



# 64<sup>th</sup> Annual APB Conference

## 2024 Meeting Notes

*Location – Ponderosa Lodge; Sisters, OR  
(September 25-27, 2024)*

---

### Attendees

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
1	Andrew Janos	Eugene Water & Electric Board
2	Benjamin Caviness	Tacoma Power
3	Cory Starr	Eugene Water & Electric Board
4	Dan Cramer	Portland General Electric
5	David Meyer	Idaho Power Company
6	Diane Heimbigner	Tacoma Power
7	Gabe McGuire	Tacoma Power
8	Gonzalo Mendez	Portland General Electric
9	Gregg Garnett	US Bureau of Reclamation
10	Gregory Wattlely	Pacific Gas and Electric
11	Jack Wu	Idaho Power Company
12	James Trainer	Idaho Power Company
13	Jason Schilling	Douglas County PUD
14	Jenise Bauman	Tacoma Power
15	Jim Day	US Army Corps of Engineers
16	Josh Ankeny	Tacoma Power
17	Leah Gunnick	Tacoma Power
18	Leah Hough	Portland General Electric
19	Lindsay Dupont	Tacoma Power
20	Maggie David	Portland General Electric
21	Matt Peter	Tacoma Power
22	Megan Hill	Portland General Electric
23	Megan McCormick	Tacoma Power
24	Melora Shelton	Tacoma Power

25	Nathan McClain	US Army Corps of Engineers
26	Sam Gibbons	Tacoma Power
27	Scott Gibson	Tacoma Power
28	Scott Heller	Puget Sound Energy
29	Stuart Rosenberger	Idaho Power Company
30	Summer Payne	PacifiCorp
31	Theresa Hebert	Eugene Water & Electric Board
32	Tony Fuchs	Puget Sound Energy
33	Wendy Stolte	US Army Corps of Engineers
34	Wyatt Wood	Tacoma Power

## Wednesday September 25, 2024:

Prior to the start of the APB welcome and presentations, the second annual Association of Power Biologist Women’s Resource Group meeting was held. The APB Women’s Resource Group’s primary focus is on promoting and advancing women in the power industry, but all were welcome and encouraged to participate. Eighteen APB attendees were present, both in person and virtual attendees. The topic for discussion centered around “using your Voice.” Attendees got to know one another, share experiences, and seek advice. Presentations were shared with all APB members.

A light lunch was provided courtesy of EWEB and setup off the conference room patio for all APB members to dish up during the Women’s Resource Group meeting and prior to the meetings kickoff and opening remarks. Presiding APB President and Treasurer Matt Peter welcomed participants and provided a few opening remarks regarding the 64th annual APB meeting.

Matt then introduced fellow officers Scott Heller (Vice President) and Cory Starr (Secretary). It was recommended that we all go around the room and briefly introduce ourselves (name, organization, what you do, and for how long). Matt thanked EWEB and Cory Starr for the APB lunches and work put in to organize and host the 2024 meeting. Matt also informed the group that we lost our sponsor, Edison Electric Institute (EEI), due to personnel changes and budget cuts and asks APB members to reach out if they are aware of any potential donors. Matt then transitioned into the Member Presentations portion of the 2024 APB Meeting. Cory helped presenters with the AV setup and time management to keep the meeting on track. After presentations concluded, Cory thanked Wednesday’s presenters and updated members on the logistics for bowling, the field tour, banquet, and the final day of the meeting.

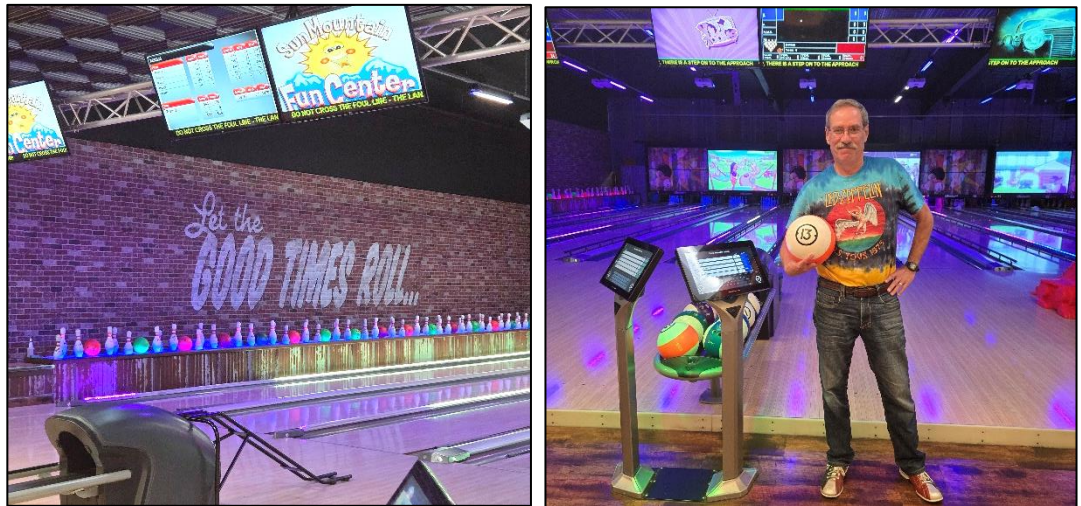
### Member Presentations

12:30 pm	President’s Opening Remarks & Welcome
12:45 pm	Summer Payne (PacifiCorp) -- <i>Planting for Pollinators</i>
1:05 pm	Scott Heller (Puget Sound Energy) -- <i>The Good, the Bad, and the Noxious</i>
1:25 pm	Tony Fuchs (Puget Sound Energy) -- <i>BATS!</i>
1:45 pm	Lindsay Dupont (Tacoma Power) -- <i>What’s the GIST? Modern Data Solutions in Tacoma Power NR</i>
2:20 pm	Maggie David (Portland General Electric) -- <i>The Oak Grove Fork, Clackamas River Big Challenges, Creative Solutions? and Help from Mother Nature</i>
2:40 pm	Jenise Bauman (Tacoma Power) -- <i>A 10-year review of Chinook and Sockeye Salmon conservation initiatives within Washington’s Skokomish Watershed</i>

- 3:00 pm Jack Wu (Idaho Power) -- *Juvenile White Sturgeon Distribution and Movements in Lower Granite Reservoir, Snake River*
- 3:20 pm Nathan McClain (U.S.ACE) -- *Improving Lamprey Passage at Mainstem Hydro Dams*
- 3:40 pm Closing remarks, plan for tonight's bowling and Thursday field tour

**Bowling**

Wednesday night concluded with the annual bowling tournament, this year at Sun Mountain Fun Center in Bend. It was a big, fun bowling alley that handled our group with ease. Pizzas, appetizers, and beers were enjoyed by all! Tony also reminded us all to step up our bowling attire by rocking the coolest shirt.



**Thursday September 26, 2024:** Field tours of the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project (Carmen reservoir and its sink holes, experimental upstream fish trap, spawning channel and reservoir habitat projects, stage zero habitat) were facilitated by EWEB. A wonderful BBQ brisket lunch was enjoyed at the newly constructed Trail Bridge Day Use Park. We couldn't have asked for better weather from start to finish with sunny skies and no wind the entire day! The tour was concluded with a stop at a beautiful McKenzie River waterfall just upstream from Carmen Reservoir. After some R&R time at the Lodge, members headed over to the Sisters Saloon patio for a catered "island themed" buffet dinner, drinks around the fires pits, and games of cornhole to round out the evening.



**Friday September 27, 2024:** President Matt Peter welcomed everyone back to the final meeting day and transitioned into the final Member Presentation portion of the agenda.

## **Member Presentations**

- 09:00 am Gonzalo Mendez (Portland General Electric) -- *Spring Chinook smolt estimates from Metolius River Spring 2024*
- 9:20 am Jim Day (US Army Corps of Engineers) -- *Avian Predators at the Dalles Dam*

## **Round Table Discussions**

We were unable to get enough volunteers to have the standard two APB-member led discussion topics going into the final day of the meeting and instead officers had backup topics ready to go but decided to let the day's discussions progress on their own with minimal interference. Fortunately, Jim Day's presentation gathered a good amount of discussion that led into discussing the potential impacts that light pollution (particularly light sources directly over water, i.e. bridges) can have on emigrating salmonids. Jim, along with many other APB members, have noted both avian and aquatic predators congregating around these light sources and how these have become learned traits among generations of predators. Predator hazing, light pollution remedies, and monitoring options were all discussed after Jim's presentation. Big thank you to Jim for helping lead this discussion with the questions and challenges the ACE is facing in the Columbia.

## **Business meeting**

Following the open forum discussions, President Matt Peter called the business meeting to order.

### *Orders of Business*

#### Old Business

Review of the 2023 Meeting Minutes: Vice-President Scott Heller did a quick read-through from the 2023 meeting minutes to the group. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Tony Fuchs and seconded by Maggie David. No discussion was entered, and the vote carried; the 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

#### New Business

1. Treasury Report: Matt Peter presented the Treasury Report at the meeting and provided a review of the website and cost overview. The report is included in the meeting minutes below.

#### Starting Balance January 1, 2024

- I. APB carried over a balance of \$2,927.95 into 2024. Total expenses for APB in 2024 were \$5,221.71. At the completion of the 2024 the APB treasury holdover balance was \$3,008.55.
- II. Litehouse Technology provided monthly maintenance/support. Total cost for website maintenance/support, and GoDaddy hosting fee through 2024 was \$ \$705.56.

Item Type	Item	Transaction Date	Deposit/Debit	Balance
<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>Starting Balance Jan 1, 2024</b>	<b>1/1/2024</b>		<b>\$2,927.95</b>
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (January)	1/12/2024	\$ 0.51	\$2,928.46
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (February)	2/9/2024	\$ 0.41	\$2,928.87
Litehouse Website Maintenance	Quarterly WordPress Maintenance/Support (February)	2/12/2024	\$ (110.00)	\$2,818.87
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (March)	3/8/2024	\$ 0.21	\$2,819.08
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU saving account (March) transferred to checking	3/21/2024	\$ 0.02	\$2,819.10
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (April)	4/12/2024	\$ 0.27	\$2,819.37
Website Renewal	GoDaddy Website Host Renewal	4/21/2023	\$ (25.56)	\$2,793.81
Litehouse Website Maintenance	Quarterly WordPress Maintenance/Support (May)	5/1/2024	\$ (150.00)	\$2,643.81
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (May)	5/10/2024	\$ 0.21	\$2,644.02
Litehouse Website Maintenance	Annual Web Hosting Fee	5/13/2024	\$ (120.00)	\$2,524.02
Conference/Banquet	Patio Rental for Banquet - Sisters Saloon and Ranch	6/12/2024	\$ (500.00)	\$2,024.02
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (June)	6/14/2024	\$ 0.24	\$2,024.26
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (July)	7/12/2024	\$ 0.15	\$2,024.41
Donation	Donation to the Tim Shibahara Memorial Scholarship Fund	7/22/2024	\$ (500.00)	\$1,524.41
Litehouse Website Maintenance	Quarterly WordPress Maintenance/Support (August)	8/9/2024	\$ (150.00)	\$1,374.41
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (August)	8/9/2024	\$ 0.13	\$1,374.54
Meeting Swag	APB Stickers - Sticker App	8/28/2024	\$ (83.83)	\$1,290.71
BECU Interest	Interest earned from BECU account (September)	9/13/2024	\$ 0.13	\$1,290.84
Meeting Swag	APB Hats - 4Imprint	9/21/2024	\$ (296.75)	\$994.09
Meeting Fees	Deposit / Check # 48033	9/23/2023	\$ 175.00	\$1,169.09
Meeting Fees	Deposit / Transfer from Paypal	9/24/2024	\$ 4,883.48	\$6,052.57
Conference/Banquet	Drinks and Ice for Woman's Meeting/Lunch and Tour Lunch	9/25/2024	\$ (60.32)	\$5,992.25
Bowling	Bowling/Food/Drinks - Sun Mountain Funcenter	9/26/2023	\$ (995.65)	\$4,996.60
Conference/Banquet	Buffet and drinks - Sisters Saloon and Ranch	9/26/2024	\$ (2,229.60)	\$2,767.00
Meeting Fees	Deposit / Transfer from Paypal	9/25/2024	\$ 241.55	<b>\$3,008.55</b>

2. Candidate/New Full Members: Matt Peter read the list of all candidate/new members who submitted completed applications. New member voting was restricted to current APB members only.
  - i. Greg Wattlely – Senior Terrestrial Biologist working 3 ½ years for Pacific Gas and Electric. Greg has a MS in Environmental Biology from University of Utah. Sponsored by Gina Morimoto. Greg meets the education and utility experience requirements and is a full member in 2024.
  - ii. Jack Wu – Science Technician II working 6 years for Idaho Power. Jack has a MS in Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology from Colorado State University. Sponsored by Steve Brink. Jack meets the education and utility experience requirements and is a full member in 2024.
  - iii. Jim Trainer – Resource Professional working 27 years for Idaho Power. Jim has a BS in Environmental Studies at East Stroudsburg University. Sponsored by Steve Brink. Jim meets the education and utility experience requirements and is a full member in 2024.
  - iv. Josh Ankeny – Natural Resources Field Supervisor working 2 years for Tacoma Power. Josh has a MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University. Sponsored by Matt Peter. Jack meets the education and utility experience requirements and is a full member in 2024.
  - v. Megan McCormick – Natural Resources Supervisor working 10 years for Tacoma Power. Megan has a MS in Freshwater Ecology from Appalachian State University. Sponsored by Matt Peter. Megan meets the education and utility experience requirements and is a full member in 2024.

3. The follow-up discussion around the requirements for APB membership, which was cut short during the 2023 meeting, was continued at the 2024 meeting. Questions were posed to the group; should we maintain having a BA/BS requirement? Should we change it to years of service? After some good conversation on the subject, and strong arguments presented for or against a change, it was decided that an email or Google poll to all APB members would be sent out prior to the 2025 meeting with the posed question and a vote to be held in person at the 2025 meeting.
4. Meeting Awards: Voting for best Presentation went to Lindsay Dupont for her enlightening talk on GIST and how Tacoma Power is utilizing modern data solutions in their natural resources department.
5. Bowling Results and Trophy Presentation: Bowling occurred Wednesday evening (September 25<sup>th</sup>), following the member presentations. Printouts of the bowling scores were obtained from Sun Mountain to review for the coveted award.

APB'er	Game 1	Game 2	Lane	Total	Average	Diff
Dave	84	118	1	202	101	34
Jim	94	123	1	217	108.5	29
Matt	108	147	1	255	127.5	39
Scott G	143	142	1	285	142.5	-1
Wu	100	92	1	192	96	-8
Ben	110	104	2	214	107	-6
Cory	143	113	2	256	128	-30
Diane	76	70	2	146	73	-6
Josh	97	155	2	252	126	58
Wyatt	95	114	2	209	104.5	19
Lindsay	110	95	3	205	102.5	-15
Maggie	130	110	3	240	120	-20
Megan	113	131	3	244	122	18
Melora	97	101	3	198	99	4
Theresa	94	89	3	183	91.5	-5
Gabe	101	110	4	211	105.5	9
Jason	103	116	4	219	109.5	13
Jenise	89	117	4	206	103	28
Leah G	151	129	4	280	140	-22
Sam	112	124	4	236	118	12
Gregg	96	94	5	190	95	-2
Gregory	109	112	5	221	110.5	3
Janos	128	116	5	244	122	-12
Leah H	83	123	5	206	103	40
Stuart	109	131	5	240	120	22
Scott H	152	162	6	314	157	10
Micah	119	106	6	225	112.5	-13
Nathan	118	101	6	219	109.5	-17
Tony	158	130	6	288	144	-28

Diane took home the bowling trophy this year with her unmatched style and confidence!

6. Plans for a location and hosting utility for 2025 were explored with Idaho Power and ACE employees through the conference. After discussing logistics with each agencies representatives, we concluded after confirming with Stuart Rosenberger of Idaho Power that their Snake River project would be a great meeting location for 2025. The ACE's Dalles project is interested in hosting in 2026, and PG&E may also be amendable in the future.

7. Officer Nominations and Elections: Scott Heller (President) and Cory Starr (Vice President) moved into their respective positions. Stuart Rosenberger of Idaho Power volunteered, voted in, and assumed the Secretary position. Stuart also has the great fortune to be the APB treasurer for the next three years! APB members and fellow officers shared their appreciation for Stuart's contributions to APB.
8. Maggie David asked about the Tim Shibahara Scholarship Fund and if the donation had been made after APB members confirmed support at the 2023 meeting. The APB confirmed that a \$500 donation was submitted in July 2024 to the Fund and encouraged other individuals or utilities to donate if able.
9. Outgoing President Matt Peter closed the business meeting by thanking Cory Starr, Theresa Hebert, and Andrew Janos for coordinating and all the EWEB Carmen-Smith staff for helping facilitate the tours. He thanked everyone for their attendance, excellent presentations, and engaging discussions. He ended with sharing that he really enjoys APB as a safe place to talk with other members, seeing different projects, and the good times he has at APB meetings.

**Scott Heller**  
**President**

Puget Sound Energy  
35413 SE Douglas Street, SNQ-CNF  
Snoqualmie, WA 98065  
(425) 831-4343  
[scott.heller@pse.com](mailto:scott.heller@pse.com)

**Cory Starr**  
**Vice President**

Eugene Water and Electric Board  
4200 Roosevelt Blvd.  
Eugene, OR 97402  
(503) 828-2366  
[cory.starr@eweb.org](mailto:cory.starr@eweb.org)

**Stuart Rosenberger**  
**Secretary/ Treasurer**

Idaho Power Company  
1221 W Idaho St  
Boise, ID 83702  
(208) 388-6121  
[srosenberger@idahopower.com](mailto:srosenberger@idahopower.com)