new load, and the policy and planning issues that the Council should consider in advance of the work on the Ninth Plan. After short opening remarks from each presenter, Member Golden and Chair Allen led a panel discussion that covered a range of topics.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19009/2024\\_12\\_4.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19009/2024_12_4.pdf).

#### **5. Virtual Power Plant Discussion**

Resource Analyst Joe Walderman introduced Franco Albi with Portland General Electric and Shawn Grant with PacifiCorp, who spoke to their utilities' progress on creating and growing virtual power plants (VPPs) and how they work to maintain a reliable and adequate electric system for their customers. Details were presented on how these utilities are taking advantage of distributed energy resources and enhanced communication capabilities and software to use demand side resources in new ways through VPPs.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19011/2024\\_12\\_5.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19011/2024_12_5.pdf).

## **6. Staff Report on Program Performance: Habitat Categorical Assessment (continued from November)**

Biologist for Program Performance Kris Homel and Project Review and Implementation Manager Mark Fritsch continued their November habitat categorical assessment presentation with a focus on habitat protection. Staff described Program strategies, measures, and implementation status using data from the Strategy Performance Indicators, along with other sources. The implementation examples emphasized discussion points rather than technical details. The presentation concluded with a discussion of Program-scale observations from these examples. This assessment, along with recent categorical assessments on the hydrosystem and artificial production, provides critical information to the Council and region on the implementation and performance of the Program in anticipation of the upcoming Program amendment.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19012/2024\\_12\\_6.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19012/2024_12_6.pdf).

## **7. Council Business**

### **Motion to Approve Summary of November 2024 Council Meeting**

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

Member Purse seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the November 2024 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19013/2024\\_12\\_7.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19013/2024_12_7.pdf).

### **Public Comments**

No public comment.

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