



# MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD



TO: Commissioners Carlson, Barofsky, McRae, Schlossberg, and Brown  
FROM: Frank Lawson, General Manager/CEO  
DATE: July 25, 2023 (August 1, 2023, Board Meeting)  
SUBJECT: Hydropower and Fish & Wildlife Overview  
OBJECTIVE: Information

---

## **Issue**

Guest speaker, Kurt Miller, Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners (NWRP), will present information on hydropower fish and wildlife issues.

## **Background**

EWEB is a member of Northwest RiverPartners.

### About Northwest RiverPartners:

The mission of Northwest RiverPartners is to lead the charge for the Northwest to realize its clean energy potential with hydroelectricity as the cornerstone. The organization's strategic pillars are:

- Fight climate change with renewable energy
- Restore healthy fish populations to Northwest rivers
- Include vulnerable communities in the region's clean energy future
- Maintain an affordable, reliable electric grid
- Support healthy agricultural communities

NWRP was founded in 2005 and has roughly 100 member organizations. Most NWRP members are community-owned electric utilities that depend on clean, affordable, reliable hydropower generation to serve their member-customers. NWRP's membership has expanded to include ports, agricultural associations, organized labor, and private businesses. NWRP is the nation's second largest hydropower advocacy group and the largest such group in the Western United States.

### About Kurt Miller:

Kurt Miller is one of the nation's leading advocates for hydropower and its role in our clean and equitable energy future. His expertise in energy policy has been featured in over 50 contributed pieces across numerous regional and national news outlets, and he is a frequent commentator on T.V., radio, and policy panels. As the executive director of Northwest RiverPartners, Kurt represents millions of public power customers across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah who rely on the affordability and reliability of hydropower to power their homes, businesses, and transportation.

Kurt is a noted speaker, providing keynote appearances at [Hydrovision International 2022](#), [CEATI International's Hydropower Conference in 2023](#), and [VANtalks 2022](#). He has also served as an expert panelist at [Clean Currents](#), the annual conference of the National Hydropower Association and was featured on the January 2023 cover of [Hydro Leader Magazine](#).

Kurt is also active on the policy front and has advised the Western Congressional Caucus and the Western Senate Caucus on hydropower policy. Kurt has spent most of his 30-year career in leadership positions for electric utilities, bringing expertise in power supply and smart grid initiatives. Under Kurt's leadership, Northwest RiverPartners has expanded its educational role through industry partnerships, thought leadership efforts, and community and tribal outreach projects and strengthened its emphasis on science and scientific-based studies.

**Recommendation**

Following a brief presentation, Commissioners are encouraged to provide comments and ask questions on the topic.

**Requested Board Action**

No Board Action is requested.