

PNWCCREPORT Council



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Meeting Notes

January 15-16, 2019

Portland, OR

January’s Council meeting in Portland saw Chair Jim Yost pass the gavel to newly elected Chair Jennifer Anders from Montana. Elected to vice chair was Oregon’s Council Member Richard Devlin. The Council received its annual briefing on the region’s carbon emissions from electricity generation, received updates on the Fish and Wildlife Amendment process, and took action on lamprey and pinniped proposals.

Council Members Jennifer Anders, Tim Baker, Richard Devlin, Ted Ferrioli, Guy Norman and Jim Yost were in attendance. Member Tom Karier joined by phone. The replacements for Members Karier and Bill Booth have not yet been named. The next Council Meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon, on February 12 and 13, 2019.

In This Issue

Jennifer Anders and Richard Devlin elected to Council leadership	1
Carbon emissions from electricity generation continue decline	2
Funding for platform to remove Steller sea lions approved	4
Lamprey conservation funding to continue	4
51 Program amendment recommendations received	5
Council Briefs	5

The Agenda

Jennifer Anders and Richard Devlin elected to Council leadership

New Council Chair Jennifer Anders, who served as the Council’s vice chair last year, was appointed to the Council in 2013 by Montana Governor Steve Bullock. While Bullock was Montana’s Attorney General, she worked with him on a number of high-profile issues including energy development, water quality, climate

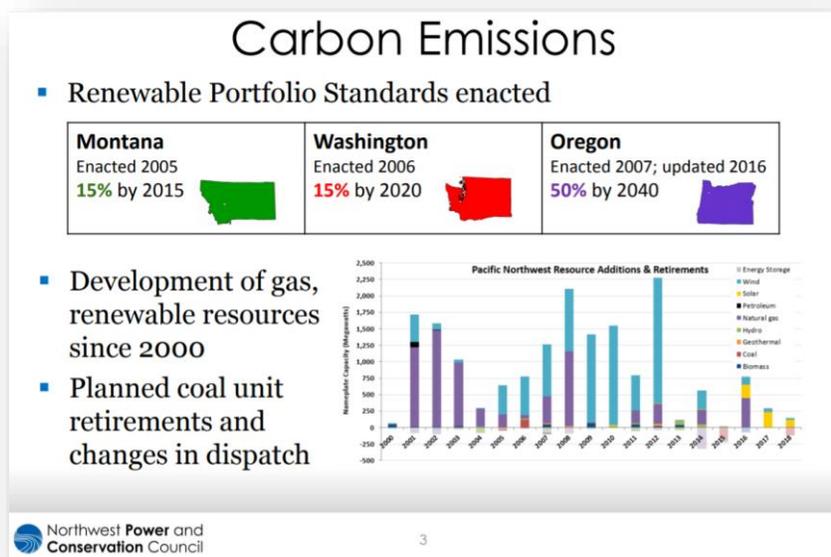
change, public land management and interstate water compact allocations. Member Anders has a law degree from the University of Montana and an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

New Council Vice-Chair Richard Devlin was appointed to the Council in 2018 by Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Member Devlin has a deep interest in conservation and evidence-based public policy. He served 31 years as an elected official, first at the local and regional level, where he focused on open space and habitat conservation, land use planning, and transportation. Elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1996 where he served until appointed to the Council. Member Devlin graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Administration of Justice, and Pepperdine University with a Master of Arts in Management. He served in the United States Marine Corps.

Carbon emissions from electricity generation continue decline

Overall, carbon emissions are declining in the West, Gillian Charles, energy policy analyst told Council members. And in the Pacific Northwest, where clean hydro accounts for 60 percent of power generation compared to 7 percent nationwide, 2018 carbon emissions are similar to 2017. Above-normal water at The Dalles, new renewable generation, energy efficiency and no new natural gas plants account for this downward trajectory.

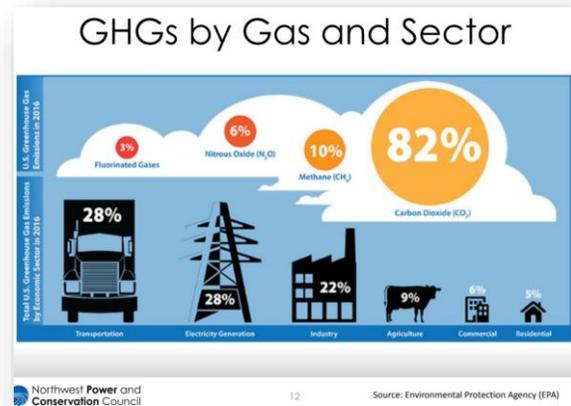
Charles explained that when we have good hydro years, emissions are low; and when we have bad hydro years, emissions tend to be higher. She added that current emissions are within range of the Council’s Seventh Northwest Power Plan.



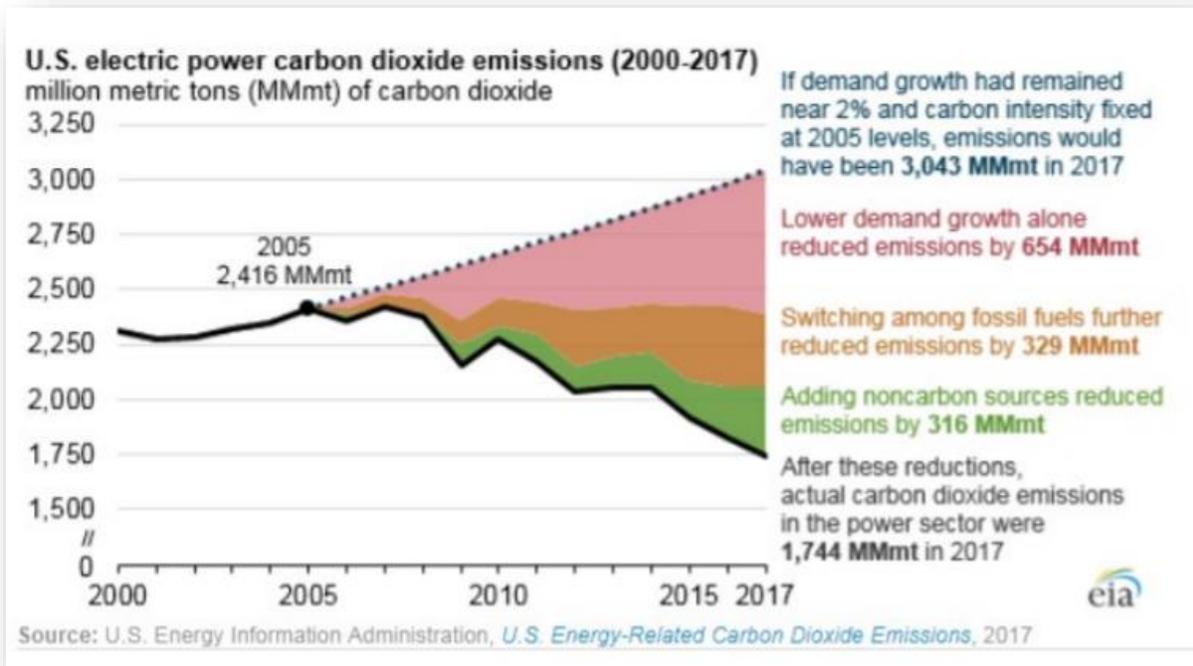
Nationally, early numbers indicate that there was a 3.8 percent jump in carbon dioxide emissions in 2018 compared to 2017. Charles said that last year, there were increased heating and cooling needs, and natural gas use and new capacity outweighed renewable resources for retiring coal plants. She added that in 2019, emissions are forecasted to fall, so 2018 might have been a blip.

For those keeping score, as of 2016, electricity generation accounted for 28 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, tied with transportation. Industry accounts for 22 percent, agriculture 9 percent, commercial 6 percent and residential 5 percent.

A discussion on coal followed as it has slowly declined in 2002 when it made up 75 percent of thermal dispatch. In 2017, coal was close to 50 percent. A total of 3,600 MW of coal is due to retire by 2032. But that isn't necessarily set in stone, Charles explained. These retiring coal plants account for about 50 percent of historical emissions since 2000. Actual future emissions depend on what they're replaced with. If the coal plants are replaced with natural gas, then the emissions drop won't be as drastic. Natural gas emits 40-50 percent less carbon than coal.



A closer look sees carbon dioxide emissions in the power sector reduced significantly to 1,744 MMmt due to natural gas and coal dispatch changes, renewable resources, low demand growth and energy efficiency.



Funding for platform to remove Steller sea lions approved

Removing California sea lions is just one hurdle in the effort to reduce predation on ESA-listed fish in the Columbia River. Removing a 2,500-pound Steller sea lion is literally another animal altogether. Since the passage of S. 3119, the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, wildlife agencies have been gearing up to remove both species of sea lions, which have been consuming vast numbers of salmon, steelhead and lamprey between Astoria and Bonneville Dam.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Fish and Game, and the Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission asked for Council approval of \$52,000 to build a barge large enough to safely handle the lethal removal of large sea lions.



Before the Council unanimously approved the expenditure, Council Member Ted Ferrioli cautioned his fellow members about staying the course on pinniped removal: “This is a collaboration, the result of close coordination with members, sovereigns and states,” he said. “We need to be resolute about carrying this out. You bought the E ticket, now you’re going to have to take that ride.” The platform is scheduled for completion later this year.

Lamprey conservation funding to continue

A set of lamprey conservation and restoration activities received continued support from the Council by unanimous vote. Seven projects were identified in the basin at a funding level of \$238,682 in fiscal year 2019, not to exceed \$300,000/year in the out-years, and is conditioned on the project producing annual reports beginning in 2020.

In 2011, the Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan for the Columbia River Basin outlined objectives to halt the decline of Pacific lamprey and restore them throughout their historical range for ecological health and tribal cultural use. The Council recognized and supported these objectives in its 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. Member Anders praised the projects and noted that the funding was found with cost savings from other programs.

51 Amendment recommendations received on Fish and Wildlife Program

Patty O'Toole, program implementation manager, told Council members that they have received a good, diverse set of comments on the 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The comments are posted on the Council's website and staff is organizing them into topics. Public comments on the recommendations are open through February 4, 2019. After that, the Council will begin to work with the recommendations and comments to draft amendments. The full amendment proposals will be brought before the Council in July and August, O'Toole said.

Council Briefs

Northwest Power Plan gets a rebrand

The Council's upcoming Northwest Power Plan is getting a new name, reported Mark Walker, Public Affairs Division director. Instead of being referred to as the Eighth Power Plan, it will be renamed the 2020-2021 Northwest Power Plan. There will be a kick-off webinar event to discuss the timeline on February 21, 2019.

Energy efficiency white paper to follow the money

There was continued discussion on the Power Division's white paper on the value of energy efficiency. The Council's Power Division staff is taking a good hard look at BPA's current energy efficiency program and how the money flows through the system. In addition to recognizing energy efficiencies' regional benefits, there is the realization that for specific customers and utilities it can present implementation challenges. The idea is to give a clear picture on the impacts of the program. Member Baker said this comes at a great time while BPA is trying to figure out how to shape its energy efficiency program for the next round of contracts. The white paper is scheduled to be before the full Council in February.

RTF will integrate natural gas analysis into its portfolio

The Regional Technical Forum (RTF) is looking to expand its portfolio to include natural gas issues to look at the interaction between electric and natural gas utilities, and how energy efficiency measures can be impacted by one another. The RTF can be used to promote consistent methodology and there's value for the Council's 2020-2021 Northwest Power Plan. While there was some discussion about the Council's mandate to concentrate on electricity, Member Devlin argued that natural gas has to be a part of the Council's overall energy planning.

BPA to change energy efficiency acquisition priorities

BPA's Kim Thompson, vice president of energy efficiency, talked to Power Committee members about the agency's 2020-2021 implementation plan. BPA is looking at its needs and is changing its priorities for where to acquire energy efficiency. In 2016-2017, about 60 percent was acquired from lighting, which doesn't help BPA meet its resource needs. 2020-2021 will see its program focus on weatherization and HVAC measures.