# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
**Zoom and Ecology HQ Room R0A-05**

Call to Order: 9:07 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes: 9:15

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the June 14, 2023, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 9:48 AM

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, ChairWashington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee, Executive DirectorWashington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Rob Whitlam |
| RDA CommitteeWashington Department of Fish and Wildlife | Don Noviello |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern |
| RDA CommitteeWashington State Department of Health | Mark Toy |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| Yakima Nation Fisheries | Natalie Swan |
| NOAA Office of Response and Restoration | Marla Steinhoff |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #720054 Waters P/C Sinking and Gasoline Spill

* Incident Summary:
On January 8th, 2023, a 20-foot aluminum vessel capsized and sank in Willapa Bay after its propeller became entangled in a crab pot line. The crab pot was stuck firmly on the floor and pulled the vessel as it maneuvered, causing it to capsize. Ecology responders met with the vessel owner on January 9th and observed the bow of the vessel bobbing where it originally sank. Recovery of the vessel was planned for January 11th, however, at some point after Ecology's visit, the vessel drifted and completely sank at an unknown location. Responders returned on January 11th to observe as the contracted salvage company, Associated Underwater Services, attempted to locate the vessel for recovery with no success. Due to its current unknown location, the vessel is now considered unrecoverable. The vessel owner stated that the 35-gallon tank was between 1/2 to 3/4 full. Although no sheen was observed at the time of the sinking or at any time thereafter, Ecology assumes an estimated 17 to 26 gallons of gasoline spilled from the vessel to Willapa Bay.
* 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 #723829 P/C *LEESEAS* Grounding and Spill, Lopez Island
	+ Recent vessel incident – July 1, 2023
	+ Incident under investigation, complications with vessel recovery

### Announcements

* Mark Toy announced that his replacement will be Merita Trohimovich. She is coming from Tacoma Stormwater and her first day will be July 17.
* Ecology IT continues to develop automated damages calculation.
	+ Continue to work on freshwater vulnerability data.
	+ The drafted automated model will be shared with the committee once completed.
* 2023 Coastal Protection Fund Grants have been awarded. Geoff presented on the CPF Grant’s background and funding sources. He then provided a summary of each of the 2023 projects that received grant funding. Geoff’s presentation uploaded to the [Committee Webpage](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37199/resource_damage_assessment_rda_committee.aspx).
* Next meeting: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology HQ in room R0A-32.