# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, June 11, 2025  
**Microsoft Teams and Ecology HQ Room R0A-36**

Call to Order: 9:02 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 | Steve Bell |
| 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 |
| Washington State Attorney General’s Office | Julian Beattie |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Eddie Czebator |
| Washington State Department of Ecology | Rob Walls |
| Yakama Nation | Natalie Swan |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings

##### ERTS #725448 P/C Oblivion Diesel Spill Sinclair Inlet, September 14, 2023

* Incident Summary:

On September 14, 2023, the United States Coast Guard notified Ecology of the sinking of the 44-foot pleasure craft Oblivion, anchored in Sinclair Inlet between Port Orchard and Bremerton. The P/C Oblivion was partially submerged and producing a rainbow sheen. Without any engagement from potential owners, the USCG contracted Global Diving and Salvage (GDS) and National Response Corporation Environmental Services to remove fuel from the tanks, refloat and tow the vessel to land, and deploy boom as needed to contain the sheen. On Friday, September 15, 2023, GDS successfully removed any remaining fuel from Oblivion’s tanks, refloated the vessel, and towed it to Yachtfish Marine in Port Orchard where it was lifted from the water. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources took custody of the vessel and posted it for seizure and disposal under their Derelict Vessel Program. The USCG reported that 20 gallons of diesel was recovered from the water in sorbent materials and 100 gallons of a diesel/water mixture from Oblivion’s tanks (percentage of diesel undetermined). Ecology estimates that another 10 gallons of diesel was lost in the observed uncontained sheen.

* 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 #737992 Virk Xpress Diesel Spill to Tronsen Creek, December 17, 2024

* Incident Summary:
* On April 1, 2025, Ecology received a report of diesel odor and a rainbow sheen in an unnamed stream along the north side of Highway 97 at milepost 107. The stream was flowing into a culvert, crossing under Highway 97, and into Tronson Creek, which flows along the south side of the highway. The report also indicated that a spill had resulted from a semi-truck spinout accident that occurred at that location this past winter. An Ecology Responder visited the site and confirmed the sheen and diesel odor and placed some sorbent boom in the creek. Ecology hired GrayMar under state contract to continue cleanup operations. Following an investigation, Ecology determined that a truck owned by Virk Xpress Inc. had driven off the road in snowy conditions on December 17, 2024, resulting in an estimated 80-gallon diesel spill from a broken fuel filter. No cleanup occurred at time and the spill was not reported. After Ecology contacted Virk Xpress Inc, the trucking company assumed the GrayMar cleanup contract. GrayMar removed approximately 103 tons of contaminated wet soil and woody debris and recovered an estimated 70 gallons of diesel from sorbent materials. Based on this information, Ecology estimates that 80 gallons of diesel impacted the tributary and Tronson Creek since the date of the initial accident and spill. No wildlife impacts were reported or observed.
* 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 #738573 F/V Michael Lisa Diesel Spill Westport, April 29, 2025

* Incident Summary:
* On April 9, 2025, Ecology received a report of a spill in Westport Marina, where the F/V Michael Lisa was found surrounded by sheen and boom. Ecology responded and met with the vessel's skipper. The Michael Lisa had been out fishing for the previous two days before they sailed into the marina at 23:00 on April 8. After taking care of general vessel chores, the skipper sent the crew home, and noticed the fuel level in the day tank was low. He turned on the internal transfer pump around midnight, inadvertently left the pump on, and was woken up by a neighbor at 02:00 saying his vessel was leaking fuel. The skipper immediately worked to contain and clean the spill, surrounding three slips with hard boom and using sorbents to soak up product. The skipper recovered two 165-gallon totes and one 80-gallon tote worth of saturated sorbents. Responders observed standing, pure product in the smaller tote. The transfer pump’s flow rate was labeled 6.9 gallons per minute, and the skipper noted that it usually takes 20 minutes to fill the day tank. While Ecology continues to calculate the amount recovered, at least 600 gallons of diesel are estimated to have spilled to the marina. There were no reports or observations of impacted wildlife.
* Rob Whitlam asked for a committee update once the final volume figures are obtained.
* 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 #738932 Federal Express semi-truck diesel spill, Bellevue, May 17, 2025

* Incident Summary:

On May 17, 2025, Washington State Patrol reported a semi-truck accident on Interstate 405 (I-405) in Bellevue during a heavy rain event. Ecology responded and found that the semi-truck had two trailers and that the lead trailer had jackknifed, rupturing the driver’s side saddle tank. No Washington State Department of Transportation traffic control was available, so the decision was made for safety to quickly remove the truck from I-405 to a nearby parking lot. FedEx mobilized Clean Harbors for cleanup, however, due to the heavy rain, no significant diesel recovery could be accomplished. An estimated 36 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from the saddle tank, and all is presumed to have impacted Sturdevant Creek and the upper reach of Mercer Slough.

* 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 May 14, 2025, RDA Committee Motion passed.

#### Open Case Updates

* ERTS #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill – Skagit County, December 10, 2023
  + A meeting with the trustees will be scheduled soon.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 9:00 am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R1S-16**.

Adjournment: 9:30 AM