

## Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Roundtable Meeting Summary March 31, 2022 | 5:30-7:30 PM | Virtual Meeting

### Welcome, Introductions, and Where We Left Off

The meeting facilitator, Sophie Glass (Triangle Associates), welcomed participants to the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Roundtable meeting. She introduced two EPA Community Involvement Coordinators who are now supporting the Lower Duwamish Waterway project: Laura Knudsen and Meshach Padilla. Sophie reviewed the outcomes of the previous Roundtable meeting on November 10, 2021, at which the Roundtable received information on the East Waterway (part of the Harbor Island Superfund site) and updates on the LDW. Sophie acknowledged that there was a member of the media present at the meeting.

Sophie thanked the Roundtable Steering Committee for advising the planning of the March 31 meeting. She explained that to improve the caucus breakout process, ground rules for the caucus breakout sessions were drafted and included in the agenda packet. She then led the Roundtable in a review of the proposed new ground rules. A member of the Resource Group Caucus asked if caucuses can invite or request a member of another caucus to their discussion. Hearing no objections from the Roundtable, the facilitator recommended this to officially be added as another Roundtable ground rule.

- The following ground rule was later added to the [Roundtable Operating Procedures](#):  
“Caucuses may invite or request a member of another caucus to join their discussion.”

### Designing the Cleanup of the Waterway

Elly Hale, EPA, shared updates on the Remedial Design process of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. Her updates covered the following topics:

- Engineering design of the upper reach of the LDW
- Engineering design of the middle reach of the LDW
- Earle M. Jorgensen Early Action Area

[Click here to see presentation slides for details.](#)

### Comments, Questions, and Answers

*Question:* How long will the cleanup process take? How long will machinery be present in the area?

*Answer from EPA:* In-water construction for cleanup in the waterway must be scheduled around when juvenile salmon travel downstream, so the work season will be 4 to 6 months a year in the fall and winter. The time it will take to do the cleanup depends on the scale of the cleanup, which will become clearer as the design progresses for each reach. The cleanup of the upper reach may take 2 to 3 years of fall/winter work.

*Question:* Will fish in the river be safe for eating once the cleanup is completed?

*Answer from EPA:* The EPA will learn more with each additional step in the design process. In regard to fish consumption, the cleanup is expected to reduce seafood contamination but will not remove 100% of all contaminants in this urban waterway. After active cleanup and natural recovery, unlimited consumption of resident fish and shellfish from the LDW is not anticipated. However, EPA will continue to monitor and test resident fish, shellfish and crab samples, including long-term monitoring after construction of the cleanup is complete, and will share this information with the

Washington State Department of Health, Public Health Seattle & King County, and the Community Health Advocates. This will help WDOH ensure appropriate fish advisories for the Duwamish River. For the most up-to-date information on the Duwamish River fish advisory, please visit <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/food/fish/advisories/publications>.

*Question:* An article stated that EPA is attempting to water down the standards of testing that would trigger a cleanup. Specifically, 7 times more benzo[a]pyrene [cPAH] being allowed between a study in 2007 and 2021. Can you comment on that?"

*Answer from EPA:* EPA updated the 2014 cleanup decision in an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The change incorporated recent science regarding benzo(a)pyrene. The science means carcinogenic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (cPAH) present a lower cancer risk for humans than previously thought. EPA proposed the change and held a public comment period due to high public interest (public comment periods for ESDs are not required). EPA considered all public comments before issuing the final ESD last fall. For more information, please view EPA's Final ESD fact sheet for cPAHs in the Lower Duwamish Waterway: <https://semsub.epa.gov/src/document/10/100355200>

*Additional information provided by Jim Bolger, Manager, King County Wastewater Treatment Division:* The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) supports the EPA's updated scientific understanding of cPAH toxicity. However, we also recognize that some members of the community did not support a change to the cPAH action levels and cleanup level in the 2014 Record of Decision (ROD). To address these concerns, the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group will use the original cPAH remedial action level that was included in the 2014 ROD as a basis for the engineering designs for the cleanup of the upper and middle reaches of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. The designs will include additional cleanup actions for the areas where cPAHs are above the original remedial action level, but below the current EPA-approved level.

## Large Group Dialogue and Question & Answer Session

*Question from James Rasmussen, Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC):* There is concern regarding additional pollutants from the homeless encampments along the waterway. Also, community members had concerns about rubber tire particles hurting salmon spawning. Also, source control is a common concern especially regarding large sites such as Boeing Field. James asked how community members could report issues on pollution in the river and whether there can there be a hotline.

*Response from BJ Cummings, University of Washington:* DRCC has a history of soliciting input on the river cleanup from people living in encampments around the river. Some of this input was published as part of the Duwamish Valley Vision: <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Environment/EnvironmentalEquity/Duwamish-Valley-Vision-Report-2009.pdf>

*Question from DRCC:* Both the city and the county have agreed that the best technology should be used for dredging. Does EPA plan to use the best available technology, like what was used at the Boeing Plant 2 Early Action Site?

*Answer from EPA:* The specific technologies will be developed in the design, but we are aware that controls and environmentally protective methods are critical.

*Follow-up from BJ Cummings, University of Washington:* As design proceeds near residential areas, the type of dredging will become very important to consider – we've seen a range of dredging technologies (and expertise) on the Duwamish, with varying levels of spillage. Well-executed environmental dredging will be critical to limiting spillage and exposures for residents and fishers in this reach of the river.

*Comment from Recreational River Users:* The Rowing Club is concerned with maintaining beach access, about sediment and air pollution at the Duwamish Waterway Park, and about barge and machinery blocking the site.

*Comment from Non-PRP Government:* The Non-PRP Government Caucus is interested to know whether mitigating noise pollution is a priority for EPA in cleanup design. The Non-PRP Government Caucus recommends creating a complaints file system to catalogue complaints. The Non-PRP Government Caucus also suggests having a website to inform the public on construction, and where the public can submit comments. The Non-PRP Government Caucus also noticed that some capping will occur around river access points and residential areas, especially on the northern part of the lower reach and in the middle reach. The Non-PRP Government Caucus pointed out the Unity Electric property (adjacent to the Duwamish Waterway Park) has been acquired by the City and that it is looking into expanding the park and siting a building for community-supportive spaces (e.g., nonprofit space, childcare, etc.).

*Comment from PRP Business:* Members expressed concerns about the sampling process, especially in upland areas. They want to be informed when additional sampling will happen in their portion of the waterway as the design process progresses, and when sampling will be complete. Members were curious about whether the navigation channel maintenance by the Army Corps of Engineers will allow for individual businesses to maintain access to docks. They also have general concerns about navigation in the waterway. As for access by land, they want to know how movement of trucks and construction equipment will affect the businesses and users of these areas.

*Comment from PRP Government:* Caucus members want to know who is responsible for contracting the dredging.

*Answer from EPA:* EPA does not have an answer yet.

*Comments from Fishers' Caucus:* The Fishers' Caucus wants to know if fishing sites will still be accessible during cleanup. The Community Health Advocates do a lot of direct outreach at fishing sites, so limited access to sites will impact their work. A caucus member suggested partnering with King County Metro to transport fishers from their regular sites to alternative sites, as multiple members expressed hesitance around fishing during construction activity.

## Announcements from Roundtable Caucuses—All Caucuses

James Rasmussen is retiring from DRCC but will continue being part of the cleanup process.

## Opportunity for Comments and Questions from Observers

*Question:* What opportunities are there for people to be involved in the cleanup going forward?

*Answer from EPA:* The LDW Roundtable will meet again in a few months. EPA will also host technical presentations about the cleanup in June. Members of the public are

welcome to engage with events hosted by members of the Duwamish Alive Coalition (<https://www.duwamishalive.org/>). Technical reports are accessible on LDWG’s website at <https://ldwg.org/>.

## Adjourn

### Comments from Post-Meeting Debrief (Shared with EPA for Consideration)

- Some participants had trouble sharing their screen, potentially due to Zoom settings or restrictions.
- The interpreters were unable to hear each other even in the English language channel. It was suggested that interpreters type out communications to each other in the chat.
- Some participants experienced internet problems.
- The interpretation team requested that presenters speak more slowly and in shorter segments. They appreciated the Zoom interpretation feature because the audio quality is much better than the phone line. There were more Khmer speakers in the Khmer language channel than with the phone interpretation.
- DRCC will have a post meeting in a week as well for additional engagement.
- Participants wanted to know if there is a process for receiving follow-up on questions asked in the meeting. The facilitator responded that they would work with EPA to plan a follow-up strategy.
- It was noted that in terms of responding to community concerns, EPA may need to make decisions about what is within its scope to address.
- A community member asked how many studies have been done of contamination in the tissues of the fish, and how deep the contamination is. They wanted to know how EPA knows about contamination and how it will tell when there is no more contamination.
  - Laura Knudsen, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, offered to follow up with this person directly.

### 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	Affiliation	Caucus
Ai Nguyen	CHA	Fishers
Alberto J. Rodríguez	City of Seattle	Government Non-PRP
Annalise Ritter	Triangle Associates	
Araya Casey	Community member	
Bill Dunbar	EPA	
BJ Cummings	UW Superfund Research Program	Resource Members
Blair Englebrecht	Puget Soundkeeper	
bmoney		
Brad Landreth		
Capcom KingTV	King5	

Carla I Miranda	Spanish Interpreter	
Carlos y Roxana (GAL)	Grupo Asesor Latino (GAL)/CHA	Fishers
Cathy Buller	Duwamish Rowing Club	Recreational River Users
Christian Poulsen	Community member	
Cindy Navarro	GAL/CHA	Fishers
CROWLEA [ Allison Crowley]	Seattle City Light	
Dat Nguyen	Triangle Associates	
Dave Jenkins		
Debra Williston	King County	Government PRP
Dustan Bott	EPA	
Eduardo		
Elly Hale	EPA	
Eloise	Department of Health	Government Non-PRP
Emma Maria	GAL/CHA	Fishers
Erin OConnell	TIG Environmental	
Fernando		
Heather [Trim]		
Hoang Nguyen		
Roxana	CHA	Fishers
J Talman		
James Rasmussen	DRCC	DRCC/TAG
James Heng	Khmer Interpreter	
Jeff Stern		
Jim Bolger	King County Wastewater Treatment Division	Government PRP
Joanna Florer	Port of Seattle	Government PRP
Jonathan Hall	LaFarge, Inc.	Business PRP
Julie West	Public Health - Seattle King County	Government Non-PRP
Katie Moxley	Boeing	Business PRP
Katy Gross		
kc		
Kevin		
Khanh Ho	Public Health - Seattle King County	Government Non-PRP
Khmu National Federation (KNF)		
KimHeng Lim		
Kira Lynch	EPA	
Kristen Kerns	US Army Corps of Engineers	
Laura Knudsen	EPA	
Laura Wishik	City of Seattle	
Leon Nguyen		Recreational River Users

Linn Gould	Just Health Action	Resource Members
Lisa Herbold	Seattle City Council Member	
Luz María y Noe	GAL/CHA	Fishers
M. C. Halvorsen	Boyer Towing	Business Non-PRP
Maggie Angel	DRCC	DRCC/TAG
mdavis		
Megan Joplin	City of Seattle	Government Non-PRP
Melanie del Rosario		
Meshach Padilla	EPA	
Myhanh Cao		
Paco Ramo	GAL/CHA	Fishers
Pat S		
Pete Rude	City of Seattle	
Piper Peterson	EPA	
Rath	CHA	
Riham Hashi	Triangle Associates	
SchuchD [Dave Schuchardt]	Seattle Public Utilities	
Sean' Phuong	CHA	Fishers
Sheila Fleming	EPA	
Shirlee Tan	Public Health - Seattle King County	Government Non-PRP
Songly Toek	CHA	Fishers
Sophie Glass	Triangle Associates	
Sophorn Sim	CHA Lead	Fishers
Soun Hour Pov	CHA	Fishers
Tammy Dang	Vietnamese Interpreter	
Thao Thach	CHA	Fishers
Tom Wang	Anchor QEA	
Tracie Friedman	Khmu National Federation	
Trieu Nguyen	CHA	Fishers
Veda Ting	CHA	Fishers