



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** June 12, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing: Consideration of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommendation to select the Hooker Creek "Moon Pit" property for siting the County's future solid waste management facility

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Following the public hearing, the Board may:

- Hold the oral and written record open and continue the hearing to a date certain
- Close the oral record and hold the written record open to a date certain
- Close both the oral and written record and set a date certain for deliberations
- Close both the oral and written record and begin deliberations

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

In 2019, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the Deschutes County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) that outlined several key issues related to managing solid waste in the County for the next 20 years and beyond. A primary recommendation of the SWMP was the siting, permitting, and building of a new in-County landfill to replace Knott Landfill when it reaches its capacity.

In April 2022, the BOCC appointed the SWAC that consisted of representatives of each of the four municipal jurisdictions, both franchise haulers, as well as five citizens-at-large, and a representative of the environmental community. The role of the SWAC was to review and recommend the criteria and process to be used to evaluate prospective sites and to apply the criteria in the assessment and selection of a finalist location to recommend to the BOCC for consideration. The SWAC, working with Department of Solid Waste staff and Parametrix, the consulting firm awarded the contract to assist in the site assessment process, developed the Site Selection Criteria (SSC) Technical Memorandum for the siting of a new solid waste management facility. The BOCC held a work session with staff to discuss and amend the document, and they approved the SSC in June of 2022.

The site selection process reviewed over 200 areas of interest in the County, then reviewed 31 (thirty-one) through the Broad Screening Evaluation process. This was followed by the Focus Screening Evaluation of twelve potential sites in the County. During this phase the SSC was amended by the BOCC at SWAC's recommendation to include the Federal Aviation

Administration's advisory memorandum that expanded the airport exclusionary zone from 10,000 feet from the Bend and Redmond airports runways to a five-mile exclusionary zone from the airport property boundary to minimize the potential for airplane bird strikes. The SWAC recommended two sites in the eastern portion of the County for Final Site Evaluation. The SWAC received the initial summary report for review in February 2024, a full draft report and technical memos for review in March, and a final draft report at their April meeting, at which the SWAC came to a unanimous recommendation of the Moon Pit site for BOCC consideration.

The Committee also recommended that the Board of County Commissioners:

- Work with stakeholders to develop and implement a robust and comprehensive mitigation strategy that reflects community values to minimize impacts to area wildlife and recreation
- 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

For a copy of the full Solid Waste Management Facility Final Site Evaluation Report and Appendices and all relevant SWAC meeting details, visit [deschutes.org/managethefuture](https://deschutes.org/managethefuture). The Solid Waste Department has established a public hearing page at [www.deschutes.org/solidwaste/page/solid-waste-management-facility-location-proposal](https://www.deschutes.org/solidwaste/page/solid-waste-management-facility-location-proposal) to view public comments and other relevant materials pertaining to the public hearing.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The Solid Waste Department has included \$2,700,000 in the FY24/25 budget for the next stage of the procurement and permitting process. The overall project development is anticipated to cost between \$50-60 million to procure, permit, develop and commence operation in 2030.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tim Brownell, Director of Solid Waste  
Dwight Miller, Project Manager, Parametrix