

**Mike Milburn**  
Chair  
Montana

**Doug Grob**  
Montana

**Jeffery C. Allen**  
Idaho

**Ed Schriever**  
Idaho



# Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

**Thomas L (Les) Purce**  
Vice Chair  
Washington

**KC Golden**  
Washington

**Margaret Hoffmann**  
Oregon

**Charles F. Sams III**  
Oregon

## **Council Meeting Summary**

**April 8 & 9, 2025**

**Council Central Office and via Webinar**

**851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100**

**Portland, Oregon 97204**

This is a summary of the Council's April 2025 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-2025-04-08/>. The meeting recording and a copy of this summary will also be posted on that page.

### **April 8, 2025**

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Charles F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, Oregon. Member Doug Grob attended the meeting virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 13 & 14, 2025, in Pasco, Washington, and via webinar.

### **Motion for Executive Session**

Member Purce moved that the Council meet in Executive Session on the afternoon of April 8, 2025, to discuss personnel matters.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

## **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Bill Edmonds announced that he will be leaving the Council on April 18, 2025, and Guy Norman will be stepping in as interim executive director.

## **Council Meeting Agenda Items**

### **1. Power Plan Update**

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light provided a Power Plan update that included an overview of material covered at the March Council meeting, a discussion on the Power Plan elements and timeline, where staff currently are in the planning process, and proposed topics for upcoming Council meetings.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19342/2025\\_04\\_01.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19342/2025_04_01.pdf)

### **2. Approach to Social Cost of Carbon**

Director of Power Planning Jennifer Light discussed the two potential approaches for how the Council could incorporate a “social cost of carbon” cost on emissions in the Ninth Power Plan. The first option presented was to apply a social cost of carbon cost on emissions from all new and existing resources only where it is required by law or regulation; consistent with how the Council treats other environmental effects and costs. The second approach presented was to apply the social cost of carbon cost on emissions associated with all new and existing resources in the region. Staff now recommend the first option, which is a shift from the original proposal at the February 2025 Council meeting. The Council had requested more time to consider these two approaches and ultimately supported the recommendation to pursue the first option.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19341/2025\\_04\\_02.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19341/2025_04_02.pdf).

### **3. Developing Demand Forecast Pathways**

Senior Power Analyst Tomás Morrissey and Senior Energy Forecasting Analyst Steve Simmons discussed their proposed approach to selecting the demand pathways that will capture a range of potential load growth over the twenty-year power planning horizon. Council members shared feedback on whether the proposed suite of pathways covers the uncertainties and risks that they

are most interested in planning for. Staff will use feedback from this discussion in developing the final load forecast suite which they plan to present to the Council during the April 29, 2025, Council meeting via webinar.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19343/2025\\_04\\_03.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19343/2025_04_03.pdf).

#### **4. Ninth Plan Rooftop Solar Potential**

Power Planning Resources Manager Kevin Smit summarized the regional potential amount and estimated cost for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on homes and businesses in the Pacific Northwest. Smit provided a background on rooftop solar, key assumptions for estimating potential, and rooftop solar potential estimates.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19338/2025\\_04\\_04.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19338/2025_04_04.pdf).

#### **5. Outside the Northwest Loads and Resources**

Senior Power Analyst Tomás Morrissey and Resource Policy Analyst Annika Roberts presented on the process used to create the out-of-region load forecast and existing resource assumptions. They reviewed how these inputs feed into the Council's market availability forecast (made in Aurora), the regional capital expansion model (OptGen/SDDP), and the adequacy model (GENESYS). Morrissey and Roberts discussed where staff draw assumptions for these out-of-region loads and existing resources.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19329/2025\\_04\\_05.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19329/2025_04_05.pdf).

#### **6. Proposed Final Adequacy Criteria for Ninth Plan**

Power System Analyst Dor Hirsh Bar Gai discussed the recommendation for the multi-metric adequacy criteria for the Ninth Plan. Staff collaborated with regional stakeholders to determine the appropriate level of risk for each metric and evaluated the approach using provisional limits in the 2027 Adequacy Assessment and interim limits in the 2029 Adequacy Assessment. This presentation outlined the adequacy metrics and their role, the Council's evolution of adequacy criteria, the adequacy criteria for the Ninth Plan, and feedback from the Resource Adequacy Advisory Committee (RAAC).

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19330/2025\\_04\\_06.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19330/2025_04_06.pdf).

## **7. Primer on Regional Strategy Analysis Toolset (OptGen/SDDP)**

Manager of Planning and Analysis John Ollis reviewed the tools used to understand cost and risk tradeoffs in regional strategy analysis and how that process ties into the overall Ninth Power Plan analysis. Ollis provided information on planning under uncertainty, an overview of OptGen and SDDP modeling capabilities, and details of how the tools and process are used to assist analytics.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19331/2025\\_04\\_07.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19331/2025_04_07.pdf).

## **8. RTF Annual Report**

Regional Technical Forum Manager Laura Thomas presented to the Council highlights from the Regional Technical Forum's work in 2024 as captured in the Annual Report. This included the RTF's 2024 activities and a preview of the work for the current calendar year. Thomas provided a brief background on the RTF, 2024 highlights which included expanding and updating the measure library, 2024 financials, and a preview of the work planned in 2025.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19340/2025\\_04\\_08.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19340/2025_04_08.pdf).

## **9. White Sturgeon Status Report**

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self introduced Laura Heironimus with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Andrea Carpenter with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who gave a report on White Sturgeon in the established management areas from the Columbia River below Bonneville and Bonneville to McNary. The presentation included population status, ongoing work, challenges, accomplishments, partners, and future needs for White Sturgeon.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19332/2025\\_04\\_09.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19332/2025_04_09.pdf).

## **10. Briefing on Columbia River Basin Salmon and Steelhead Returns for 2024 and Forecasts for 2025**

Fish and Wildlife Program Scientist Kate Self introduced Dr. Charlene Hurst with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Stuart Ellis with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Dr. Sarah Maher with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide an overview of adult Chinook, coho, sockeye, and chum salmon and steelhead run forecasts for the

Columbia River and expectations for the 2025 fisheries. This presentation included a retrospective review of the 2024 adult salmon and steelhead returns and an overview of non-treaty fisheries. A summary of information regarding treaty fisheries for 2024 and expectations for 2025 was also provided.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19333/2025\\_04\\_10.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19333/2025_04_10.pdf).

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m. Pacific Time.

The Council met in Executive Session at 3:35 p.m. Pacific Time to discuss personnel matters.

## **April 9, 2025**

Council Chair Mike Milburn brought the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Pacific Time. Council Members Jeff Allen, KC Golden, Margaret Hoffmann, Thomas L. (Les) Purce, Charles F. Sams III, and Ed Schriever were in attendance in Portland, Oregon. Member Doug Grob attended the meeting virtually. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 13 & 14, 2025, in Pasco, Washington, and via webinar.

## **Council Meeting Agenda Items Continued**

### **11. Council Work Session Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment**

#### **a. Amendment process check-in**

Fish and Wildlife Division Director Patty O'Toole and staff provided an update on the 2025-2026 Amendment Process. An overview was provided of the program amendment process that briefly highlighted key steps and dates. Council staff gave a briefing on two important sections of the 2014 Program and its 2020 Addendum: the implementation section and the appendices.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19361/2025\\_04\\_11a.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19361/2025_04_11a.pdf).

#### **b. Amendment related briefing on current Fish and Wildlife Program**

Fish and Wildlife Division Staff discussed the progress in reviewing 2014/2020 Program content and organization, and topics of Program implementation. This presentation also provided a staff briefing on Appendices (Part 7) of the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19362/2025\\_04\\_11b.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19362/2025_04_11b.pdf).

## **12. Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB) Report on Data Sources, Calculations and Interpretations of Smolt to Adult Return and Survival Rates**

Independent Science Manager Erik Merrill and Biologist for Program Performance and ISAB Ex Officio Representative Kris Homel introduced Tom Quinn, Independent Scientific Advisory Board member, to describe key findings and recommendations from the ISAB's Report. These included challenges and opportunities for improved estimation, interpretation, and use of smolt-to-adult return (SAR) and survival (SAS) metrics for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin (ISAB SAR and SAS Metrics Report).

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19335/2025\\_04\\_12.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19335/2025_04_12.pdf).

## **13. Briefing on Cycles of Productivity in the Ocean**

Biologist for Program Performance Kris Homel introduced Brian Burke with the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center to present research findings and outlooks associated with Chinook and steelhead returns to the Columbia River based on indicators of ocean conditions. Burke also spoke about his Ocean Ecology Team, and the relationship of ocean conditions to salmon.

Presentation materials are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19336/2025\\_04\\_13.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19336/2025_04_13.pdf).

## **14. Council Business**

### **Motion to Approve Summary of March 2025 Council Meeting**

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the official summary of the March 2025 Council Meeting held in Portland, OR and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Schriever seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the March 2025 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19337/2025\\_04\\_14minutes.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19337/2025_04_14minutes.pdf).

### **Motion to Approve Summary of March 27, 2025 Special Council Meeting**

Member Purce moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice Chair the official summary of the March 27, 2025 Council Meeting via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Hoffmann seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved summary of the March 27, 2025 Special Council meeting is at [https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19339/2025\\_04\\_14special.pdf](https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/19339/2025_04_14special.pdf).

### **Public Comments**

No public comment.

Chair Milburn adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time.