# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

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

Call to Order: 9:03 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes: 9:16

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

Adjournment: 9:51 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 |
| Colville Tribes Emergency Management Division | Stacey Rice |
| Colville Tribes Emergency Management Division | Taressa Marchand |
| Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Travis Washburn |
| Buse Timber | Diana Martin |
| Landau Associates, Representing Buse Timber | Elyssa Dixon |
| Buse Timber | Tom Parks |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #725328 Buse Timber Diesel Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On September 8, 2023, the driver of a lumber truck inadvertently departed without replacing the dispenser after refueling. This resulted in a broken fuel hose spilling a yet-to-be determined volume of diesel fuel into the storm system, multiple oil-water separators, and a nearby wetland and ditch system that connects to Union Slough. The spill was discovered early the next morning, and the Buse Timber immediately began notifications and hiring a cleanup contractor. The tide gate between the ditch and Union Slough was closed, and impacts appear to be contained to the ditch system. The spilled fuel oil was recovered using sorbent booms and pads, and contaminated soil and sediment cleanup is ongoing.
* Tom Parks noted that Buse discovered the spill and initiated a response the day of the spill, not the following morning.
* Geoff Baran added that Ecology responders did not observe any impacted wildlife or other impacts outside of the affected ditch.
* Travis Washburn also noted that there is a lot of ecological impacts and pollution to the area, so attempting to quantify damage costs would be challenging.
* Geoff agreed on the challenges around identifying and separating contamination from this specific spill.
* Rob Whitlam inquired about a closer estimate of what may have spilled to water?
* Geoff Baran replied that there were about 2,400 gallons unaccounted for. The spill passed through oil-water separators containing previous oils before flowing to the ditch.
* Elyssa Dixon added that a new contractor report on September 21 stated the recovery of 1,883 gallons total, with an unknown amount during the first 24 hours. However, the report did not measure out what specifically went to water. Contractors are weighing additional absorbents that were collected this past weekend and passive collection is ongoing. Elyssa also noted that the ditch has historical contamination.
* 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 #724908 Central Washington Asphalt Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On July 21, 2023, a hot mix asphalt spill occurred where US 2 crosses over Peshastin Creek at about MP 104.78, just southeast of the US 97 interchange. This spill was due to a failure of the impervious subsurface material used to hold the asphalt being deposited on the bridge. The asphalt spilled into the waters of Peshastin Creek, the dry creek bed below high-water mark, and the shoreline adjacent to the creek bed through a crack running the length of the bridge. Using information from the responsible party, Central Washington Asphalt (CWA), and the area of the crack in the bridge, a conservative estimate for total asphalt spilled is 70 gallons, with 35 gallons spilled to the creek. Additionally, at the time of the spill, Peshastin Creek was likely near its low point in volume. The spill was not discovered until August 10, 2023, by WSDOT during a bridge inspection and was not reported by CWA until August 22, 2023. An Ecology responder explained the reporting requirements and the cleanup expectations to CWA, who sent a crew to clean up the asphalt on September 5, 2023. Following this cleanup effort, Ecology determined that a significant amount of asphalt remained in the creek and requested that CWA return, which they did on September 7, 2023. However, Ecology again determined that the cleanup was not complete and an Ecology responder returned on September 28 to remove an additional 20 gallons of asphalt and oiled debris from the creek, dry creek bank, and adjacent shoreline. By this time, any remaining asphalt had hardened between cracks in the creek bed and creek water levels had increased, making complete removal difficult or impossible.
* Don Noviello noted that Travis will be voting on this case as he had more involvement and knowledge.
* Travis added that he was aware of a 25-gallon spill, but that must have been before the recovery efforts by the Ecology responder.
* 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 #725641 F/V SULTAN Gasoline Drum Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On September 23, 2023, Ecology responded a 30-gallon gasoline spill from the F/V SULTAN on Salmon Bay in the Lake Washington Ship Canal. The spill came from a break in the seam of a 55-gallon drum stored on its stern deck, port side. Ecology and USCG responders isolated the drum and repositioned it to stop the leak. Responders also deployed sorbent pads to the deck and scuppers to prevent remaining fuel from flowing overboard. Ecology responders estimate that about 25 gallons of gasoline made it overboard. The vessel owner has made plans to transfer the remaining gasoline (about 25 gallons) into a secure container for appropriate disposal.
* 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 #725130 Black River Cooking Oil Spill
  + Michael Carlson asked if there were going to be any consideration of opening a NPFC claim.
  + Geoff replied that we may be considering it.
* ERTS #725391 Helicopter Crash into Copper Lake
  + Helicopter company insurance now working on recovery, no spill observed to date.
* ERTS #724213 Kelowna Corp/Chevron Diesel Spill
  + Eastern region has been busy with other large incidents, delaying any plans for site visits.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology HQ in room R0A-32.