# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

**Resource Damage Assessment Committee (RDA)  
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
**Zoom and Ecology HQ Room R0A-32**

Call to Order: 9:03 AM

Approval of Minutes: 9:10 Motion to approve meeting minutes for the January 11, 2023. RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 9:57 AM

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee, Executive Director Washington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Rob Whitlam |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Health | Mark Toy |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern |
| RDA Committee United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Steve Bell |
| Washington State Office of the Attorney General | Julian Beattie |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| Colville Tribe Environmental Trust Program | Amelia Stanger |
| Yakima Nation Fisheries | Natalie Swan |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #719996 Crystal Creek Roslyn Heating Oil Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On December 22, 2022, a residential home heating oil tank was filled in Roslyn. On January 5, 2023, a neighbor to this property reported fuel odors in their home. US Ecology was called to investigate and discovered the recently filled home heating oil tank was empty. Additionally, an oil sheen was observed in nearby Crystal Creek. Ecology was notified, and spill responders found heavy oil sheen in Crystal Creek extending downstream to the Yakama River. The fuel oil appears to have leaked through several holes in the home heating oil tank, apparently transported sub-surface to Crystal Creek. An estimated 400 gallons of home heating oil is unaccounted for and presumed spilled to groundwater and Crystal Creek. The subsurface pathway of the oil is still under investigation, and the cleanup is ongoing. None of the oil was recovered in the first 24 hours of the spill.
* Steve Bell: Are there solid enough volume estimates from such recent and ongoing spills to conduct preassessment screenings?
  + Geoff: We can discuss any concerns during the screening.
* Steve Bell: Is there a way to determine if the tank has been leaking historically?
  + Geoff: Ecology continues its investigation with input from the homeowner.
* Valerie Chu: Has there been any sediment sampling conducted?
  + Geoff: Geo-probe samples will be taken as part of the next stages of the response.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 5 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 5 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS #720223 Coleman Oil Diesel and Gasoline Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On January 15, 2023, an oil tank truck and pup trailer owned by Coleman Oil Company was involved in a multi-vehicle accident on southbound Highway 195 in Colfax. The tank truck rolled onto its side, releasing an estimated 1,997 gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline into a wet ditch and nearby Spring Flat Creek. Coleman Oil hired Able Cleanup to excavate the contaminated soil and use sorbents to collect oil from the ditch and creek. The cleanup and investigation are ongoing.
* Mark Toy: Any more planned studies for this case which is larger in scope than typical?
  + Geoff: There has not been any wildlife impacts observed, so data is limited.
  + Steve Bell: Confirmed that WDFW data does not show any fish in Spring Flat Creek.
  + Geoff: Any cultural resource concerns?
  + Rob Whitlam: Has been in contact with Ecology and Tribal Historic Preservation staff and has not received any comments.
  + Steve: Incident occurred around farmland where there does not appear to contain high value habitats.
  + Valerie Chu: Hearing that the incident occurred on farmland has removed her concerns.
* Shane Cothern: How soon do we assume impacts to groundwater impacts?
  + Geoff: There is no assessment method to address groundwater impacts in WA. Photos show groundwater during excavation.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 5 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 5 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

### Other Business

#### Open Case Updates:

* ERTS# 717412 Downed Seaplane in Mutiny Bay
  + Geoff: With the tragic death of all occupants, should we pursue damages?
    - Shane Cothern: May set a bad precedent for damage recovery from future incidents if not pursued.
    - Geoff: We have historically dropped cases due to a deceased responsible party as an outcome of the incident.
    - Rob Whitlam: Similar case where plane out of Seatac had to jettison fuel in an emergency maneuver to prevent loss of life; not sure of the end result.
* ERTS# 717517 PC *Crab N Jazz* Fire and Gasoline Spill
  + Geoff: Entire 110 gallons of gasoline released, will be bringing to the committee.
* ERTS# 720054 Sunken Vessel in Willapa Bay
  + Geoff: Do we have enough evidence to initiate a case when we have no positive location?
  + Valerie Chu: What were the wave action conditions?
  + Shane Cothern: We should assume that the missing vessel has or will release. There have been other similar cases where damages were assessed.
  + Geoff: We can also assume that the vessel has not moved outside of Willapa Bay.
  + Valerie Chu: There are a lot of sensitive resources in that area.
  + Geoff: The case will be presented to the committee in the future.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology HQ in room R0A-32.
* RDA Committee Meetings will continue to be a hybrid virtually and in-person in 2023. Meeting schedule and room locations will be posted online.
* March 8th is also the date of a drill. Ecology will work to be sure we have a quorum.