# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, December 14, 2022  
**Zoom**

Call to Order: 9:02 AM

Approval of Minutes: 9:12 Motion to approve meeting minutes for the November 9, 2022 RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 9:51 AM

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| 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 | Don Noviello |
| National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Marla Steinhoff |
| Yakama Nation | Natalie Swan |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |
| Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife | Montana McLeod |
| Washington State Office of the Attorney General | Julian Beattie |
| Wahkiakum County | Chuck Beyer |
| Stoel Rives for Bergerson Construction | Tiffany Wang |
| Bergerson Construction | Greg Morrill |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings

##### ERTS# 710394 Deep River Derelict Barge Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 12:54 a citizen who lives along Waranka Road in Wahkiakum County, Washington, reported a metal barge that appeared to be leaking a sticky oil that smelled of tar into the nearby Deep River. Wahkiakum County, the United States Coast Guard, and the Department of Ecology responded and found a steel barge measuring about 14 feet wide by 40 feet long that was sheening. Since the party responsible for the barge was unknown, the USCG federalized the oil spill to fund the response and hired Clean Harbors for the cleanup. On Sunday, November 7, 2021, divers placed heavy plastic under the hull of the holed barge to limit the tidal ingress and egress of water and limiting further oil escapement. On December 14, 2021, the barge was floated off the bank and pushed into a floating containment. On December 15, 2021, the barge and floating containment were taken downstream to a public boat launch on the Deep River. The barge was removed from the water, the oil was removed, and the barge was dismantled. An estimated 3,231 gallons of oil were recovered from the barge, and an estimated 36 gallons of oil leaked to the Deep River. Subsequent information was obtained from a retired employee of Wahkiakum County Public Works, indicating that bunker-C oil was put in the barge by either the builders of the barge or Puget Island Ferry employees in early 1962 to help the barge sit deeper into the water.
* Geoff noted that there was no evidence of oiled birds or distressed fish.
* Don pointed out that there was a loss of opportunity to the general public when the boat launch was closed for operations.
* Don also added that there were a number of macroinvertebrates that were observed in the sediment, but that there was no data collected regarding potential impacts.
* Geoff discussed the limitations of the estimate of volume spilled and how we cannot provide a better estimate.
* Tiffany offered to provide written comments if needed.
* Valerie asked if there was any core sampling data profiling performed. Geoff confirmed that cores were taken 16-18 in deep to assess where the divers should focus removal efforts. The top 3 in were used in analysis to identify oil concentration.
* Tiffany asked if liability will be assessed before damages or concurringly. Geoff confirmed that both will be assessed at the same time.
* 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

719495: PC *Robin’s Nest* - 35 ft Chris Craft at Lopez Island. No contact with vessel owner following initial, unknown amount of fuel on board, no spill reported at this time. Ecology and USCG currently working on removal of vessel.

719374: McNeil Island Transformer Spill – Vandalized transformer on McNeil Island with impacts to Luhr Creek. Transformer assumed that full mineral oil. US Ecology performing excavation above shoreline and passive cleanup. Don asked if excavation being performed using hand tools per the HPA. Geoff will look into it and report to Don.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology in room R0A-32.
* RDA Committee Meetings will be a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting starting in 2023. Meeting schedule and room locations will be posted online.
* 2023 CPF Grants upcoming