# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
**Microsoft Teams and Ecology HQ Room R1S-16**

Call to Order: 9:06 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

## 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 Parks | Matt Niles |
| RDA Committee  Washington State Department of Health | Merita Trohimovich |
| Yakama Nation Fisheries, Superfund Section | Natalie Swan |
| US Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |
| Washington State Attorney General’s Office | Julian Beatie |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Tami Neilson |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Eddie Czebator |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings

##### ERTS # 734309 P/C *Maya Claire* Gasoline Spill, Bremerton

* Incident Summary:  
  On October 10, 2024, Ecology received a report from the Port of Brownsville of a partially submerged 33-foot pleasure craft *Maya Claire* moored on the outside of their outer floating pier. The vessel was discovered two weeks prior without any contact by the owner and had been left secured in hopes that the owner would return. The cause of the sinking was unknown and a surrounding sheen was present. Without any action by the vessel's unknown owner, the Port of Brownsville hired Kitsap Towing to raise and remove the vessel, which by that time, was also found on DNR's derelict vessel removal list. Kitsap Towing removed the vessel, which continued to produce sheen, on the afternoon of October 11. Based on observations of the sheen over two days, as well as environmental variables, Ecology estimates that around 37 gallons of gasoline spilled to Puget Sound.

The US Coast Guard was able to locate the registered owner of the *Maya Claire*. However, the register owner claimed to have sold the vessel years prior. Ecology also located a potential owner attempting to sell the *Maya Claire* on Facebook. William J. "Bill" Caracciolo claimed that the vessel had been abandoned with him and he was trying to sell it. Kitsap County Sheriff Marine Patrol confirmed that Bill received multiple "Notice[s] of Intent to Obtain Custody" after the vessel, along with another, were anchored on WDNR-administered state lands for excessive periods of time. Following the notices, Bill reportedly always moved the vessels. The Kitsap County Sheriff also confirmed interacting with Bill after he had moored the *Maya Claire* at the Port of Brownsville and suggested that he make arrangements for moorage with the Port manager.

* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS # 734730 Move Right Trucking Diesel Spill, Bellingham

* Incident Summary:  
  On October 31, 2024, a semi-truck owned by Move Right Trucking struck a deer causing it to jackknife and overturn into a roadside ditch and wetland. The truck's fuel tank ruptured and spilled an estimated 202 gallons of diesel to the water of the heavily vegetated wetland. Ecology responded and contracted Republic Services to perform a site assessment and to clean up diesel with absorbent materials. In addition, the trucking company filed a claim with their insurance, who contracted with BAI Environmental to assist with the cleanup using a vac-truck. Crews placed absorbent boom around the perimeter of the impacted area. Luckily, the wetland contained stagnant water, so the footprint of impact remained the same, but dense shrubbery resulted in challenges during recovery operations. Contractors constructed temporary walkways and used small skiffs to prevent diesel from submerging into the muddy embankment and subsurface sediment due to foot traffic. Crews deployed over 500 feet of absorbent sweep and used a fire nozzle and pump to direct the diesel into the sweep. After consultation with WDFW, crews trimmed oiled vegetation by hand and did not remove any woody debris larger than four inches in diameter or six feet in length. Contractors continue to monitor and replace absorbent sweep as needed.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS # 734834 Union Pacific Derail and Diesel Spill, Wallula

* Incident Summary:

On the morning of November 6, 2024, Ecology received notification that a Union Pacific train had derailed near Wallula due to a broken track along the Columbia River and five refrigerated train cars of vegetables were off the track. Ecology Spills responded and confirmed that four of the cars were overturned at the edge of the river and leaking diesel from their individual refrigeration units onto the riverbank. Union Pacific contracted GrayMar Environmental for cleanup. GrayMar quickly placed containment and absorbent boom adjacent to the shoreline, effectively containing the majority of the spill. Clean up was complicated when the level of the river rose three feet in the days following the spill, spreading the oil along a greater part of the riverbank. Ecology and WDFW approved water-flushing operations to mobilize oil from the rip-rap rock of the riverbank where it was collected as it floated on the river. Response operations continued through November 12, 2024. The cars were removed and relocated to a rail yard where GrayMar pumped out the remaining diesel to determine that 1,449 gallons were unaccounted for and considered released to the Columbia River. According to Union Pacific’s environmental consultant, Arcadis, approximately 1,358 gallons of oil was recovered from the Columbia River through absorbent sweep and boom, with 256 gallons recovered in the first 24 hours. GrayMar continues to monitor and replace absorbent boom as needed and the incident has been turned over to Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program.

* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 6 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 6 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

### Other Business

#### Approval of Minutes

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the November 13, 2024, RDA Committee Meeting passed at 9:31 AM.

#### Open Case Updates

* ERTS # 711719 Boyd P/C Sinking and Diesel Spill – 1/5/2022
  + Multiple attempts at delivering the damage claim to the responsible party have been unsuccessful. Ecology proposed dropping the case and received no objections from the committee.
* ERTS # 717317 F/V *Golden North* Sinking and Oil Spill – 8/30/2022
  + Multiple attempts at delivering the damage claim to the responsible party have been unsuccessful. Ecology proposed dropping the case and received no objections from the committee.
  + Shayne brought up Matt’s previous idea of noting unsuccessful collection of damages on the responsible party’s state registration account. He also voiced concern that a case may be dropped too early or that more digging might be needed to track down the responsible party.
  + Geoff agreed that the registration idea is worth looking into, but it may entail legislative action.
* ERTS #716940 F/V *Aleutian Isle* Sinking and Oil Spill – 8/13/2022
  + Ecology continues to work with the responsible party through their attorney to develop a restoration project in lieu of paying damages. A current proposal includes developing a project removing derelict fishing gear.
* ERTS #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill, Conway – 12/10/2023
  + The Trustees have provided comments on restoration project recommendations that will be brought to BP, likely in early January.
* Restoration Update:
  + Geoff provided an update and shared some of the successes regarding current restoration projects from the 2023 Coastal Protection Fund Grant.
  + Ecology is looking at opening a restoration grant opportunity in 2025. Information will be available to the grant committee before April.

### Announcements

* 2025 Meeting times have been posted.
* Committee Members: please complete training on the Open Public Meetings Act at <https://www.atg.wa.gov/lesson-3-open-public-meetings-act-rcw-4230>
* After completing the training, please let Geoff know via email.
* Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 9:00 am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R0A-36**.

Adjournment: 9:50 AM

A close up of some leaves

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