# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, January 11, 2023  
**Zoom and Ecology HQ Room R0A-32**

Call to Order: 9:04 AM

Approval of Minutes: 9:12 Motion to approve meeting minutes for the December 14, 2022 RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 10:00 AM

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee, Executive Director Washington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| 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 |
| Washington State Office of the Attorney General | Julian Beattie |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Katherine Sarensen |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | David Prater |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Kaitlin Lebon |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings

##### ERTS# 713241 Ferndale Vessel Fire and Diesel Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On March 4, 2022, a 45-foot recreational vessel caught fire due to unknown reasons, releasing an estimated 25 gallons of diesel to a channel of the Salish Sea. The vessel was secured to a private dock on Sandy Point as it burned and sank. Ecology Spill Responders noted that diesel was actively spilling and placed absorbent boom around the vessel while a nearby Phillips 66 Refinery Response Team was hired to place hard boom across the channel on either side of the vessel along with more absorbent boom. USCG worked with the responsible party to hire US Ecology and Crux Diving. US Ecology placed additional hard boom around the vessel and along the shoreline, where they also conducted shoreline assessments. Crux Diving assessed the vessel’s condition and confirmed that the fuel tanks were completely compromised during the fire and did not contain any diesel. An unknown amount of fuel may have burned off in the fire. The responsible party states that the vessel contained 50 gallons of diesel on board at the time and an estimated 20 gallons had been recovered during the response using absorbent boom and sweep. US Ecology, USCG, and the Dept. of Ecology continued to monitor the vessel through salvage and raising operations on March 9. On March 10, the vessel was towed to the Sandy Point Boat Ramp and removed from the water for disposal in Ferndale.
* Don – any impacts to water outside of the complex waterway?
* Geoff – very little was observed by aerial drone observation and US Ecology performed shoreline assessment.
* 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# 716946 Parkshore Marina Fire and Oil Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On the evening of August 14, 2022, a 38-foot, diesel-powered recreational vessel caught fire due to unknown reasons while moored in berth 107 at Parkshore Marina. The fire spread to the adjoining berth 108, where a 32-foot, gasoline-powered recreational vessel was also engulfed. Both boats subsequently sank. Seattle Fire Department deployed sorbent boom, which was later augmented by containment boom deployed by US Ecology. The morning of August 15, gasoline fumes ignited and caused further damage to Marina structures while the fire also burned off some of the comingled diesel and gasoline oils that had been contained within the boomed area. Based on the burn rate and time, Ecology assumes that around 20% of the total 200 gallons of combined fuel burned off during the fires, resulting in an estimated 120 gallons of diesel and 40 gallons of gasoline released to water. In addition, US Ecology provided documentation that 55 gallons of combined fuel oil were recovered by absorbents, leading to an estimated 105-gallon total spill volume.
* 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# 719374 McNeil Island Transformer Spill to Luhr Creek

* Incident Summary:  
  On December 6, 2022, staff at the McNeil Island Special Commitment Center notified Ecology of a 130-gallon mineral oil spill from a transformer into a nearby pond connected to Luhr Creek on McNeil Island. The spill occurred in the evening of December 6, when an unknown individual damaged an unused ground transformer while apparently attempting to steal the copper wire. The transformer spilled 130 gallons of non-PCB mineral oil, and an estimated 40-gallons of which spilled to the pond and creek. None of the oil was recovered in the initial 24-hours of the spill.
* Don asked if there has been any testing of the oil on the water, noting that there was lots of organic debris in the pond.
* Geoff – samples were taken for a PCB analysis.
* Don – access to McNeil Island is limited by Department of Corrections
* Shane – estimated volume obtained from soil
* Geoff – Working with US Ecology, estimating that 40 gallons of total 130 gallons spilled to soil made it to the creek.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 4 no. (Don abstaining)
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 4 no. (Don abstaining)
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

### Other Business

#### *Lake Chelan GRP Update* – David Prater and Kaitlin Lebon

#### No open Case Updates

* Geoff noted that Ecology is working with DNR Derelict Vessel Program to address P/C *Madahy,* grounded in Clinton with potential pollution sources removed by US Ecology.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology HQ in room R0A-32.
* RDA Committee Meetings will continue to be a hybrid virtually and in-person in 2023. Meeting schedule and room locations will be posted online.