# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
**Microsoft Teams and Ecology HQ Room R1S-16**

Call to Order: 9:01 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes: 9:12

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the December 13, 2023, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 9:48 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 Health | Merita Trohimovich |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern |
| RDA Committee Washington State Parks | Matt Niles |
| Washington State Assistant Attorney General’s Office | Julian Beattie |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |
| Cascade Natural Gas | Kalle Godel |
| Lummi Nation Natural Resources Department | Jamie Mattson |
| Lummi Nation Natural Resources Department, Water Resources | Jeffrey Solomon |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |
| Washington State Department of Ecology Spill Response | Sean Thompson |
| Colville Tribes | Amelia Stanger |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #726857 P/C Grey Heron Diesel Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On November 20, 2023, Ecology received a report of a large rainbow sheen with an unknown source in Lake Union. The US Coast Guard responded from Seattle to investigate using a drone and determined the source of the release to be the P/C Grey Heron, one of two diesel-powered vessels moored at Commercial Marine. As USCG responders approached on foot, they noted a strong diesel odor and upon boarding the Grey Heron observed diesel pooled in the bilge. USCG assisted marina staff in placing sausage boom around the vessel and contacted the vessel's owner, who hired US Ecology for cleanup. The owner purchased the vessel around May of 2023 and estimated that the tanks contained around 130 gallons of diesel based on how much fuel the vessel had at the time of purchase, how much he had added, and how much fuel the vessel would have used. However, US Ecology recovered 225 gallons of diesel from the tanks. Based on the size and persistence of the sheen, USCG and Dept. of Ecology responders estimate that at least 27 to 30 gallons of diesel was pumped out of the bilge into Lake Union.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS #727178 CGV Trucking Accident and Oil Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On December 4, 2023, a commercial truck owned by Concepcion G. Valdez Trucking traveling on State Route 21 (Kahlotus Lind Rd) left the roadway 2.7 miles north of Kahlotus due to unknown circumstances, damaging a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) bridge, and coming to rest in an intermittent streambed. The accident resulted in the release of an estimated 120 gallons of diesel and 15 gallons of motor oil to the streambed which contained no water at the time. The Department of Ecology contracted GrayMar Environmental to remediate the impacted soils and worked with WSDOT and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to limit further impacts. GrayMar backfilled the excavation with dirt and rock, placing additional rock over exposed soil by request of WDFW to prevent soil wash out. As no groundwater was encountered during the excavation and remediation of the spill, Ecology has concluded that it is possible that no spill to water occurred. However, Ecology encourages discussion and input as this incident has potential to set precedent for future similar incidents to seasonal waterways.
* Don noted that there may be wording in the NRDA statute that clarifies impacts to seasonal waterways.
* Shayne noted that persistence characteristics may impact the stream later at a time when it contains water. Geoff pointed out that GrayMar completed excavation and cleanup before any water encountered the streambed.
* Don asked if a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) was issued. Sean confirmed that Ecology requested an HPA from WDFW per protocol and to include WDFW input in the cleanup process.
* Matt asked if Ecology has a definition of an intermittent stream. Geoff confirmed that there are policies within Ecology programs that may provide a better definition.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

### Other Business

#### Open Case Updates:

* ERTS #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill
  + Ongoing cleanup of a recent spill of an estimated 20,000+ gallons of gasoline from BP’s Olympic Pipeline vault to a field with impacts to nearby surface water in Hill Ditch (Bulson Creek).
  + Crews continue the removal of gasoline contaminated soils, including preparing for the removal of a large segment of contaminated soil near the shoreline. This phase will likely take several weeks to complete due to extensive planning and coordination with stakeholders, as well as complications from winter weather.
  + Fish and Wildlife impacts to date include 11 confirmed mortality events. However, Don pointed out that some of the wildlife may have been killed by other causes like predation or hunting.
  + BP has retained Exponent to represent NRDA for this response. The response has collected robust data, and the NRDA team is evaluating its applicability to potential NRDA studies.
  + Don inquired about BP and their contractor proposing a restoration plan versus paying directly into the Coastal Protection Fund.
  + Shayne asked to be notified of any sampling on State-owned land or aquatic lands.
* Michael asked about the Coastal Protection Fund being open in 2024 for grant proposals. Geoff noted that there likely will not be enough funds in 2024.
* Don inquired about any further analysis of the contaminant of the spill in the Spokane River (ERTS #727657). Geoff noted that the product was identified as a lube oil.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 9:00am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R1S-16**.