

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Meeting Summary
April 13, 2022
Portland, Oregon – Webinar

Council Chair Guy Norman brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Council Members Jeffery Allen, Doug Grob, Ginny Burdick, KC Golden, Jim Yost, and Mike Milburn were in attendance in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Member Louie Pitt Jr. attended via video call. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2022.

Reports from Committees

Fish and Wildlife Committee

Member Allen, Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair, reported the Fish and Wildlife Committee met twice since the March Council meeting: March 18 and April 12.

1. Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review

Council Central Staff gave an review of the Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery project review process and recommendations on March 18, walking through success stories, programmatic issues and project recommendations. The Fish and Wildlife Committee will provide more detail in today's meeting, and they recommend this project review be passed by the full Council.

2. Study of Migrant Juvenile Salmonid Survival and Travel Time

Dr. Steven Smith of NOAA Fisheries provided an update on the estimates of reach survival and travel for juvenile salmonids through the Snake and Columbia River systems. The percentage of spill has increased over the years and smolt travel times have decreased. There is also no clear long-term trend in smolt survival, and this is mostly due to a lack of detection. As more and more smolts use the spillway passage, it is more difficult to detect their passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags. Putting PIT tag readers in removable spillways is costly, so not all of the dams are equipped. We know smolts are getting through faster and we're spilling more water, but we don't have trends in survival due to the lack of readers, Member Allen said.

3. White Sturgeon Status Report for Lower and Mid-Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers

Phillip Simpson of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported that Sturgeon below Bonneville Dam are doing well, but they're seeing a lack of juvenile sturgeon, and this leads to problems with recruitment. This is potentially being caused by predation by Steller sea

lions. Blaine Parker of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) updated the Committee on the populations between Bonneville and McNary Dams. Bonneville Reservoir has the highest population, and it has stabilized over time. The Dalles Reservoir has seen a population downturn, and information on population and recruitment will be available after the 2023 survey. The John Day population continues to decline, and there has been little to no recruitment over the last 15 years. The goal was to stock hatchery sturgeon into this reservoir to rebuild and stabilize the population. Laura Heironimus of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reviewed populations above McNary Dam and into the Lower Snake River. There is limited information available in these locations as there have been very few surveys over time, and the gaps between surveys have been too large. No long-term funding has been identified for future monitoring in these locations.

Power Committee

Member Yost, Power Committee Chair, reported on the Power Committee Meeting held on April 12, 2022.

1. Power Division Priorities for 2022

Jennifer Light, Regional Technical Forum Manager and Interim director of Power Planning presented on the Power Division priorities for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023. Updating the GENESYS model is a high priority, improving model assumptions and increasing regional consensus for use this year in adequacy assessment and other studies. They're also going to develop a new approach to long-term load forecasting starting with a needs assessment and working on improving data components that will ultimately feed into the forecast, and they're exploring updates to the short-term economic forecast. In addition, the Council Power Division is looking to expand and improve understanding of WECC-wide fundamentals to inform Council analysis, as what happens in the southwest and California as far as load shapes, energy efficiency, demand response, capital investments, etc. all impact operations in the northwest.

2. Update to the Natural Gas Price Forecast

Council Principal Analyst, Steve Simmons, presentation will cover the recent efforts to update the natural gas price forecast for the WECC region. This work was needed to support the upcoming study of wholesale electric market prices. Coming so quickly on the heels of the 2021 Power Plan, this work was a limited in scale and was not a full price forecasting cycle. Instead, the forecast from the plan was revisited, evaluated for accuracy, and updated as needed. Updates to the forecast centered on three primary areas of concern: inflation rates, monthly price shapes, and major hub price differentials. Simmons mentioned that there is a new satellite that may be able to provide information on leaking natural gas where it is generated, distributed, and used.

3. Current Electricity Market Conditions

Manager of Planning and Analysis, John Ollis, and Ben Kujala reviewed some recent market information in the Western wholesale electricity markets and implications for the regional hydro system operation, and they reflected on plan observations about market fundamentals. Forecasted market fundamentals in the plan are starting to appear consistently in the market data. The springtime midday solar surpluses from the southwest are already heading north. They're also seeing consistent negative pricing during spring driven in part by curtailments of renewable generation. Additionally, the northwest is already flexing the hydro power into the ramping periods to accommodate local wind generation and imported solar generation. Wind and solar buildout in the WECC are increasingly becoming a larger driver of market prices. Northwest hydro conditions are still a large driver of market prices and will be for a long time.

4. Draft Scope of Work for Potential Lower Snake River Dam (LSRD) Power Analysis

Ben Kujala and John Ollis presented updates to the draft scope of work for potential Lower Snake River Dam power analysis. They also discussed stakeholder feedback directed at the Council's consideration of whether to proceed with the work as scoped.

Updates to the Scope of Work

- Finesse around the potential for loss of power system services from a subset of the four projects while maintaining limits on not looking at different schedules for loss of power system services
- Added language to Phase 1 regarding timing and ongoing GENESYS vetting
- Added language to Phase 3 about how determining a reasonable measure of a "similar level of reliability" is part of the project
- Added language in Phase 4 to indicate some portfolios should be designed to maintain system emissions at or below the emissions expected with the LSRDs included in the system
- Added language in Phase 5 about avoiding confounding a change in the regions import/export strategy with replacement of the power system services from the LSRDs
- Added language in Phase 6 about looking at emissions as part of the modeling outcomes

Feedback: The Scope Should Be Expanded

- Recommend the council evaluate the "economic viability" of the LSRDs
- Council should include considerations of the impact on fish and wildlife from breaching the dams
- Add in sequestration of carbon from vegetation

Feedback: Additional Work Needed

- Transmission feasibility should be more central to the scope – work closely with transmission planners
- Phase Zero – build more trust in models before undertaking the studies
- Update assumption on methane emissions for LSRD reservoirs
- The Council should study small modular reactors (SMRs) as a replacement for LSRDs

Feedback: The Council Should Not Proceed

- Study is not legally required
- Preliminary findings could be used improperly
- Could impact the perception of the council as an objective party
- Concerns raised about ratepayer funds being spent on something already considered within the EIS

Staff will deliver the scope of work to the Council incorporating any comments and feedback from the Committee. Beyond delivery of the scope of work, there will be no further work on the LSRDs unless directed by the Council to proceed.

Public Affairs Committee

Member Pitt, Public Affairs Committee Chair, provided a brief update. Member Pitt is working with Executive Director Bill Edmonds and staff on the possibility of hosting a Congressional staff visit. Because of recent staff retirements and a short planning window, staff recommended that the Council postpone the next Congressional trip until the summer of 2023. The Committee is also recommending that interested Council members and the Executive Director travel to Washington DC and present on the completed Northwest Power Plan and other relevant subjects.

Fish and Wildlife and Power Committee meeting materials for April 2022 can be found here: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/calendar/council-meeting-april-12-2022/>

Council Meeting Agenda Items

1. Presentation by Federal Agencies Regarding the Upper Columbia Blocked Area

Federal representatives presented on their work on the Upper Columbia River Blocked Area Anadromous Fish Working Group. Roland Springer, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, provided an overview of the Upper Columbia blocked area which is the area above the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. Historically there were spring Chinook, summer Chinook, fall Chinook, coho, sockeye, steelhead populations in the blocked area. The Upper Columbia River salmon runs were largely depleted in the 1880s and 1890s by

commercial fisheries canneries. Construction of dams in the system starting in 1910 with the Little Falls Dam also eliminated salmon returns. The construction of the Grand Coulee Dam completed in 1941 closed the possibility of anadromous fish runs in the Upper Columbia. The completion of Chief Joseph Dam in 1958 extended the blocked area by about 50 miles. Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams do play a critical role in maintaining the stability of the grid in the northwest and over much of the Western Interconnection.

The Leavenworth, Entiat, and Winthrop National Fish Hatcheries were constructed as mitigation for Grand Coulee Dam to provide conservation and fishery benefits. These hatcheries are used for the production of fish used downstream of the blocked area, but they also work to meet tribal requests for surplus adult fish, fertilized eggs, and juveniles for tribal hatchery and education programs and to address tribal ceremonial and subsistence needs.

Springer reviewed some of the mitigation efforts of federal agencies. The Council's Fish and Wildlife Program has endorsed resident fish and wildlife mitigation as appropriate measures for anadromous fish losses in the blocked areas. Since 2004, BPA has spent \$659 million on a variety of projects within the Upper Columbia. This includes hatchery programs for residential fish including white sturgeon, kokanee, rainbow trout, and Redband trout. It also includes habitat restoration for resident fish species including culvert replacement to improve access to kokanee spawning grounds. Approximately 225,000 acres of wildlife habitat have been protected or enhanced to mitigate for construction of Grand Coulee Dam. BPA funded construction of the Chief Joseph Hatchery as well as the Colville Tribes' annual operations to produce summer, fall, and spring Chinook salmon at the hatchery to enhance populations in the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers. The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) spends \$948K O&M funds annually. O&M is also funded directly by BPA for the Corps to implement a habitat mitigation program focusing on the creation of a natural riparian corridor, water conservation, site appropriate species diversity, and self-sustaining native cover types. BPA and the Bureau of Reclamation fund the fish and Wildlife Service to operate and maintain the Leavenworth Fishery Complex. There are a lot of federal arrangements and agreements to keep these mitigation programs working.

Springer highlighted the Upper Columbia Blocked Area Anadromous Fish (BAAF) Working Group established in 2020 which is a collaborative effort among seven Tribes (Colville, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Kalispel, Umatilla, and Yakima), two multi-tribal organizations (Upper Columbia United Tribes [UCUT] and the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation), the four States (MT, ID, OR, WA), seven federal agencies, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service. This working group was formed in response to a Tribal request to include reintroduction in the EIS. BAAF has a Studies and Actions Team that focuses on technical aspects and details. They've reviewed and discussed UCUT's Phase 2 Implementation Plan, and they are supporting a juvenile salmon migration study with includes environmental compliance and access for installing research equipment at Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. The U.S. Geological Survey is also working on this.

BAAF has an Implementation Strategies and Principles Team which explores regulatory issues and potential funding options for the Phase 2 Implementation Plan. There is also a Communications Team that is working on appropriate communications as this work progresses. Springer noted that UCUT is not proposing changes in hydro operations in connection with these reintroduction efforts as they understand the importance to the power systems.

Chair Norman expressed appreciation for the work that is being done in the BAAF and the challenges that the collaboration is working to overcome.

Member Pitt mentioned that as a tribal member of Warm Springs he is glad to hear that the tribes that have been impacted are being engaged in these efforts. He wanted to group to remember that "...there was a taking and there was a loss" and he hopes the federal team will continue to work with the tribes to keep these efforts going.

Member Golden seconded Member Pitts' observations and wanted to note his perspective that the dams don't necessarily fight climate change, but they are power sources that are already there fighting hypothetical climate change that would occur if we used another power source. He commented that it is important to look at power supply vs. fisheries and fish and wildlife tradeoffs not just from the perspective of what we're doing now, but from the perspective of what we and the federal agencies need to do, anticipate doing, and are committed to do to actually fight actual climate change, not hypothetical climate change that would have otherwise occurred.

Ben Zelinsky of BPA said that he appreciated Member Golden's comments and distinguishing between current existing carbon-free power vs. the need to make additional improvements and reduction of greenhouse gasses is a fair one. He added that there are both the direct benefits of the power produced there, and there is also the value of that dispatchable power and its ability to integrate those intermittent resources and provide additional integration of solar and wind.

Scott Hoefler of the Bureau of Reclamation added that they have seen some real benefits from the (BAAF) Working Group relative to coordination between the tribes and federal agencies to address the necessary environmental compliance related to some of the studies. They've seen real efficiencies coming from the collaboration coming from this working group.

Michael Tehan of NOAA Fisheries noted that the work the Columbia Basin Partnership developing abundance goals for the blocked area was not done in coordination with any fishery agencies or indigenous nations in Canada. As Springer mentioned, there is an opportunity through our work on the Columbia River Treaty to improve the coordination across the boundary which will be important with a huge part of the basin above the Canadian border. Tehan said that there is a formal group in Canada that deals with

reintroduction issues – a collaboration between the BC government, the Canadian federal government, and three of the indigenous nations there. They have periodic webinars to share information, and there is one coming up in early May.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/17707/2022_04_1.pdf

2. Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission’s (CRITFC) 2022 Energy Vision for the Columbia River Basin

Representatives of the CRITFC presented their updated Energy Vision for the Columbia River Basin. CRITFC’s 2022 Energy Vision contains detailed near-term and longer-term recommendations for the region’s electrical power system, including hydrosystem operations and system configuration thus relating closely to the Council’s 2021 Power Plan and the hydrosystem operations portion of the Council’s 2014/2020 Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program.

Executive Director Aja DeCoteau gave an overview of CRITFC. CRITFC represents four tribes in the Columbia River basin: the Yakima Nation in Washington, the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, the Warm Springs Tribe in Oregon, and the Umatilla Tribe in Oregon. They were formed in 1977 because at that time they were being denied access to exercise their treaty fishing rights, and they knew they had to come together to address the declining fish populations they were seeing during that time. CRITFC created the Energy Vision for the Columbia River Basin because of the devastation tribal members experienced when major energy projects such as the Dalles, Bonneville, Lower Snake, and other dams were built along the river. They want to ensure that tribal interests won’t be sacrificed for energy needs into the future. They see the need for a plan that addresses the region’s energy needs and the restoration of fish and wildlife on behalf of the tribes.

Vision

DeCoteau expressed that CRITFC’s vision for the northwest power system can be put into three categories. CRITFC and its member tribes envision a future where the Columbia Basin electric power system:

- Supports healthy and harvestable fish and wildlife
- Protects tribal treat and cultural resources
- Provides clean, reliable, and affordable electricity

Goals

Policy Analyst Christine Golightly reviewed CRITFC’s major goals within their vision. The updated 2022 Energy Vision has 4 goals identified:

- Goal 1 – Create a regional energy portfolio that protects and enhances

environmental quality, treaty protected resources, and supports the restoration of Columbia Basin's fish and wildlife to healthy and harvestable population levels.

- Goal 2 – Prevent new and reduce ongoing damage to Columbia River Basin resources including fish, wildlife, water quality, and tribal cultural resources by recognizing the relationships and interdependencies of natural and built systems including the Northwest's energy system.
- Goal 3 – Provide increased protection for both fish and wildlife and utility customers against unanticipated events such as drought, fire, and market aberrations while providing an adequate, economical, and reliable electric supply.
- Goal 4 – Mitigate the climate change impacts to protect Northwest ecosystems by replacing fossil fuel electric generation and reducing the reliance on fossil fuels for power, transportation, and other uses.

Consultant Ed Sheets said that there are some reasons for optimism in the region in line with their Vision pointing to stricter state and federal policies, standards, and programs addressing greenhouse emissions, the planned phase out of coal, increased energy efficiency, and an increased focus on adequacy issues. He also cited that solar and wind energy cost has decreased dramatically and renewable energy buildout between 2021 and 2045 will increase significantly. Sheets then pointed to the need to reduce transmission and distribution costs. The Energy Vision found that BPA and the four largest utilities spent more than \$8 billion on transmission on distribution costs from 2016 – 2020. In addition to the high cost to consumers, the transmission lines can cause damage to tribal resources and other resources. He listed some of the recommendations in the Energy Vision that would reduce the need for new transmission and distribution lines – reducing costs and damages: increased energy efficiency, promoting energy storage, more emphasis on demand management, and more emphasis on on-site solar systems.

Recommendations

Policy Department Manager Rob Lothrop stated that among other things, the Energy Vision describes the crisis facing salmon and steelhead populations, salmon protections that have been weakened or eliminated, and the need to plan for near-term and long-term changes in the configuration and operation of the dams. Lothrop emphasized that the region has a long way to go to restore healthy, harvestable salmon populations in the basin. Lothrop reviewed the 43 Energy Vision recommendations that CRITFC summarized into 9 broad categories:

- Improve River Configuration and Operations
- Amend the Columbia River Treaty
- Increase Resource Adequacy
- Address the Climate Crisis
- Maximize Energy Efficiency

- Harness Renewable Resources
- Reduce Peak Loads
- Strategically Site Renewable Resources
- Minimize Transmission and Distribution Costs

Member Pitt commented to remind the Council Members that when CRITFC talks about treaties, they're talking about treaties between the United States and the tribes. So, it's our job as American citizens and creatures of the federal government and the states to honor those treaties.

Member Grob commented that he appreciates CRITFC's efforts and that he fully endorses renewables, but in their current state (wind and solar being cyclical), we still need something that will ramp up quickly should the renewables go down or else lights will go out or rolling blackouts like in California will occur. Sheets said that reliability is a big theme in the Energy Vision because CRITFC is concerned that if the lights are about to go out, the salmon protections will be cut before the lights. He added that he thinks increased focus on energy efficiency and demand management can help with this, and he acknowledged that at least in the near term they need to have come combined cycle combustion turbines on standby. They may not be used very often, but when they are they need to be reliable.

Member Golden expressed that it is great to see this kind of input that addresses the tradeoffs and provides useful and creative thoughts about how to manage those tradeoffs while being clear about what the bottom lines are and what CRITFC's fundamental values are. Member Golden asked the group if they have any thoughts or asks on what they think the Council's role should be going forward. Lothrop said power and fish and wildlife decisions are regional decisions and they would love to have support in tackling these efforts on a regional, comprehensive basis. Sheets added that Council Members occupy a unique role working with Governors and state agencies and elevating the importance of these efforts within each of the state could really be helpful. He also said that the Council has an excellent staff, and he expects they will need a lot of technical assistance as these efforts move forward, so he hopes the Council staff can help with this.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here:
https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/17714/2022_04_2.pdf

3. Update from the NorthernGrid Transmission Planning Group

Dave Angell of the Western Power Pool gave an overview of NorthernGrid and an update on recent activities including the 2021 transmission plan.

Jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional entities have formed a single transmission planning association – NorthernGrid: that facilitates regional transmission planning across the Pacific

Northwest and Intermountain West. The association members executed a Planning Agreement that will provide the region with:

- Collaborative Pacific Northwest and Intermountain region planning
- Common data and assumptions
- Provide a single stakeholder forum
- FERC transmission planning compliance, including economic studies and cost allocation

The NorthernGrid members include Bonneville Power Administration, investor-owned utilities, and consumer-owned utilities located in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The NorthernGrid 2020-2021 Regional Transmission Plan

The NorthernGrid 2020-2021 Regional Transmission Plan was developed per the Study Scope that outlines the NorthernGrid 2020-2021 regional planning process, as required under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Orders No. 890 and 1000, in accordance with each Enrolled Party's Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) Attachment K – Regional Planning Process and NorthernGrid Planning Agreement, and the results are presented in this report.

The objective of the planning process is to identify the projects that either cost-effectively or efficiently meet the needs of the NorthernGrid members in a 10-year future. The process started with a data submittal of needs from each of the Members. For a 10-year future, each Member submitted their forecasted load, expected resource additions or retirements, public policy requirements, and expected transmission topology. All this information was then assimilated into the 2030 WECC Anchor Data Set (ADS). From that base case, a production cost model (PCM) analysis was performed to identify the stress conditions of interest for the NorthernGrid footprint. The stress conditions were selected to represent typical or expected operating conditions for the NorthernGrid footprint. Weather conditions have a large impact on system load. More megawatts are consumed on a hot summer day than on a cool autumn day due to things like industrial cooling loads.

Similarly, more megawatts are consumed on a cold winter day than on a warm spring day due to keeping homes and businesses warm. Both summer and winter loading conditions were selected to capture these seasonal loading conditions. There is enough proposed wind generation in Wyoming to have a potential impact on the reliability of the NorthernGrid footprint; because of this, an hour representing high output from Wyoming wind resources was selected.

Needs were also identified across southern Idaho, so a high Idaho to Northwest Path (west to east) case and Borah West (east to west) case were developed. Altogether, eight stress conditions for the NorthernGrid footprint were identified. The results of the

contingency analyses from those eight respective base cases formed the foundation for the selection of projects in the Regional Transmission Plan.

Regional Projects

The following projects were submitted by NorthernGrid Members and are identified as having the potential to impact the reliability of the NorthernGrid region.

- Antelope to Goshen 345 kV Transmission Line
- Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H)
- Gateway South Transmission Project
- Gateway West Transmission Project
- Cross-Tie Transmission Project
- Southwest Intertie Project North (SWIP)
- TransWest Express
- Cascade Renewable Transmission System
- Loco Falls Greenline

Further details can be found in the Regional Transmission Plan for the 2020-2021 NorthernGrid Planning Cycle here:

https://www.northerngrid.net/private-media/documents/2020-2021_Regional_Transmission_Plan.pdf

The Regional Transmission Plan for the 2022-2023 cycle is slated for completion by December 2023.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/17708/2022_04_3.pdf

4. Council decision on Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review Recommendations: Fish and Wildlife Division Staff.

Fish and Wildlife Analyst Maureen Hess provided an overview of the Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery (AFHH) Project Review. This review category is the last category of projects to be reviewed in this cycle and was initiated in early February 2021. The 124 projects are implemented by 38 different organizations and governments that fall into 6 general categories: conservation districts, tribes, non-profits, state, local, and federal. There is extensive collaboration and coordination within and among these projects. Most entities also provide significant cost share funding for these projects.

Hess provided more detail, highlighting examples of work done by the projects across the basin. Approximately 70% of the projects in this review focus on habitat projects:

- Restoration and protection
- Operation and maintenance of critical fish screens, ladders, and traps
- Research, monitoring, and evaluation

- Coordination and data management

Approximately 30% of the projects in this review focus on hatcheries and artificial production activities:

- Fish and Wildlife Program hatchery mitigation authorized by the Northwest Power Act (anadromous component)
- Operations and maintenance
- Associated monitoring and evaluation
- Research
- Coordination

Mark Fritsch gave an overview of the independent science review process. As part of the review process, Council Fish and Wildlife staff utilizes the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). They are part of the Power Act from the 1996 Amendment, they review the projects, and they've been doing that since the late 1990s. The ISRP reviews project for consistency with the Council's Program based on 4 criteria:

- Projects are based on sound science principles.
- Projects benefit fish and wildlife.
- Projects have a clearly defined objective and outcome.
- Projects have provisions for monitoring and evaluation of results.

As part of the review process, Fish and Wildlife staff requested public comments also as part of the ISRP, and the Council must take public comments into consideration when forming recommendations to be sent to BPA. For this cycle, staff received 16 comment letters with some common themes such as budget limitation concerns, biological issues, climate change, future project reviews, ISRP responses, and even support letters.

Mark Fritsch outlined eight cross-cutting policy and administrative issues associated with this group of projects and the Program.

- I. Core Program strategy recommendations
 - a. Habitat RM&E Strategy
 - b. Hatchery and related activities

- II. Implementation recommendations
 - a. Asset management
 - b. Flat funding
 - c. Climate change

- III. Administrative recommendations
 - a. Projects that are not applicable (N/A) for review
 - b. Umbrella Projects

- IV. Future Review Process the Fish and Wildlife Program

Director of Fish and Wildlife, Patty O'Toole and Mark Fritsch then presented recommendations in detail to the Council Members. Of the 122 projects on which the ISRP provided a review, 107 of them met science review criteria.

Chair Norman expressed his appreciation for the work done by the staff, sponsors, and fish and wildlife program managers throughout the basin.

Member Allen added that he feels that this is very important work and the Council owes this type of effort to the ratepayers who invest so much to make these projects possible. He said we owe it to the species we're striving to mitigate for to take a look from time to time and make sure we're doing what we said we'd do. He said he also feels we owe it to the project sponsors who work so hard to allow us to highlight their successes.

Member Pitt expressed that he is thankful to be a part of this and that he hopes the Council takes seriously what we're doing.

Member Golden also expressed his appreciation for this work and noted that he felt unclear about the policy and administrative issues where responsibility lies and that we have an idea how to follow through them through to a successful conclusion. He said it was a little bit of constructive feedback and a lot of appreciation for the work that is vital to the region.

Council decision on Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review Recommendations

Vice Chair Grob moved that the Council recommend to the Bonneville Power Administration the Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Project Review recommendations, as presented by staff and recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Member Allen seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Presentation materials are posted with this summary here:

https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/17709/2022_04_4.pdf

5. Council Business

Council approval of the March 2022 Council Meeting minutes

Vice-Chair Grob moved that the Council approve for the signature of the Vice-Chair the minutes of the March 14-15, 2022 Council Meeting held in Coeur d'Alene Idaho and via webinar, as presented by staff.

Member Yost seconded.

No discussion.

Voice vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion was approved.

Public Comment

Charles Robison spoke on behalf of the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association said that he was sent by Montana's 25 electric co-ops to Coeur d'Alene last month to speak up for the hundreds of thousands of Montanans that depend on federal hydropower to not spend ratepayer funds on a hypothetical exercise – the proposed study of breaching the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs). Montana's electric cooperatives oppose this study. They feel it is a misuse and waste of ratepayer funds.

Mark Hayden, General Manager of Missoula Electric Cooperative, spoke to express his concern regarding the proposed study of loss of LSRD generation. He is concerned that ratepayer funds and resources will potentially be expended on a hypothetical study that is neither necessary, nor within the scope of the Council's responsibility at this time. The Lower Snake River and the dams should coexist. The EIS was clear. The MEC annual meeting was held in mid-March, and no issue resonated more with members than the discussion surrounding this proposed study.

Kurt Miller of Northwest River Partners expressed that he respects and admires the work of the Council and its staff, however he also wanted to express great concern over the idea of the Council taking on a LSRD replacement study. He questioned if the model is really ready to take on an issue of this importance. It's not only a really critical issue for the region's energy infrastructure and our ability to get to zero carbon grid, but also a very highly politicized issue. This is hyperpolitical and we're afraid that this is not the way to try to beta test that model on something this important. He said he received feedback from 100 members that they don't trust the model in its current state. The new updated model just doesn't have the faith of the utility world in the Northwest yet.

Mark Johnson, General Manager of Flathead Electric Cooperative, stressed the importance of maintaining the LSRDs. Flathead's 57,000 members support not only the LSRDs, but all

hydrogeneration in the region. He asked that the Council not fund or study anything that considers breaching or removing any hydro project in the region. He said that instead of using Council staff time and Flathead Electric's members' money on the proposed scoping study, he would encourage the Council to use the time to work with the region on re-establishing trust regarding the outputs from the Council's GENESYS model so future power plans and resource adequacy studies will not be viewed skeptically by those of us in the utility industry, because they are 180 degrees out of phase with other regional analyses.

Scott Levy, host of bluefish.org, had technical difficulties during the public comment.

Chair Norman adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting materials for April 2022 can be found here: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/calendar/council-meeting-april-12-2022/>