**NWPP Operating Committee**

**May 7, 2025**

**1230-1700 Pacific Time**

**Western Power Pool Offices**

**7525 NE Ambassador Place, Suite M**

**Portland, OR**

**Minutes**

**Administration**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Adam Labuga at 12:30 p.m. Due to late catering at the WPP Office everyone in attendance was asked to quietly serve themselves while roll call was conducted. ChaRee DiFabio took attendance and announced a quorum was present at the start of the meeting.

Kevin Conway reviewed the Anti-Trust Compliance Statement with the members and stepped through the meeting and safety protocols.

The agenda was reviewed and there were a couple minor changes to the agenda. The TPC update was moved up in time due to meeting conflicts with Chelsea Loomis and Ben Hutchins, and an agenda item was added to discuss the OC support of the NW American Power Dispatchers Association 2005 Fall meeting.

The OC did introductions of those in attendance at the Portland office.

**Action Items**

Current action items were reviewed. Justin Cochran updated the OC on Action Item #7 regarding ICCP points for wind, solar and battery data from members that have those resources. Mr. Cochran said that they are down to one last Balancing Authority. All other previous action items have been completed and were closed.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2025**

Mr. Conway reviewed the last meeting’s minutes which have been posted and sent out to all the members. Chair Labuga asked if there were any corrections or changes to the last meeting’s minutes. With no changes the minutes were approved by consensus.

**WPP Corporate Update**

Ryan Roy presented the 2024-2025 end of year budget forecast showing that the actuals are running about 12-14% below the budgeted amounts. Much of this was due to delays in hiring staff, and lower direct costs to the Committee. He then discussed the 2025-2026 18-month budget and broke that down to so it can be compared to the previous 12-month budgets. The Operating Committee has roughly 22 buckets of direct and indirect expenses with the majority of costs coming from direct expenses associated with the learning and development team and Source.Training. These costs then are offset with a distribution of the subscriber fees to the OC and other committees. Other direct fees include travel and some specific equipment. Rent, general equipment, human resources, legal telecom and other supporting expenditures make up the bulk of the indirect costs that are allocated to all the different groups and committees.

Since this is an 18-month budget, there will be an update in November of 2025 to entertain the updated budget for the remaining 12 months. Mr. Roy then introduced the 2025-2026 budget with a roughly 9.5% increase over the previous year. This is mostly due to added staff approved in 2024-2025. Additional staff is not anticipated for the 2025-2026 budget cycle, and most other costs should be relatively flat. With the integration of new members, the cost impact is socialized and lowers the individual cost to each member.

Thomas Bagnell motioned for the OC to endorse the WPP 2025-2026 fiscal year budget as proposed. Chris McDarment seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

Mr. Roy continued with an update on the WPP positions. An IT position was filled, and a financing and accounting position has been posted. With Mr. Conway taking a new position, there is a need to backfill for him. There are other positions in WRAP that will be filled, but those positions are billed directly to the WRAP cost centers.

**Transmission Planning Committee**

Ben Hutchins provided a brief update on TPC activities and highlighted the recent record-setting WECC South-to-North flows. He shared insights from a PowerEx study, including a specific hour during which these flows, often assumed to originate from California, were actually driven by generation in the Southwest pushing through California into the Northwest. Mr. Hutchins then walked through the data underlying this observation.

**Operations Training Subcommittee**

Keith Schreiner reviewed the metrics for the usage of the Source.training platform. He stated that the usage was the highest ever in a single quarter. 7706.5 CEHs were delivered in a single quarter; it wasn’t that long ago that that would have been a good year. There is now a second simulation activity for switching. The first NERC Test Prep Course was released on April 15th: Math for System Operators. The reviews were very positive and reinforced that the curriculum is on the right path. Mr. Shreiner highlighted the need for feedback on these courses since he is only getting about a 60% response rate. The information provided allows the staff to understand where the courses need to be adjusted.

Mr. Schreiner then stepped through various charts illustrating how the platform is being utilized by the members. The Western Energy Imbalance Market course was the top course for Q1 of 2025, and Space Weather continues to be in the top 5.

During the OTS meeting the main topic of discussion was the changes to the NERC System Operator Certification Manual. These changes now allow taking courses multiple times over a year. Source.training used to only allow repeating a course after one year, now a course could be taken multiple times. NERC maintains an ability to determine if repeated courses aren’t appropriate and can deny some, or all, credit for repeated courses. This could put a System Operator in jeopardy of losing their certification and there may not be enough time to make up the missing training if this should occur. This could be very impactful to control room operations if an operator loses their certification. The OTS has put a small group together to look at how the risk can be managed. The OC continued with discussions regarding the nuances of the NERC training manual changes.

Mr. Schreiner discussed the efforts to continue to expand the subscription services and bring in funds to offset the portion of the members dues that supports training development. He repeated Mr. Roy’s comments that the number put into the 2025-2026 budget for incoming fees for training are conservative and may be higher. Mr. Schreiner went on to explain how subscriptions are managed and how the incoming fees can be inconsistent from year to year.

Lastly, Mr. Schreiner gave an update on the Test Prep courses. The program will be based on the creation of a 22-course curriculum that System Operators can use to prepare to take their NERC Test. There are currently 4 courses in the production cycle right now that are being worked on simultaneously. The team is also working with Mike Terbrueggen on the next 5 courses. The project is expected to be completed by late 2027 or early 2028.

**Standards Development and Compliance Coordination Subcommittee**

Mr. Conway reviewed the formation of the Standard Development and Compliance Coordination Subcommittee approved by the OC in February. As part of that approval, he has provided a draft charter for the OC to approve that will put bounds on the committee and participants. He walked through the charter highlighting that the committee will meet occasionally for short phone calls, and the purpose is to help the participants understand each other’s concerns about active NERC projects. He stressed that the group is to help inform each other and find common ground; not to pressure anyone into making specific comments or votes. Each entity will remain independent and free to comment as they like. The overall result should be a strong showing by the WPP members to influence NERC and WECC standards development.

This is an OC Subcommittee, and the OC members are responsible to designate who they would like to have participate on the Subcommittee. After discussion, Kathy Downey made a motion to approve the SDCC Subcommittee Charter as corrected. Chris McDarment seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**Updates on First LightEnergy, BHE Montana and SPP**

After a break Ms. DiFabio gave updates on the integration of First LightEnergy. First LightEnergy is set to go live on July 1, 2025. The timeline is dependent on BPA’s support as the program host, and their resource constraints. There was a kick-off meeting held on May 6, 2025 to discuss the logistics and operational parameters. Ms. DiFabio thanked Harlan Tallman for leading training with the help of Justin Cochran and Ryan Collier. There will be follow-up meetings to continue to coordinate. First LightEnergy does have access to Source.training to ensure their staff is fully trained on the RSGC program. Everyone was reminded that tag testing will need to be completed in this process and that we need full cooperation to do this and still meet our stated timelines.

Ms. DiFabio then discussed the consolidation of New Harquahala into the SRP BA effective June 1. Ms. DiFabio is working to make member conforming changes in the agreement and have those completed in just one change rather than two separate changes. Ms. DiFabio said she is confident that the consolidation is moving forward with everyone involved.

The BHE Montana BA consolidations (WWA into GWA) will not be completed until October 1, 2025. Staff has been in contact with BHE Montana and WECC to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible.

Lastly, Black Hills Power and SPP have made membership applications to the OC and the RSGC, and there was a joint OC and RSGC meeting to discuss these applications. Black Hills Power would like to go live in the RSGC on their NERC Certification Date, just the same as SPP, sometime around April 1, 2026. There is still more work to be done, and more potential feasibility studies needed for participation in the RSGC. SPP is anxious to know the final decision of the RSGC. Discussion followed about the SPP consolidation of WAUW and WACM into the SPP BAA. The existing BAs are currently located in two separate RSG zones.

**Operating Committee Charter**

Mr. Conway reviewed the discussions that have been included in the last couple OC meetings regarding the need for an OC Charter. As an action item from last meeting, he sent a draft charter out to the OC members for review and action at this meeting. He highlighted the intent of the charter to capture and address how the OC meetings are to be run and administrated. Since the Membership Agreement has some specific language about how the OC is to conduct business, the charter clearly identifies those items, and where the charter and the Membership Agreement may conflict, it is clearly stated that the Membership Agreement is the binding document. He also stated that the OC has the ability to change the charter any time.

Chris McDarment moved to approve the OC Charter as amended. Al Austin seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

**Update on Current NERC and WECC Projects**

Mr. Conway stepped through a presentation on the current NERC projects that are being tracked and monitored by WPP Staff. He discussed the ballot bodies that are forming and what votes are currently scheduled. He went over the FERC Order 901 phase 3 NERC projects and how they continue to be challenging to follow since the pace is very fast and different project meetings tend to conflict. The most challenging concerns are how each project is developed independently and may use some terms differently than the other projects. There are also concerns about responsibility and authority over Tier 2 IBR facilities that are not directly connected to the Bulk electric system.

Mr. Conway encouraged everyone to vote to retire WECC Project WECC-0142 to retire BAL-002-WECC-3. The ballot was currently open and it is in our best interests to get a large turnout to vote for approval. There was discussion on the next steps of retirement of BAL-002-WECC-3, and that the effort doesn’t stop with the ballot, it still has to be approved by the WECC Standards Committee, the WECC Board, then go through the NERC process. This is not a high priority for NERC so it may take some effort to keep it moving forward.

Mr. Conway discussed the WECC project WECC-0156 and realignment of the VAR-001 regional variance. The Drafting team had decided after several meetings that there was no need to modify the Regional Variance. The team was going to take that recommendation back to the WECC Standards Committee.

The committee discussed options and challenges to changes to the Reserve Sharing Group if BAL-002-WECC-3 was retired. This included the possibility of studies to be considered regarding the transfer capacity to move reserves with the available transmission.

**Northwest American Power Dispatcher’s Association Fall 2025 Meeting**

Mr. Conway addressed the OC regarding a request by Frank Godfrey of the NW American Power Dispatchers Association asking the Western Power Pool to host the 2025 Fall NWAPDA meeting in Portland, OR at the WPP Offices. Mr. Godfrey was told that this sponsorship would be limited and needed approval of the OC. In the past, and prior to the COVID Pandemic, the OC had worked with the APDA in providing some training and sponsorship. The NW Chapter of the APDA is seeing a resurgence and is looking for sponsors to host meetings. The WPP has a good location and the space to host the meeting and provide some minimal catering during the meeting. Staff is working to identify training opportunities for the group, as well. The sponsorship should represent minimum cost to the OC, mostly refreshments and lunch. Staff time should be minimal, except for some preparation and training that may be provided, and there is no cost for the facilities. Costs would be directly charged to the OC for this event.

Discussion followed regarding possible tours of control centers, and if this is a Northwest sponsorship only, or if it will apply to the Southwest meetings, too. The Northwest has asked for this hosting, and the Southwest members can attend. Right now the Southwest has not requested any sponsorship, and they are scheduled to meet in Tucson, AZ in the Fall. Chris McDarment made the motion for the WPP Staff to host the 2025 NW APDA meeting in September. Nathan Anderson seconded the motion, and it was carried by unanimous consent.

**Review of OC Goals and Objectives**

Mr. Conway led a discussion on the OC’s goals and objectives that were adopted at the November meeting in Phoenix, AZ. The first objective of creating a dashboard on the state of the OC interconnected area. Due to workloads, there has not been much focus on this topic yet. With the anticipated addition of the Principal Operations Advisor, this item should get more attention during the summer. During discussion members felt that the other 19 objectives are being met sufficiently.

**Current Operations**

Chairman Labuga asked If there were any current operations topics to discuss. he mentioned that he will be attending the RC West Summer Readiness Week scheduled for the week of May 12th. There was some discussion regarding the warm temperatures already occurring in the desert southwest. Al Austin shared that WAPA lost two transformers due to lightning, one last Fall and the other last August. A transformer was procured from APS and brought online on May 1st. That puts them in a better position for this summer. It was suggested that this would be a good topic for a future meeting.

There is also an issue with approximately 12 transformers that have recalled bushings. These bushings were recalled 5-10 years ago, but somehow the transformers were missed. Now WAPA is making plans to get those bushings rotated out but the procurement process is very slow right now. There are 2 -500kv/230kv transformers at Mead that have these recalled bushings. One of those transformers is out of service right now because there is a concern of failure. It may take another year before the bushings can be replaced.

Ansley Kulseng-Hansen reported that Northwestern is expanding Its synchrophaser data footprint from 2 facilities to about a dozen. They are interested in connecting with anyone else who may have experience with this and has operational tools in place that could help them understand how this data is being used.

**New Action Items**

Mr. Conway reviewed the two action items that have been identified at this meeting:

1. WPP Staff to follow up with the NW APDA to help host the Fall NW APDA Meeting.
2. Raj Hundal would like to hear the RSG proposed solutions for the pending retirement of BAL-002-WECC-3.

**Future Meetings**

The next scheduled meetings are:

* 1. August 6, 2025 – WPP Offices, Portland, OR
  2. November 5, 2025 –Phoenix, AZ sponsored by APS
  3. February 4, 2026 – WPP Offices, Portland, OR
  4. May 6, 2026 - WPP Offices, Portland, OR

Mr. Hundal had one last thing to add to the meeting: NAESB is developing a Business Standard that is looking at the expansion of the enhanced curtailment calculator that would apply to all transmission or system elements across the West.

Mr Conway thanked everyone for their help with working around the delay in the delivery of lunch and keeping the meeting on track. We will continue with the 12:30 meeting start date in August.

Al Austin announce that he is retiring later this year, and that he is turning over his responsibilities to TJ Crimmins after this meeting. Stacy Ross will continue to be the alternate.

Chair Labuga adjourned the meeting at 1653.

Minutes taken by Kevin Conway, Western Power Pool

OC Meeting Attendance

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| **Turlock Irrigation District (TID)** | **Adam Labuga (Chair)** | Portland General Electric (PGE) | Brian McGuirk |
| **Tucson Electric Power Company** | **Calvin Dacus (Vice-Chair)** | Portland General Electric (PGE) | Cory McAlister |
| Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) | Kevin Stinson | Powerex Corporation (PWX) | Raj Hundal |
| Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPCO) | Robert Bray | Xcel Energy, dba Public Service of Colorado (PSCo) | Nick Seitz |
| Arizona Electric Power Cooperative (AEPCO) | Robert Cubley | Public Service Company of New Mexico | Aidan Gallegos |
| Arizona Public Service Company | Marvin Bradt | Public Service Company of New Mexico | Camille Chavez |
| Arlington Valley, LLC | Aaron Burke | Puget Sound Energy (PSEi) | Thomas Bagnell |
| Avangrid Renewables, LLC (AVRN) | Ty Kristensen | Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District | Mike Pfeister |
| Avista Corporation (AVA) | Gordon Harvey | Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District | Eric Gunther |
| British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BCHA) | Ehson Syed | Seattle City Light (SCL) | Michael Jang |
| FortisBC (FBC) | Tim Bodell | Seattle City Light (SCL) | Paul Haase |
| Grant County Public Utility District (GCPD) | Nathan Anderson | Tacoma Power (TPWR) | Cullen Ritchie |
| Gridforce Energy Management, LLC (GEM) | Antonio Franco | Tri-State Generation and Transmission | Blake Moyer |
| Idaho Power Company (IPCO) | Gary Slayton | Turlock Irrigation District (TID) | Jim Emmons |
| Imperial Irrigation District | Alonso Teran | Western Area Colorado-Missouri | Patrick Reamy |
| New Harquahala Generating Company, LLC | Aaron Burke | Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains | Chris Bultsma (WAUW) |
| NorthWestern Energy (NWMT) | Ansley Kulseng-Hansen | Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains | John Roemen (WAUW) |
| NV Energy (NVE) | Sam Ashmore | Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest | Allan Austin (WALC) |
| PacifiCorp (PAC) | Kathryn Downey | Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest | Todd "TJ" Crimmins (WALC) |
| PacifiCorp (PAC) | Wesley Murar |  |  |

Ryan Roy Budget Summary and Presentation