

Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Roundtable Meeting Summary

November 10, 2021 | 5:30-7:30 PM | Virtual Meeting

Final Version

Welcome, Introductions, and Where We Left Off

The meeting facilitator, Sophie Glass (Triangle Associates), welcomed participants to the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Roundtable meeting and introduced caucus members. See attachment A for caucus members and other participants in attendance. Sophie reviewed the outcomes of the previous Roundtable meeting on March 31, 2021. During this last meeting, the LDW Roundtable Operating Procedures were established, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shared technical updates, and LDW Roundtable members identified topics for the LDW Roundtable workplan.

Sophie thanked the Roundtable Steering Committee for advising the planning of the November 10 meeting. She explained that the first portion of this meeting will focus on getting Roundtable input on how to approach outreach for the East Waterway cleanup, as EPA prepares to issue a proposed East Waterway cleanup plan for public comment. Given increased interest in the East Waterway by fishers, the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC/TAG), and members of other caucuses in the LDW Roundtable, EPA chose to include the topic. Sophie emphasized that the Roundtable was developed for and is focused on the LDW cleanup.

East Waterway Overview

Kay Morrison, EPA, provided an overview of the East Waterway, which is part of the Harbor Island Superfund Site. Contaminants in the East Waterway include PCBs, arsenic, PAHs, dioxins/furans, mercury, and tributyltin. The results of the human health risk assessment indicated that the highest risks to people are from eating resident fish and shellfish. EPA completed a Feasibility Study that describes potential alternatives for cleaning up the East Waterway. EPA is organizing a technical meeting to review the Feasibility Study with community members in early December. Ravi Sanga is the Project Manager for the East Waterway site. [Click here to see presentation slides for details.](#)

Comments, Questions, and Answers Raised

Question: Is there a Community Advisory Group (CAG) or Technical Advisory Grant (TAG) recipient for the Harbor Island Superfund Site?

Answer from EPA: A CAG has not been established yet for the Harbor Island Superfund Site. EPA has invited interested organizations to apply for a TAG grant, which provides a recipient organization the funds to hire a technical advisor. EPA also has a Technical Assistance Services for Communities grant that is available:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>

Question: What is the timeline moving forward for this cleanup?

Answer from EPA: EPA will release a proposed plan in 2022 and then hold a comment period. EPA will consider all the comments before finalizing a cleanup plan, called a Record of Decision.

Comment: The Fishers Caucus would like more time to engage their community regarding the East Waterway before EPA releases the proposed plan. They requested more education about the East Waterway cleanup to provide meaningful feedback to EPA.

Comment: The Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC) emphasized the importance of explaining the “building blocks” of the proposed plan, including the Feasibility Study and Anthropogenic Background memo. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a significant stressor on environmental justice communities, and therefore these communities have lacked the bandwidth to be involved with cleanup discussions. Therefore, they urged EPA to delay the release of the proposed plan until meaningful engagement and education can occur.

Comment: The Duwamish River Accountability Group (DRAG) expressed concern that EPA has not actively engaged residents and businesses around the East Waterway site. DRAG also stressed the importance of cleaning up the East Waterway to the most stringent standards since human lives and ecological health are at stake. It was noted that the life expectancy in South Park and Georgetown is almost 10 years lower than in wealthier areas in Seattle. Additionally, DRAG offered feedback on the LDW Roundtable structure, expressing that the caucus model used for the Roundtable is not inclusive because a caucus group does not represent the entire community. They asked EPA to consider the ways the Roundtable structure perpetuates exclusionary tactics by government and other institutions.

Group Input on How EPA Should Engage LDW Communities Regarding the East Waterway

Sophie Glass and Annalise Ritter, Triangle Associates, led a visual recording exercise in which Roundtable members described their values, goals, and preferences regarding community and business engagement for the East Waterway cleanup during three periods of time. See Attachment B for the visual record of this discussion and below for a summary.

What are your values, goals, and preferences for community engagement throughout the full duration of the cleanup?

- Use visuals and explain information in clear ways.
- Conduct broad outreach to the full extent of the community.
- Provide more time for meaningful and equitable engagement.
- Collaborate with community members to establish a timeline that works for everyone.
- Center the needs of the most impacted communities – including Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), people with disabilities, older adults, youth, etc.
- Rebuild trust between EPA and community members.
- Translate materials into relevant languages.
- Co-create educational materials with community members; compensate community members for these efforts.
- Coordinate with Community Health Advocates.
- EPA should delegate as many decisions as possible to the community.

What are your community engagement values, goals, and preferences during the East Waterway Proposed Plan Comment Period?

- Conduct outreach to fishers at the Spokane Street Bridge.

- Conduct door-to-door outreach educating people about the cleanup plan and comment period.
- Conduct outreach in schools to reach kids and their families.
- Provide childcare and food at in-person meetings.
- Continue to provide language interpretation at meetings.

What are your values, goals, and preferences for community engagement *before the release of the East Waterway Proposed Plan?*

- A CAG should be established prior to the release of the proposed plan.
- A TAG should be awarded prior to the release of the proposed plan.
- Education should precede all engagement. The community needs to understand the building blocks that have led to the proposed plan, including the Feasibility Study and Anthropogenic Background.

Comments, Questions and Answers Raised

Question: Why are there two different cleanup levels for the Lower Duwamish Waterway versus the East Waterway?

Answer from EPA: Cleanup levels for the East Waterway have not been selected. They will be part of the proposed cleanup plan to be released for public comment in 2022. The public can comment on any aspect of the proposed cleanup plan, including proposed cleanup levels.

Comment: The East Waterway and LDW should be cleaned up to the same standards.

Lower Duwamish Waterway Project Updates

Elly Hale, EPA, provided updates on the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund project, including the following topics ([click here to see presentation slides for more details](#)):

- Comment period for the Jorgensen Forge Early Action Supplemental Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)
- Final Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for cPAHs in LDW
- Scope and Schedule of the LDW Middle Reach Remedial Design
- LDW Upper Reach Phase 2 Fieldwork Summary
- Carbon Amendment Pilot – Year 3 Report

The caucuses then met in breakout rooms to discuss Elly's presentation and identify any questions to raise when they returned to the main session.

Comments, Questions, and Answers Raised

Question: It is important that the EPA coordinate the LDW and East Waterway cleanups. How can this occur?

Answer from EPA: Coordination is very important between these two cleanups, particularly during construction. Roundtable members can keep EPA accountable to this commitment by asking about it during future meetings.

Question: Can the University of Washington (UW) share their assessment of whether the changes to the LDW cleanup as a result of the ESD impacts health risks?

Answer from UW: Thomas Burbacher sent a letter to EPA regarding the ESD for carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs). While EPA followed the

normal process in terms of study selection and the scientific review process, Mr. Burbacher felt that if EPA had considered the weight of evidence, it might have resulted in a different cancer slope factor for cPAHs.

Question: Will the plan to clean up the East Waterway be the same as the LDW cleanup plan in terms of cleanup levels?

Answer from EPA: While the Feasibility Study includes an evaluation of alternatives, EPA does not share drafts of proposed cleanup plans until they are released for public comment. The proposed cleanup plan for the East Waterway will be released in 2022. EPA considers all comments, then documents its final remedy selection in a Record of Decision.

Question: Is the ESD for the LDW cleanup final?

Answer from EPA: Yes, the ESD is final and can be found here:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/10/100353876>

Comment: The Record of Decision (ROD) for the LDW cleanup was finalized in 2014, but now the cleanup level in the ROD has changed as a result of the ESD. It is difficult for some community members to trust decisions EPA says are final if they can change in the future.

Response from EPA: Superfund law, regulations and guidance provide for changes to cleanup decisions when appropriate. The new health information for cPAHs involved more than five years of research and four EPA drafts for agency or public comment between 2011 and 2016. The results confirmed that BaP is a human carcinogen but that it is over 7 times less strong than previously estimated. The LDW cleanup level for cPAHs is changing based on this new scientific information.

Community Announcements

DRCC shared that it will host a post-roundtable debrief on November 22 to allow the community to continue the conversation.

The Duwamish River Accountability Group shared that National Products Incorporated (NPI) is a big polluter directly across from one of the main neighborhood parks. It is important for local, state, and federal environmental regulators to look into this problem.

Adjourn

Sophie Glass concluded the meeting by sharing that the next Roundtable meeting will be scheduled soon and will likely take place in spring 2022. She reminded Roundtable members and other participants of an informal debrief session immediately after the current meeting adjourns to allow participants to provide feedback on the Roundtable meeting. Sophie stressed that the Roundtable is still evolving and that Triangle welcomes all feedback on how to make this group equitable and effective.

Comments from Post-Meeting Debrief

- There was not enough time during the breakout caucuses to have meaningful conversation. In the future, caucus members need more than just ten minutes. This is especially true for the Fishers Caucus that requires additional time for interpretation. Also, the caucus sessions should have more structure and guided questions.

- Some members participants found the large Roundtable meeting to be overwhelming. There needs to be more preparation and orientation time before each meeting.
- Participants who received hard copies of printed materials requested a larger font size.
- Some participants had difficulty joining due to the phone instructions being in English rather than their native language.
- Some people voiced frustration that EPA didn't acknowledge that COVID-19 restrictions on gathering meant fewer opportunities to meaningfully engage community members. They shared that EPA should adjust its timelines to account for that.

Attachment A: Roundtable Members and Participants

This list of participants was generated from the Zoom User report and does not include the names of phone participants who didn't identify themselves or participants who had anonymous participant IDs (e.g. "iPhone user").

Name	Caucus
Jonathan Hall (LaFarge)	Business Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)
Katie Moxley (Boeing)	Business PRPs
Patrick Jablonski (Nucor)	Business PRPs
Aaron Smith	CAG (DRCC)
Adrienne Hampton	CAG (DRCC)
Edwin Hernandez	CAG (DRCC)
Heather Trim	CAG (DRCC)
James Rasmussen	CAG (DRCC)
Kevin	CAG (DRCC)
Linn Gould	CAG (DRCC)
Paulina Lopez	CAG (DRCC)
Robin Schwartz	CAG (DRCC)
Cedar Bushue	DRAG
Rosario Medina	DRAG
Karen	DRAG
Ai Nguyen	Fishers
Cindy Navarro	Fishers
Emma Maria	Fishers
Hoang Nguyen	Fishers
Roxana	Fishers
Kevin Duong	Fishers
Kim Heng	Fishers
Luis C	Fishers
Luz María Cardenas	Fishers
Marie Thu Le	Fishers
Myhanh Cao	Fishers
Phuong Mai Hoang	Fishers
Rath	Fishers
Songly Toek	Fishers
Sophorn Sim	Fishers
Soun hour Pov	Fishers
Thao Thach	Fishers
Trieu Nguyen	Fishers
Veda Ting	Fishers
Jim Bolger (King County Dep't Natural Resources and Parks)	Government Non-PRP

Name	Caucus
Alberto Rodríguez (City of Seattle Duwamish Valley Prgm)	Government Non-PRP
Jenny Levesque (Seattle City Light)	Government Non-PRP
Julie West (Public Health Seattle King-County)	Government Non-PRP
Khanh Ho (Public Health Seattle King-County)	Government Non-PRP
Shirlee Tan (Public Health Seattle King-County)	Government Non-PRP
Elizabeth Black (Port of Seattle)	Government PRP
Pete Rude (Seattle Public Utilities)	Government PRP
Dave Schuchardt (Seattle Public Utilities)	Government PRP
Debra Williston (King Co. Wastewater Treatment Division)	Government PRP
Kathy Bahnick (Port of Seattle)	Government PRP
Jeff Stern (King Co. Wastewater Treatment Division)	Government PRP
Joanna Florer (Port of Seattle)	Government PRP
Sandy Kilroy (Port of Seattle)	Government PRP
Jen Scarlett	Non-CAG Community
Debbie Williams	Non-CAG Community
Emerson Christie (WA Dep't of Health)	Resource Members
BJ Cummings (UW)	Resource Members
Erika Shaffer (WA Dep't of Natural Resources)	Resource Members
Lenford O'Garro (WA Dep't of Health)	Resource Members
Lisa Hayward (UW)	Resource Members
Marla Steinhoff (NOAA)	Resource Members
Thomas Burbacher (UW)	Resource Members

Observers with no identified caucus association

Many of these individuals typically attend the Lower Duwamish Waterway Stakeholders meetings. This Roundtable meeting was open to the LDW Stakeholders in lieu of a fall 2021 LDW Stakeholders meeting.

Name	Caucus
Dan Berlin	Observer
James Graves	Observer
Peter Hapke	Observer
Brick Spangler	Observer
Emily Guyer	Observer
Grant Gutierrez	Observer
Karen Paola	Observer
Robert Hanlon	Observer
Sarah Brace	Observer
Tom Wang	Observer
Kathy Godtfredsen	LDWG consultant
Lennae Starr	<i>Unknown</i>
Marie Fiore	<i>Unknown</i>

Michael Mendes	<i>Unknown</i>
Patrick Paulich	<i>Unknown</i>
Tom Leigh	<i>Unknown</i>
Tracie Friedman	<i>Unknown</i>

EPA

Elizabeth Allen, toxicologist/risk assessor	EPA
Elly Hale, LDW sediment cleanup project manager	EPA
Janette Knittel, Rhone Poulenc project manager	EPA
Kathryn Cerise, section manager, Section 3	EPA
Kay Morrison, Community Involvement Coordinator	EPA
Kira Lynch, Manager, Remedial Branch	EPA
Marianne Holsman, Public Affairs Director	EPA
Piper Peterson, LDW fishing ICs project manager	EPA
Ravi Sanga, East Waterway cleanup project manager	EPA
Sheila Fleming, Deputy Director, Superfund and Emergency Management Division.	EPA

Interpreters

Carla Miranda	Interpreter
James Heng	Interpreter
Phung Nguyen	Interpreter

Triangle Associates (Facilitators)

Annalise Ritter	Triangle
Dat Nguyen	Triangle
Riham Hashi	Triangle
Sophie Glass	Triangle

EAST WATERWAY SUPERFUND SITE Community Engagement

LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY
Roundtable Meeting 11.10.21

Long Term Updates to the Site Community Involvement Plan

more time! → work with the community to find a timeline that works

also co-create documents

translated/interpreted information - but meaningfully shared! and comprehensible

Empowerment of community members to do outreach → with clear expectations

Childcare & food

EPA Outreach to schools

Center the needs of the most impacted

Rebuild trust

-10 years life expectancy in Duwamish Valley

Community lives more important than \$

no matter which numbers, people are still at risk

distribute decision making and leadership

Mid-Term During the Public Comment Period

visuals → Broad outreach → to everyone

all rio Duwamish

Host formal public hearings in different languages (with interpretation for English speakers)

Support CHAs to outreach to fishing communities

Experts should go door to door in affected communities

Coordinate with CHAs and other community groups

Near Term Technical Meeting Pre-Proposed Plan

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6th Technical Feasibility Study Meeting

Education must come before participation

Provide building block materials about technical information

Provide Technical Assistance grant to community

community choose

⚠ Address unsafe activities near areas where children play