# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, May 8, 2024  
**Microsoft Teams and Ecology HQ Room R1S-16**

Call to Order: 9:01 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes:

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the April 10, 2024, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee  Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Don Noviello |
| RDA Committee  Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Travis Washburn |
| 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 |
| Vessel owner, *Cape Churchill* | Leah Peisner |
| Western Towboat, Tug *Westrac II* | Rich Christiansen |
| Yakama Nation Fisheries, Superfund Section | Natalie Swan |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Jeff Krausmann |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Annette Maes |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Amanda Howe |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Tami Neilson |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #729923 Peisner Liveaboard Tug, Sinking & Oil Spill, Lake Union

* Incident Summary:  
  On March 30, 2024, A 45-foot houseboat (an ex-tug converted to a liveaboard called the *Cape Churchill*) partially sank and discharged red-dye diesel at Seattle Marina on the northern shore of Lake Union. Marina staff and the Seattle PD marine unit surrounded the vessel with sorbents. USCG and Ecology responded and found impacts south to Gasworks Park and east across the channel to the eastern shore of Lake Union. Responders also received multiple reports of oiled wildlife and hired Focus Wildlife to conduct a broad assessment of the area. Focus Wildlife observed two Canada Geese with "bathtub rings" but otherwise appeared healthy, as well as a heavily oiled mallard and coot, both of which Focus Wildlife was unable to capture. The vessel owner hired Global Diving and Salvage to remove pollution and the vessel. Global was able to recover 400 gallons of oily water mixture from the vessel tank and estimate that 100 gallons of diesel were recovered from the water in sorbent materials. Ecology also hired Republic Services to fly a drone over the area to observe the extent of the sheen. Based on the appearance of the oil, responders estimate that around 100 gallons of diesel fuel remained unrecoverable in the lake. However, Ecology will conduct further calculations based on follow-up investigations to determine a more accurate final estimate.
* 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 #730277 *Westrac II* Oil to Duwamish Waterway Seattle

* Incident Summary:  
  On April 16, 2024, Ecology responded along with the US Coast Guard to a report of a 40-gallon spill of hydraulic oil from the Tug *Westrac II* to the Duwamish Waterway near Harbor Island. Western Towboat Co., owner of the *Westrac II*, reported that the oil had released due to a mechanical drive unit issue and that the spill had since been secured with some of the release contained to the vessel. Responders determined that the sheen was unrecoverable and drifting with no observed impacts to wildlife. The *Westrac II* was scheduled for dry dock on April 22 for maintenance.
* Rich stated that the tug was assisting with a barge at the time of the incident, and apparently struck an uncharted object, damaging the stern drive, resulting in the spill.
* 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 #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill

Initial Trustee Meeting was held on April 23, 2024. Future meetings will be scheduled to continue NRDA process.

* ERTS #729408 Navy Bangor Waste Oil Transfer System Spill

Transition meeting occurred on April 24, 2024. A shellfish sampling coordination meeting was held on May 3, 2024. DOH shellfish is taking the lead on shellfish sampling efforts to reopen harvest on the impacted beds.

* ERTS #730638 F/V Chief Joseph Haro Strait

The vessel was successfully defueled on May 7, 2024. USCG is continuing to work with Global Diving and Salvage to hoist the vessel onto a barge and transport to Anacortes to be decommissioned by the DNR Derelict Vessel Removal Program.

### Announcements

* Washington State Department of Ecology, with participation from the RDA Committee, will begin scoping possible updates to Chapter 173-183 WAC.
* Next meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 9:00am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R1S-16**.

Adjournment: 9:41 AM