# RDA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2020  
**WebEx**

Call to Order: 9:05

Attendees: Geoff Baran (Ecology), Tami Neilson (Ecology), Shayne Cothern (DNR), Don Noviello (WDFW), Rob Whitlam (DAHP), Mark Toy (DOH), Jessica Logan (PARKS), Jennifer Burns (Chelan County PUD), Jessica Shaw (City of Wenatchee), Justin Fletcher (Chelan County PUD), Gary George (Okanogan County PUD), Natalie Swan (Yakama Nation), Sherrie Duncan (Yakama Nation)

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed.

Adjournment: 11:30

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings

##### ERTS# 694926 Chelan County PUD, Rocky Reach Dam, December 13, 2019 turbine oil spill into the Columbia River

* Geoff summarized the incident:  
  On December 13, 2019, Chelan County PUD notified Ecology that 31 gallons of turbine oil was missing from turbine unit C3. The spill occurred over a month long period.
* Jennifer Burns identified that the trunnion seals are the point of failure in the dam systems. The PUD is trying new seal materials and techniques to try to get seals to work better, and in the meantime, all units are checked regularly, and troublesome turbines are checked more frequently.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to value damages for this spill, used as part of the valuation for a project proposal.

##### ERTS# 659258, 663014, 679990, 678508, 687512, 693629, 693668 Chelan PUD 2015-2019 Rock Island Dam and Rocky Reach Dam turbine oil spills into the Columbia River

* Geoff summarized the spills from the Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams. The spills were caused by failed trunnion/hub seals, often discovered during oil inventory inspections. Chelan County PUD has proposed funding the value of the sum of all outstanding damage assessments toward the North Wenatchee Stormwater Facility Water Quality Improvement Project by the City of Wenatchee.
* Jennifer Burns noted that Chelan County PUD has been routinely inspecting oil inventory, and consistently reporting oil loss appropriately. For the January 1, 2018 spill was initially reported as 493 gallons, there are indications that the reported oil did not enter the Columbia River. The weak link appears to be the trunnion seals. The PUD is investigating alternatives to oil lubrication, potentially testing an air-cooled system at Rock Island Dam in the coming years.

##### North Wenatchee Stormwater Facility Water Quality Improvement Project

* Jessica Shaw with the City of Wenatchee described the project. RDA funds would be used to fund the construction of an oil water separator (OWS) at the stormwater outfall into the Horan Natural Area. Eventually, all stormwater in this area will be directed through the OWS, and into the Horan Natural Area. This will reduce runoff contaminants, such as oil products and heavy metals, from entering the Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers. This project will also reintroduce water to the natural area, enhancing wetland function. Due to COVID-19, the timeline for this project has been delayed to 2024.
* Shayne asked for clarification on the project funding. Jessica replied that with or without the RDA funds, the project will be funded by the utility fund.
* Jessica Logan asked if this project is part of a permit requirement for the city, and Jessica Shaw replied that it is not.
* Don noted since most of the pollution did not generate a sheen, most of the impacts were to aquatic species. Improvements to water quality support the ecosystem most impacted by these spills.
* Jennifer noted that this project has the added bonus of improving water quality locally, in a community serviced by these dams.
* Geoff moved to approve the project proposal. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

##### ERTS# 681746 P/C *Sanctuary*, June 5, 2018 diesel fuel spill into Judd Cove

* Geoff summarized the incident:  
  On June 5th, 2018, the 51’ wood-hulled P/C *Sanctuary* caught fire and sank in Judd Cove. IOSA boomed the vessel, and Ecology (later assumed by USCG) hired Global Diving and Salvage to defuel the vessel. An estimated 47 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into Judd Cove. On June 14th, 2018, the DNR derelict vessel program directed GDS to remove the vessel from the water.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + No project proposal has been submitted for this spill.
  + Damages will be assessed with the compensation schedule.

##### ERTS# 694692 USACE Lower Monumental Dam, December 2, 2019 hydraulic oil spill into the Snake River

* Geoff summarized the incident:  
  On January 16, 2020, the United States Army Corps of Engineers reported a hydraulic oil spill from a blown fish gear seal. At the time, an estimated 50-70 gallons of hydraulic oil was spilled to non-permeable containment. January 22, 2020, dam staff were pressure washing and noticed sheen in the waterway. They think it was caused by residual oil form the January 16 spill washing into the river. They estimate as much as 35 gallons was washed into the river. None of the oil was recovered.
* Shayne proposed that the committee inform the Army Corps of today’s accepted project.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + No project proposal has been submitted for this spill.
  + Damages will be assessed with the compensation schedule.

##### ERTS# 695775 Okanogan Public Works, January 19, 2020 diesel spill into Salmon Creek

* Geoff summarized the incident:  
  A snow plow owned by the Okanogan County Department of Public Works lost traction and slid through an intersection and into Salmon Creek, northwest of Okanogan. An estimated 40 gallons of diesel spilled into the creek. The majority of the creek was iced over, preventing responders from recovering the spilled oil. County Roads, EMD, Sheriff’s Department, and the local Fire District deployed sorbents to contain the oil and removed the plow from the creek. The following day, Okanogan County hired NRC-ES/US Ecology to recover as much oil as possible. A cleanup report is expected.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + No project proposal has been submitted for this spill.
  + Damages will be assessed with the compensation schedule.

##### ERTS# 695861 Missick fishing vessel, January 22, 2020 diesel fuel and hydraulic oil spill into Salmon Bay

* Geoff summarized the incident:  
  In the morning of January 22, 2020, the bilge pump failed on the 40' unnamed wooden hulled fishing vessel owned by Victor Missick. The vessel sank at its mooring at the Salmon Bay Boat Yard. Boatyard staff collected a majority of the spilled oil with containment boom. An estimated 40 gallons of oil spilled into Salmon Bay (20 gallons of diesel fuel, 20 gallons of hydraulic oil). Mr. Missick hired Towboat US for the initial pollution cleanup, and then AquaDive to salvage the vessel. By January 24, the vessel was safely removed from the water.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + No project proposal has been submitted for this spill.
  + Damages will be assessed with the compensation schedule.

### No Old Business

#### Open RDA Case Updates

##### Coleman Oil gasoline tank truck accident and spill

* The Spills Program has decided that the gasoline recovered from the oil water separator is isolated from the sewer system, leaving an estimated 610 gallons potentially spilled to the sewer, and ultimately the Duwamish Waterway. Coleman Oil has retained Polaris Applied Sciences to evaluate the variables of the compensation schedule. Ecology has accepted their assertion that up to 203 gallons of oil evaporated, leaving 406 gallons of oil spilled from the OWS.

### Announcements

* Geoff shared that Gabrielle Robinson with the US-FWS has accepted a promotion at their district office. Her replacement will inherit her oil spill planning work, as well as oil spill response and NRDA responsibilities. US-FWS is actively filling this position.