# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

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

Call to Order: 9:02 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes: 9:09

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the October 11, 2023, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 9:40 AM

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| RDA Committee  Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Don Noviello |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Rob Whitlam |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Health | Merita Trohimovich |
| Yakima Nation Fisheries | Natalie Swan |
| Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Travis Washburn |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #725889 M2 Industrial Truck Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On October 3, Ecology responded to a utility truck which had entered the Wenatchee River. The truck had been performing guardrail maintenance on US Highway 2 west of Leavenworth near milepost 97 when it slid down the riverbank after an employee neglected to set the parking brake. The ecology responder observed hydraulic oil actively leaking from the vehicle's container as well as a damaged and mostly empty diesel tank and evidence of a diesel spill around the truck. With help from the responsible party, the responder placed sweep and soft boom around the vehicle. The responsible party also hired US Ecology for environmental cleanup and remediation. WSDOT closed Highway 2, and a wrecker was used to recover the vehicle that evening. The Ecology responder documented further hydraulic oil and diesel spilling into the river as the wrecker struggled to pull the vehicle up the riverbank. An additional two more wreckers were used to finally return the truck from the steep bank to the roadway. US Ecology returned the following morning to complete cleanup of shoreline. The responsible party estimated that the 100-gallon hydraulic oil tank and the 50-gallon diesel tank were each half full, resulting in 50 gallons of hydraulic oil and 25 gallons released to the river.
* 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 #725958 Holt F/V Sinking and Gasoline Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On October 5, Ecology responded along with USCG Sector Puget Sound to a sunken vessel moored at Cap Sante Marina. The sinking of the 31-foot tribal crabbing vessel with an outboard motor and internal gasoline tanks resulted in an intermittent release of fuel. After initial attempts to contact the vessel owner were unsuccessful, USCG hired Global Diving and Salvage, Inc. to refloat the vessel and remove remaining fuel, amounting to approximately 40 gallons of gasoline recovered from the tank. Later, the vessel owner reported that an estimated 70 gallons of gasoline was on board at the time. Ecology estimates that 30 gallons of gasoline spilled to the water, including 15-20 gallons recovered in absorbent pads. As all sources of pollution were removed and the vessel was secured to the dock, Global did not raise the vessel, instead leaving its removal to the owner.
* 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 #687507 Olympia Brewery Transformer Spill
  + We are happy to announce that the case has reached a settlement and the damage claim has been paid in full. The responsible party paid $2,250,000 into the response account, which funds future response needs. An additional supplemental environmental project valued at $750,000 was paid to the Squaxin Island Tribe for restoration and enhancement work around the Deschutes River watershed and Budd Inlet over the next seven years.
* ERTS #723430 Energy Northwest Turbine Oil Spill
  + Energy NW reported that the amount of hydraulic oil spilled was 282 gallons with 137 gallons recovered before the water was discharged back into the Columbia River. Ecology will be working with Energy NW to finalize the unaccounted amount.
* ERTS #725130 Black River Cooking Oil Spill
  + Ecology discussed ecological impacts with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife.
  + Without a responsible party identified, Ecology is unable to pursue damages.
* ERTS #725391 Helicopter Crash into Copper Lake
  + Global Diving and Salvage plans to perform salvage operations during a break in weather on Wednesday, November 8. Divers and equipment will be flown via helicopter to Copper Lake. Following recovery, the crashed helicopter will be flown to a trailer on Olney pass.
    - Travis noted that the emergency HPA held by Global Diving and Salvage is likely expired. Geoff said we will check in with the SOSC.
* ERTS #724213 Kelowna Corp/Chevron Diesel Spill
  + Eastern region has been busy with other large incidents, there is currently no new information.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology HQ, room R0A-08.
* The 2023 Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force will be held on November 16 in Sacramento, California and virtually, 10:00 AM Pacific (Thanks Rob for the heads up). Registration and agenda can be found at: <https://oilspilltaskforce.org/task-force-events/annual-meeting/>