# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
**Microsoft Teams and Ecology HQ Room R0A-09**

Call to Order: 9:01 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 |
| US Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |
| Alpha Transport | Brent Cunningham |
| Alpha Transport | Adam Lindsay |
| Alpha Transport | Gabriel Lucescu |
| Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Chelsey Buffington |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Mark Peterschmidt |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Rob Walls |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Eddie Czebator |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings

##### ERTS #735553 Alpha Transport Gasoline Tanker Spill, Hyak

* Incident Summary:

On December 7, 2024, Ecology was notified by Washington State Patrol

of a tanker truck rollover that spilled an estimated 3,600 gallons of

gasoline into the soil median of Interstate-90. The spilled gasoline

traveled through a storm drain and discharged to the shore of Keechelus

Lake. The volume of oil that entered the lake is under investigation. The

trucking company hired GrayMar Environmental to clean up the spill,

and GrayMar deployed containment boom and sorbents around the

impacted shoreline. Unified Command was established, including the

trucking company, the EPA, Ecology and the Yakama Nation. Cleanup

and remediation is ongoing.

*Adam*: Added a few corrections: the trailer rolled, the truck did not. Gasoline did not reach Lake Keechelus. Boom was placed as a precaution.

*Geoff*: That is consistent with what was reported by ecology responders and in photos.

*Adam*: The majority of the spill was contained within the riprap and the rest on the shoreline, where it was rinsed.

*Don*: Questioned where the wash water would go if not in the lake.

*Adam*: Crews were able to recover the spill before it reached the lake. Arcadis took water samples and is also preparing a larger sampling plan. The shoreline was cleaned before the riprap was rinsed. Confirmed again that no sheen reached the lake.

*Rob Whitlam*: Isn’t the lake a reservoir regulated by the Department of Reclamation? We would be able to determine the level of the lake based on the date. Did either the Dept. of Reclamation or landowner weigh in?

*Adam*: We did work closely with the Dept. of Reclamation. The highest level of the lake won’t be until May. Alpha/Arcadis will be monitoring water levels on a weekly basis until Spring. They believe there could be more product in the riprap that they will also be monitoring for recovery. Excavation has not occurred yet due to winter conditions and the need to coordinate with WSDOT on lane closures, which is also complicated during the winter.

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 #734831 F/V *Shirley R* Diesel Spill to West Port Marina, Olympia

* Incident Summary:  
  On November 5, 2024, the apparently abandoned crabbing vessel, the

F/V *Shirley R*, sank at the Westport Marina. Marina staff surrounded the

vessel with containment boom and sorbents. The Department of Ecology

and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) responded, and the USCG

hired Global Diving and Salvage to clean up the spilled fuel and remove

any remaining pollution aboard the vessel. An estimated 75 gallons of

diesel fuel spilled into Westhaven Cove. Containment boom was left in

place as a precaution until November 17, 2024, however the vessel

remains until place while the Port of Grays Harbor evaluates options to

remove the vessel.

*Don*: There is a bird in one of the photos, not in the oil, but there were also no reports of any oiled wildlife.

*Geoff*: That is correct. There were concerns about harbor seals in the area, but none were seen in the oiled area. The diesel was well contained in the dock slip.

* 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 #735368 P/C *Nautilus* Bilge Discharge Diesel Spill, Bremerton Marina

* Incident Summary:

On November 26, 2024, Ecology was notified by the Port of Bremerton

of a mystery sheen at the Bremerton Marina. Ecology responded and

found several pools of red-dyed diesel leading to a 38' pleasure craft, the

P/C *Nautilus*, discharging its bilge. Ecology deployed containment boom

around the vessel and hired a contractor to clean up the spilled fuel. An

estimated 110 gallons of diesel fuel was discharged into Sinclair Inlet.

Over the course of the spill, an otter, cormorants, and potentially a seal

were observed in the oil slick.

*Rob Walls*: Provided an update: the responsible party used an improperly sized clamp was on a drain for the fuel tank, causing it to fall off and release the entire 400-gal tank into the bilge.

*Josh*: Do we know how much was left in the bilge?

*R*. *Walls*: Not sure, but the spill to water is estimated at 110 gallons using calculations to estimate the sheen.

*Baran*: We may find that the total amount spilled may have been more as the responsible party used dispersants in his bilge which was then discharged. This would have caused oil to be dispersed down into the water column.

*Don*: Do we have a current spill amount?

*Geoff*: Ecology uses a few tools to calculate an estimate based on sheen size and characteristics. Current estimates are 110 gal. Ecology is also waiting on recovery figures from the contractor. The investigation is currently ongoing.

*R. Walls*: The responsible party was also using a vac pump to collect diesel from his bilge and dumping it overboard.

*Don*: I’m assuming there will be enforcement action.

*R*. *Walls*: Absolutely.

*Geoff*: Our lead investigator scanned over 40 hours of marina video footage showing an assortment of wildlife interacting with the oil including some cormorants, a seal, and an otter.

*Don*: It would have been a good idea for someone to investigate surrounding areas for any wildlife mortality, although that has been difficult with species that may be transient like otters, seals, or birds.

*Shayne*: Considering that the responsible party used dispersants, the spill estimate would likely be higher with greater impacts.

*Geoff*: Yes, we are still investigating and calculating what may have spilled.

* 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 December 11, 2024, RDA Committee Motion passed at 9:55 AM.

#### Open Case Updates

* ERTS #716940 F/V *Aleutian Isle* sinking and oil spill, San Juan County – 08/13/2022
  + We are expecting to see a draft proposal for derelict fishing gear removal by the end of the week. The proposed project is in partnership with the Swinomish Tribe and another environmental group. When we have a formal proposal, it will be brought to the committee for approval. While the cost of the project may not be as high as the cost of the damage claim, the environmental outcome will likely be at least as valuable.
* ERTS #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill, Conway – 12/10/2023
  + The Trustees are finishing a list of recommendations to send to BP. Meeting invites to continue this work will be sent out soon.

### Announcements

* 2025 Meeting times have been posted. Notices are now coming from GovDelivery.
* We have also updated the EZview Site.
* Next meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 9:00 am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R0A-36**.

Adjournment: 10:06 AM