

**Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**  
**February 20, 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 Kessariss 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
*C	Shaun Cordes Delve				
	<b>Staff:</b>				
✓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	S	Kimberly Riley Legal Counsel Assistant		
	<b>Elected Official(s):</b>				
E					
	<b>Guest(s):</b>	✓G	<b>7</b>	*G	<b>13</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 9:05 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 October 17, 2023 meeting.

[Action: Keith Kessar](#) made the motion and [Erwin Swetnam](#) seconded to approve the minutes from the prior meeting. The committee unanimously approved the minutes as written.

**3. Public Comment:**

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

- Steve Payer
- Craig Miller
- Steve Wright

(SWAC member Mike Riley arrived around 9:24 a.m.)

**4. Final Site Evaluation Preliminary Findings:** Dwight Miller, Ryan Rudnick

Dwight Miller and Ryan Rudnick summarized information from the finalist site evaluation findings for fourteen different technical analysis topics briefly described below. The presented information augments the draft executive summary shared with the SWAC prior to the meeting. Additional details on each topic discussion are available in the meeting recording and slides.

- **Conceptual Master Plan:** Ryan briefly described the conceptual layouts and evaluation of potential capacity at each site. He noted the Moon Pit site is not quite as efficient a layout compared to the more square-shaped Roth East site. He also described the conceptual phasing of cell development at each site (only part of the site would have active use at a given time).
- **Site Development/Permitting:** Ryan summarized the current zoning, surrounding land uses, and considerations for permitting to develop the sites for use as a landfill.
- **Transportation:** Ryan described the anticipated operations traffic and how this could be served by existing transportation infrastructure at each site. He noted the Moon Pite site access road has a current baseline of about 20 roundtrip mining truck trips per day. He also shared that the Roth East site has a range of trade-offs in terms of potential access route alternatives.
- **Water Infrastructure Assessment:** Ryan noted both sites are within the groundwater study area which may delay the County's ability to secure new water rights for site operations. He noted there are established water rights and wells at the Moon Pit site and the seller is willing to lease partial water rights to the County until the County can secure its own. The Roth East site also has wells, but additional water rights would be needed to meet peak operational water needs.
- **Electrical:** Ryan described the power needs and existing electrical infrastructure for both sites. Both sites have similar new electrical infrastructure needs, but the distance to connect to the Moon Pit site is comparably more than to the Roth East site. He noted there's potential for long-term solar and power generation at the sites.
- **Flood Risk Desktop Assessment:** Dwight noted flood risks are not especially significant at either site. There is a secondary flood risk to Hwy 20, which is within the floodplain. The landfill is likely to be designed to a 100-year design flood.
- **Geology/Groundwater:** Dwight described the geology for the two sites and noted the greater than 400-foot depth to groundwater provides additional protection. He shared that there will be a low amount of leachate generated at either site. Shaun Cordes provided additional detail about the geology of the two sites and potential for using aggregate in future site development.

- **Environmental Site Assessments:** Dwight noted an ESA Phase I is a typical study for this type of process. The completed studies did not result in recognized environmental conditions.
- **Air Quality and Weather:** Dwight summarized information about air quality and seasonal conditions, including limited precipitation.
- **Natural Resources:** Dwight summarized information from the natural resources assessment, including that there are no waters or jurisdictional wetlands and no ESA-listed species likely to occur at either site. In addition, both sites are in a wildlife combining zone.
- **Cultural Resources:** Dwight shared findings from the reconnaissance surveys performed at both sites and noted additional survey would be anticipated for the selected site.
- **Community Considerations:** Aubrie summarized public comments received for the two sites as part of the County's public process.
- **Cost Estimates:** Ryan walked through the high-level economic analysis and cost factors for each site and noted key assumptions.

## 5. SWAC Discussion: Tim Brownell

SWAC members asked questions and discussion occurred amongst the committee members.

- Cassie Lacy asked about the status of other sites being considered.
- Keith Kessarar asked whether both wells at the Moon Pit site are available for future use. A Hooker Creek representative shared there is some uncertainty about the capacity of one well.
- Keith Kessarar asked if both sites are being considered for purchase only or whether lease options are being looked at. Tim Brownell responded both sites are primarily being considered as purchase not lease.
- Mike Riley asked if the numbers are inclusive of the full property acquisition and whether the water rights are included. Tim Brownell responded yes the numbers are inclusive and that Moon Pit would be a phased opportunity until the County can secure its own water rights.
- Robin Vora asked if the Moon Pit site would include a business partnership for ongoing excavation and infill. Tim Brownell noted there are a few acquisition options and that one includes ongoing excavation.
- Robin Vora asked about the higher property costs of Moon Pit. Tim Brownell noted the active mine has value.
- Mike Riley asked for clarification about the aggregate market as a value. Tim Brownell clarified the potential risk is about the material in different cell development areas and the unknowns of the variable aggregate market over time. Tim also noted the project will be bonded and there is a differential cost for the first years of operation. Shaun noted the rock quality and resale value potential is currently unknown in parts of the site.
- Robin Vora asked about water rights for the two sites.
- Robin Vora asked if Hwy 20 or Dry River have flooded in the last 100 years. Community member shared more water coming down Pine Mountain Road versus Dry River.
- Robin Vora asked about the golden eagle habitat and said he feels habitat overstates presence of pronghorn at the site. Robin asked if there's been discussion of moving the trailhead near the Moon Pit site. Robin commented about the hang-gliding use and access route to Pine Mountain and potential impacts to recreation development. Interested in discussion of range fire and susceptibility of Roth East to fire concerns. Economic forecast assumes limiting factor of population growth and wonder about how much relies on those assumptions.
- Mike Riley asked if there has been any scenario modeling to look at variations in population growth and potential change to economic analysis.
- Robin Vora asked whether the entire Roth East site be acquired. Tim Brownell confirmed yes and potentially part of the Roth West site for future mitigation.
- Mike Riley asked about the mix of public versus private ownership around the Roth East site. Ryan Rudnick described the mix of ownership. Tim Brownell added that grazing rights at Roth East would not be included in the sale.

- Keith Kessarlis asked how the forecasted operational costs compare with the current operational costs. Dwight Miller noted some increased transportation and water costs.

Tim opened the discussion to questions from the public.

- Question about whether there are other active mines in the surface mine zoning.
- Comment that the recently adopted priority conservation areas should be considered in the site evaluation and added as a potential risk.
- Question about what happens to the recycling and composting that's currently available. Tim Brownell noted the current facilities will continue to be used for recycling and composting.

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

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next SWAC Advisory Group meeting is scheduled virtually or at the Deschutes County Services Building (1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97703) on **March 19, 2024 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

- March 19, 2024 9-12pm; report review and discussion
- April 16, 2024, 9-11am; input on finalist sites

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:05 a.m.