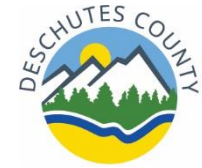


**Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**  
**April 16, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**



**SOLID  
WASTE**

	<b>Committee Members:</b>				
*	Paul Bertagna Jackson Dumanch, Alternate City of Sisters	*	Jared Black Citizen at Large		Luke Dynes Citizen at Large
*	Ed Fitch John Roberts, Alternate City of Redmond	*	Keith Kessar Citizen at Large	✓	Cassie Lacy Vacant, Alternate City of Bend
*	Erica Lindberg Ron Shearer, Alternate Republic Services	✓	Chris Ogren Citizen at Large	✓	Mike Riley The Environmental Center
✓	Erwin Swetnam Roman Guffy, Alternate Cascade Disposal	✓	Robin Vora Citizen at Large		
	<b>Consultant(s):</b>				
✓C	Dwight Miller Parametrix, Inc.	✓C	Ryan Rudnick Parametrix, Inc.	*C	Aubrie Koenig Conсор
	<b>Staff:</b>				
S	Susan Baker Solid Waste Manager	✓S	Tim Brownell Solid Waste Director	*S	Chad Centola SW Senior Advisor
S	Jeff Merwin Solid Waste Manager	✓S	Sue Monette SW Management Analyst	S	Kristie Bollinger County Property Manager
S	Shad Campbell IT Applications Manager	S	Peter Gutowsky CDD Director	S	Nick Lelack County Administrator
✓S	Stephanie Marshall Legal Counsel Assistant	S	Lee Randall Facilities Director		Kimberly Riley Legal Counsel Assistant
	<b>Elected Official(s):</b>				
*E	Tony DeBone County Commissioner				
	<b>Guest(s):</b>	✓G	<b>11</b>	*G	<b>12</b>
✓	<i>Present at meeting</i>	*	<i>Videoconference</i>	C	<i>Consultant</i>
E	<i>Elected Official</i>	G	<i>Guest</i>	S	<i>Staff</i>

[Decisions/Actions Taken by the Committee in Blue](#)  
[Items Requiring Follow-up in Red](#)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Tim Brownell, Deschutes County Solid Waste Director.

**1. Welcome:** Tim Brownell

Tim Brownell welcomed the group and reviewed the list of Committee members in attendance.

**2. Review/Approve Minutes:** Tim Brownell

Tim Brownell asked for comments on the minutes from the March 19, 2024 meeting. Robin Vora reviewed his submitted written comments for consideration.

[Action: Mike Riley made the motion and Erwin Swetnam seconded to approve the minutes from the prior meeting with the inclusion of Robin Vora's comments. The committee unanimously approved the minutes as amended.](#)

**3. Public Comment:** Tim Brownell

Public comments are available in the meeting recording. Following is a list of individuals that provided verbal comments.

- Steve Payer
- Mark Salvo
- Mike McLane

Tim stated written comments from Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) were received and will be shared with the SWAC and posted online. Robin Vora noted the written ODFW comments refer to the pygmy rabbit habitat near the Roth East site, which may be appropriate to note in the Site Evaluation Report. Tim added the comments refer to a petition to list the pygmy rabbit as an endangered species.

**4. SWAC Discussion:** Tim Brownell

Tim Brownell provided a brief reminder of the SWAC assignment to participate in the screening and selection process for the location of a new landfill in Deschutes County and ultimately make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on a candidate site. Tim added that the Board of County Commissioners will make the final selection and there will be additional public hearings as part of that process, which is expected to continue into June.

Tim Brownell thanked everyone on the SWAC and from the community who participated in the SWAC meetings, provided comments, and helped to propel the siting evaluation process forward. He acknowledged the important milestone of receiving the SWAC recommendation.

**Site Evaluation Report Update:**

Ryan Rudnick briefly highlighted how SWAC feedback and new data were incorporated into the executive summary, transportation system and community assessment sections of the summary report, select appendices, and cost estimates.

Ryan described updates to the cost estimates to incorporate an upper range for both sites and how those estimates over a 30-year operating timeframe would potentially change monthly residential franchise waste collection and self-haul rates. He also shared a preliminary schedule for site development which includes a multi-year process for permitting and design with construction projected to begin in 2027/2028. Additional detail is provided in the meeting recording and slides.

**SWAC Questions:**

Dwight Miller provided responses to SWAC questions submitted ahead of the meeting.

- Will all the public comments and meeting notes also be added as appendices? Dwight noted the public comments are part of the public record associated with the SWAC public process. The summary tables of public comments are included in the report appendices.

- Is the SWAC also approving the Appendices? Dwight noted the report is a decision support tool and approval by the SWAC is not required.
- Did BLM confirm that obtaining a road right-of-way to Moon Pit will be a lengthy process? Dwight stated BLM did confirm that the process to transfer the right-of-way for the Moon Pit site access road would be lengthy. Tim Brownell added it's concurrent with other activities for permitting.
- Would Deschutes County voters be asked to approve a bond? Tim Brownell responded no the bond would not require a vote because the solid waste department runs as an enterprise fund.
- Should various population growth assumptions be explored and modeled for landfill waste projections? Dwight noted the goal of this part of the siting evaluation is to differentiate between two sites. He added consistency in the population growth data and assumptions is important for the comparative evaluation but more comprehensive scenario modeling is really part of other aspects of solid waste management planning.
- At Moon Pit, who would own the aggregate rock being mined? Dwight noted the County would acquire the gravel pit and mineral rights under the current scenario.
- Is water leasing at Moon Pit secure and included in cost estimates? Dwight confirmed water rights are included in the cost estimates. He added that the County would look to secure water rights for both sites and that would be part of the property acquisition process.

#### **Additional SWAC Discussion:**

The SWAC discussion is summarized below with additional details available in the meeting recording.

- Robin Vora asked what the role of the SWAC will be moving forward. Tim Brownell responded that the County envisions appointing another SWAC to look at diversion components of the Solid Waste Master Plan.
- Erwin Swetnam asked if the potential mitigation costs (\$1.5-8M) at the Roth East site are included. Ryan Rudnick responded yes the lower and upper ends of those mitigation costs are included in the estimate range.
- Robin Vora asked about the types of mitigation included. Ryan Rudnick responded that a spectrum of options is included (fee in lieu, etc.) and there is potential for that to increase depending on expectations about types of mitigation.
- Mike Riley commented that the mitigation cost numbers are based on today's landscape but there are likely changes upcoming based on the submitted agency comments that could change what mitigation is needed. Dwight Miller acknowledged there are potential unknowns that could impact those costs.
- Mike Riley asked if anything is known about possible changes or new aspects of DEQ permits such as greenhouse gas emissions. Tim Brownell responded some things are changing but the larger changes over the past few years generally relate to methane monitoring and capture. He added that food waste management and landfill avoidance may be considered in future but would not impact landfill siting.
- Robin Vora requested that any written agency comments be included in the report.
- Paul Bertagna asked if the County's goals for future diversion rates are factored into the design capacity analysis. Tim Brownell responded yes the 45% diversion goal is built into the projections.
- Erwin Swetnam asked if water rights could be secured for the Roth East site. Dwight Miller responded the County would look to obtain water rights but there might be an interim period of time to haul water, which is accounted for in the cost analysis.
- Paul Bertagna asked for clarification whether the well at Moon Pit has a water right. Tim Brownell responded it does but that right would not be transferred as part of the sale. Tim added the County would look to lease part of this water right until they could obtain their own. Paul asked if the county has water rights that could be transferred. Tim responded the County has some water rights but it's not clear if they could be transferred. The County is looking at the purchase of mitigation credits and other water rights.

- Keith Kessar asked if the process to transfer water rights is more timely than purchasing water rights. Ryan Rudnick responded transferring is generally more expedient than applying for a new permit.
- Paul Bertagna asked what type of time commitment is there for the water rights lease given the challenges of procuring water rights. Tim Brownell responded the solicitation letter noted up to and until the County can procure its rights.
- Mike Riley asked for clarification about the suggested report edits provided by Robin Vora.
- Tim Brownell noted the County received suggested edits to the Site Evaluation Report from Robin Vora for consideration. Dwight Miller suggested these could be included as part of the SWAC deliberation process and would also be reviewed by the technical team and incorporated into the report as appropriate. Robin Vora described his suggested edits, which were provided in writing to the County.
- Robin Vora requested the report identify whether ODFW has documented sightings of sage grouse at the Moon Pit site. Robin requested inclusion of a section on the pigmy rabbit given the ODFW comments and that the location of the golden eagle nest be generalized in the report. Dwight Miller confirmed the technical team will review the ODFW comments and consider how best to incorporate that material into the report.
- Robin Vora requested adding acknowledgment in the Executive Summary that the mining use will continue at the Moon Pit site. Ryan Rudnick responded that the intent of the Executive Summary is to present objective facts as much as conclusions. Mike Riley added that the mining use is an important piece of information to include.
- Cassie Lacy asked if there is information available about whether the privately owned Roth East site could be developed in other ways if it wasn't used as a landfill. Tim Brownell responded there is a partition plan that has been submitted for the Roth East site. Cassie added it's important to recognize the Roth East site use may not stay the same.
- Robin Vora commented the wildfire risk information should be cited and the statement that the risk is the same should be re-evaluated. Dwight Miller commented that landfill operations generally create a fire break and it is rare that landfills generate a fire that moves offsite. He noted the report focuses on differentiating sites for the purposes of selection, but the report can be updated to highlight some of the fire mitigation and suppression that will be part of the landfill design. Tim confirmed it may be beneficial to add some additional detail.
- Robin Vora requested acknowledging other avian predators beyond ravens. Ryan Rudnick responded that the focus on ravens in the summary was purposeful and the recognition of other avian predators is captured in the natural resources study.
- Robin Vora requested additional acknowledgement of potential disturbance to big game habitat by landfill operations.
- Robin Vora requested noting there has been no response from the Tribes so far.
- Tim Brownell asked Robin Vora what action he would like the SWAC to take regarding the report feedback. Dwight Miller suggested the SWAC consider a motion that could include a recommendation and reasoning.
- Chris Ogren asked for clarification about the direct outreach to Tribes. Aubrie Koenig responded that the project team has mailed information and offered to schedule a briefing to contacts with the Tribes. Chris noted it would be good to do more. Dwight Miller confirmed the project team will continue outreach efforts.
- Mike Riley commented that he supports the discussion about suggested edits to the executive summary but suggests other aspects be left to the experts. Other SWAC members agreed.

##### **5. Finalist Site Recommendation:** Tim Brownell

SWAC members shared which of the finalist sites they would recommend as the location of a new landfill in Deschutes County.

- **Chris Ogren:** Commented he leans toward Moon Pit because of the current industrial use of the site and associated implications for wildlife in that area.
- **Cassie Lacy:** Commented she leans toward Moon Pit for similar reasons. She noted the City of Bend has Council goals related to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions—the distance traveled is an important factor for Bend. The Bend City Council also has longstanding goals around stewardship of natural resources and the impacts to wildlife and other environmental impacts are less when it's an already disturbed site.
- **Erwin Swetnam:** Commented he agrees for all the reasons mentioned. He added he likes the Roth East site from a financial standpoint but has concerns about the habitat, how that will be handled, and potential delay from those processes. He noted he's not excited about siting a landfill in a current mining application but it may be the way to go.
- **Robin Vora:** Commented he believes both are poor sites but he favors the Moon Pit site. He noted pros of the Moon Pit site include: existing mining, less infrastructure, existing disturbance, aggregate resource extraction to subsidize landfill operations. He noted cons of the Moon Pit site include: next to Badlands, more expensive in the beginning, complex layout, BLM road use permit, more blasting for excavation, golden eagle nest, water rights leased not owned. Robin noted pros for the Roth East: good site layout, connection to electric power. He added disadvantages of the Roth East site include: strong on wildlife (sage grouse, pigmy rabbit, deer, elk, pronghorn), higher wildlife mitigation costs, higher wildfire potential, would affect more local residents, would affect recreation users, visual screening, Pine Mountain Observatory, paragliding, water rights not secured, water hauling, dust devils and wind, higher greenhouse gas emissions, longer haul, Millican grade, permitting, land use change, potential for federal listing of sage grouse and pigmy rabbit. Robin noted Roth East generally has more negatives.
- **Mike Riley:** Commented he is supportive of the Moon Pit site as well for the reasons already shared. He noted that is primarily because the site is already disturbed and will likely have less impacts on wildlife and least amount of impacts on cultural resources. He added the lower greenhouse gas emissions is an important part of why he prefers Moon Pit. He added the lifetime costs are similar for both sites and an important consideration—this is a 50 plus year decision and it's useful to look at a longer timeframe. Mike expressed concern about the lack of coordination with the Tribes and recommended ongoing efforts to do outreach to the Tribes. He also recommended continuing attention to planning for waste prevention and recovery to help extend the life of the new landfill which will benefit the community and reduce overall impacts. Mike commented he would like to further discuss ONDA's proposal for a robust wildlife and recreation impact mitigation plan.
- **Jared Black:** Commented he prefers the Moon Pit area. He noted he is somewhat disappointed in the shape and would like to see the boundaries expanded in the future to make it a better shape.
- **Erica Lindberg:** Commented she recommends Moon Pit because of its current use as an industrial site and the potential for fewer environmental and wildlife impacts to the area.
- **Keith Kessar:** Commented he agrees that the Moon Pit site makes the most sense for the next 50 to 100 years. He believes the existing disturbance at the Moon Pit site lessens the potential for wildlife impacts relative to the Roth East site. He added that the Pine Mountain Observatory is an important location—one of two left in the state—and deserving of protection.
- **Ed Fitch:** Commented he agrees with Moon Pit for all the reasons stated. He also believes the site being a little closer will make a big difference over time.  
(SWAC member Ed Fitch left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.)
- **Paul Bertagna:** Commented the decision to site a landfill in County versus hauling waste to the Gorge was about transportation costs and the Moon Pit is far superior to the Roth site--that 16 miles roundtrip means a lot when

you look at the number of trips per day for 100 years. He added the ODFW view on wildlife impacts with greater concern shared about the Roth East site also influenced his decision.

Action: Mike Riley made a motion that the SWAC recommend the Moon Pit site as the location for a future landfill to the Board of County Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Chris Ogren. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Mike Riley made a motion that the SWAC recommend the Board of County Commissioners work with stakeholders (and potentially the SWAC) to develop and implement a robust and comprehensive mitigation strategy that reflects community values to minimize impacts to area wildlife and recreation. Cassie Lacy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim Brownell opened the floor to input from members of the public.

- Timm Schimke suggested a SWAC motion related to waste prevention and recovery acknowledge that those efforts will benefit the County by helping to manage operational costs.

Action: Cassie Lacy made a motion that the SWAC request the Board of County Commissioners prioritize waste prevention and recovery and move as quickly as possible to implement those strategies to reduce the overall costs and greenhouse gas emissions of the new landfill. Mike Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. **Adjourn:** Tim Brownell

Tim Brownell thanked the County staff and Commissioners involved in the Solid Waste Master Plan that established the foundation for the siting evaluation process. Tim thanked the many community members who submitted comments and stayed engaged throughout the process. He noted the County has tried to be as inclusive and as transparent as possible and that he greatly appreciates the public input that has helped the County better understand community priorities in siting a new landfill facility. Tim also thanked the SWAC for the extraordinary number of hours, consideration, and empathy they dedicated to the siting evaluation process.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:03 a.m.