

Jeffery C. Allen
Chair
Idaho

Ed Schriever
Idaho

Doug Grob
Montana

Mike Milburn
Montana



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

KC Golden
Vice Chair
Washington

Washington

Ginny Burdick
Oregon

Louie Pitt, Jr.
Oregon

Council Meeting Summary **February 14-15, 2023** **at Portland, OR and via Webinar**

This is a summary of the Council's February public meeting and the actions the Council decided upon. The meeting agenda, presentation materials; recording of each agenda item during the meeting; and subsequent documentation of any decisions by the Council are posted at <https://www.nwcouncil.org/calendar/council-meeting-2023-02-14/>.

February 14, 2023

Council Chair Jeffery Allen brought the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Council Members Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Doug Grob, Mike Milburn, Louis Pitt, were in attendance via webinar. The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 14-15, 2023, in Coeur d'Alene and via webinar.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Update on Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention

Council Director of Fish and Wildlife, Patty O'Toole, discussed the current problems caused by non-native species throughout the Columbia River Basin and highlighted numerous measures in the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program and 2020 Addendum to help address the problem. O'Toole suggested that in addition to working with lawmakers to develop non-native species prevention programs, the Council could recommend direct program funding from Bonneville.

Leslie Bach, Council's fish and wildlife senior program manager, introduced Stephen Phillips from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to update regional efforts on quagga and zebra mussel detection, prevention, and rapid response, as well as an overview of the legislation and funding that supports these efforts.

Phillips said that the mussels, which have no natural predators in North America, were discovered in Lake Mead in 2017. Phillips indicated the species cannot be eradicated in large bodies of water and can disrupt the food chain and water quality. Phillips presented evidence of the damage the mussels have caused and provided a map showing the distribution of mussel sightings. Phillips gave a brief history of the discovery of quagga and zebra mussels in Lake Mead. Phillips explained a timeline and budget of the bipartisan Water Resource Reform and Development Act, a U.S. federal law that provides for the conservation and development of water and related resources, including flood control, navigation, and environmental restoration projects. The Council was directly involved in securing funds for watercraft inspection stations in the states in the Columbia River Basin.

Phillips provided an overview of the watercraft inspection stations, decontamination program, and standards and offered information on where the contaminated boats in the Northwest are coming from and the number of watercraft interceptions and inspections by year. While noting that eradication attempts have mostly failed, Phillips cited some instances where eradication has been successful and provided steps and examples of rapid response exercises and management action. Phillips presented details on legislative initiatives and the creation of a national system for early detection and rapid response, as well as a DNA tracker.

Member Golden asked for clarification on the number of decontaminated boats. Phillips indicated that in 2021 the program decontaminated over 200 watercrafts with adult muscles. Although he believes the system of reservoirs along the Columbia provides some protection to the Northwest, Phillips cautioned that mussels are highly adaptable and recommended maintaining watercraft inspection stations as a prudent measure.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18182/2023_02_1.pdf.

February 14, 2023

Reports from Committees Chairs and Executive Director

Power Committee

Member Grob, power committee chair, reported on the power committee meeting held on February 14, 2023.

1. Boise Geothermal Heating System

The power committee heard from Jon Gunnerson P.E., City of Boise geothermal coordinator on using the city's geothermally heated water that flows under the city. It has been used to heat buildings for over 100 years, and today it warms over 6 million square feet of building space, making it the largest municipally operated geothermal heating system in the country.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18181/2023_02_p1.pdf.

2. Energy Efficiency Emerging Technology in the Northwest

Presenting to the Power Committee, Mark Rehley, director, emerging technology, product management, codes, standards and new construction at the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, provided details on emerging energy efficiency technologies through analysis, testing, evaluation, and demonstrations. The Northwest utilities and other organizations coordinate complementary research under the direction of the Regional Emerging Technology Advisory Committee. The presentation covered heat pump technology and how it relates to space and water heating, as well as how effective efficiency measures eventually become a part of NEEA and utility programs.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18188/2023_02_p2.pdf.

3. Annual Wholesale Electricity Price Forecast

John Ollis and Dor Hirsh Bar Gai, Council staff, gave the committee an overview of the methodology used to produce the market price forecast and the underlying buildout data for several policy scenarios. They discussed how such regulations are anticipated to affect regional pricing and avoided carbon emissions rates for the next 20 years.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18190/2023_02_p3.pdf.

Public Affairs Committee

Member Louie Pitt Jr., Power Committee Chair, reported on the Power Committee meeting held on February 14, 2023.

Member Pitt Jr. reported that the committee discussed the congressional staff tour and the communications consultant.

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Member Milburn, fish and wildlife committee chair, reported on the fish and wildlife committee meeting held on February 14, 2023.

1. Whole Watershed Restoration of Trout Creek in the Deschutes Basin

The committee was given an update on long-term monitoring and restoration efforts in Trout Creek, an Oregon tributary of the Deschutes River, by Adam Haarberg, Trout Creek program manager, Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District and Tom Nelson, Trout Creek project manager, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18189/2023_02_f1.pdf.

2. Overview of Columbia River System Commitments to Benefit ESA-listed Fish

The Columbia River system implementation team provided an overview of the actions described in the 2020 biological assessment and the terms and conditions from U.S. Fish and Wildlife's and NOAA's 2020 Columbia River System biological opinions to benefit ESA-listed salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and Kootenai River white sturgeon.

For the report and the presentation materials, see https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18192/2023_02_f2.pdf

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Bill Edmonds commented on the “newness” of the current Council in light of the departure of veteran Council members Jim Yost and Guy Norman. Two new members will be joining five members who have been with the Council for less than two years. Because we have some time before starting the fish and wildlife, Edmonds called this a “building block” for Council members to gain experience. He expressed excitement for the work being completed on program performance in the fish and

wildlife area. He also highlighted the imminent launch of work on a public affairs strategic communication plan.

Council Meeting Agenda Items

2. Invasive Species Threatening Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat in the Columbia River Basin

Washington's Policy Analyst/Biologist for the Council, Stacy Horton, introduced Blaine Parker, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, aquatic invasive species coordinator; Nick Zurfluh, section manager, invasive species coordination and outreach, Idaho State Department of Agriculture; Liz Lodman, administrator, Montana Invasive Species Council; Rick Boatner, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, invasive species wildlife integrity supervisor; and Justin Bush, executive coordinator, Washington Invasive Species Council to discussed invasive species that threaten fish, wildlife, and habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

Zurfluh presented on Idaho's invasive species program, which includes prevention, early detention monitoring, management, control, and education and outreach. Zurfluh explained that the main problem is when invasive species escape captivity end up in waterways ways, affecting the local ecology. Zurfluh reiterated that invasive species are very costly to remove. Zurfluh reported on Idaho's response to two invasive species, apple snails and marimo moss balls. Zurfluh indicated that Idaho has an early detection monitoring program that includes a rapid response plan if detention occurs.

Boatner discussed invasive crayfish. Boatner outlined the distinctions between the rusty crayfish, an invasive species, and the native signal crayfish. Boatner emphasized that the rusty crayfish is the John Day River's dominant species. The Willamette River is home to the most invasive crayfish in the world, the Louisiana red swamp crayfish, whose burrowing activities weaken banks, according to Boatner. Other invasive crayfish, are the northern and ringed crayfish.

Bush reported on a pilot program in Washington to prevent aquatic invasive species. Preventing and removing invasive species has cost the nation \$1.2 trillion over the past 50 years. The pilot program uses a clean, drain, and dry format to help mitigate the spread of invasive species. A pilot project is testing CD³ cleaning stations, which are waterless, reducing the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.

Parker discussed how invasive species affect first foods. First foods, according to Parker, are the foundation of tribal society, culture, and way of life. Parker explained the

different types of first foods, including elk, deer, salmon, roots, and berries, and how they have been affected by different invasive species. Parker emphasized how dangerous invasive species are to both animals and people. Parker concluded by mentioning the dangers of the northern pike fish to the region's salmon.

Lodman discussed wild pigs as invasive species. She provided details on them and their origins. Lodman outlined the main risks that invasive swine species pose to livestock, agriculture, pastureland, and biodiversity. She informed the Council about the various illnesses invasive species spread and emphasized a few of particular concern. Lodman mentioned that the "Squeal on Pigs" campaign is a rapid response program to inform the public and respond to the invasive species.

Chair Allen questioned whether the general public was aware of the issue. Bush said that everyone has a responsibility to play a part in reducing and resolving the problem and that raising awareness is crucial. Parker highlighted several successful education campaigns. Member Pitt Jr. thanked the speakers for their efforts to inform the public about invasive species and emphasized the significance of caring for the land.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18183/2023_02_2.pdf.

3. Terra Power Nuclear

Tina Jayaweera, power planning resources manager, welcomed Ryan McGraw, vice president, project development, and Jeremy Bries, director of nuclear projects, PacificCorp, to present information on the joint study to evaluate the feasibility of deploying an advanced nuclear reactor– the Sodium demonstration project in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

McGraw gave an overview of PacificCorp, explaining that their current energy mix is mostly gas and coal, but that they recognize this is not sustainable. PacificCorp has set ambitious goals to reduce carbon emissions, aiming for a 69 percent reduction by 2030 and complete elimination by 2050. McGraw also discussed the ozone transport rule and its impact on the energy industry. McGraw then highlighted the strategies that PacificCorp is using to achieve its decarbonization goals, including their partnership with Terra Power on the Sodium advanced nuclear demonstration project. This project will help inform PacificCorp's future resource planning.

Member Allen asked why Canada is ahead of the U.S. in nuclear power. McGraw explained that the technology they are studying differs from the old light-water reactor system. PacificCorp and Terra Power are using a liquid cool fast reactor instead.

However, it is difficult to determine who is ahead in nuclear power until regulatory commissions start issuing licenses.

Member Allen also asked about the cost overrun projections for the project. McGraw said it was too early to determine an exact amount, but the goal is to keep customer rates the same. Member Burdick asked about nuclear waste disposal and the potential for meltdowns. McGraw and Bries explained that this new technology generates less waste and has a much lower probability of meltdowns.

Member Grob asked about water usage at the plant. McGraw explained that long-term cooling does not rely on water but on natural air. Member Milburn inquired about the integrated resource planning and cost structure. McGraw explained that PacificCorp uses integrated resource planning and is open to different technologies. The Department of Energy has agreed to pay half of the project cost, which is \$2 billion.

Presentation materials are at: https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18184/2023_02_3.pdf.

4. Council Business

Approval of January 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Golden moved that the Council approve for signature by the vice chair the minutes of the January 10-11, 2023 Council Meeting, held at Portland, Oregon and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

The approved minutes of the January 2023 Council meeting and other materials from that meeting are at https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18187/2023_02_4minutes.pdf.

Approval of Industrial Load Contract

Vice Chair Golden moved that the Council approve contract with The Cadeo Group LLC for an amount not to exceed \$37,625 to update industrial end-use designation for use in energy efficiency measures as presented by staff.

Member Grob seconded.

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

RTF Policy Advisory Committee Charter Renewal

Vice Chair Golden moved that the Council (1) approve the renewal with revisions of the Regional Technical Forum Policy Advisory Committee charter; and (2) appoint Council Member Ginny Burdick and Debbie DePetris of Clark County PUD as co-chairs of the RTF PAC; and (3) approve the list of member organizations of the RTF PAC, all as presented by staff.

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

RTF Policy Advisory Committee Charter Renewal

Vice Chair Golden moved that the Council authorize staff to contract with Coates Kokes in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 to provide strategic communication services, as presented by staff.

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

Public Comments

No public comments.

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.