



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of recommendations from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee regarding the siting, development and mitigation of a new landfill

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

The recommendations of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to the Board of County Commissioners are to:

1. Select the Hooker Creek "Moon Pit" property for siting Deschutes County's future landfill and authorize staff to move forward with negotiating a purchase agreement and securing associated permits;
2. Direct that staff 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; and
3. Direct staff to 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.

These recommendations are reflected in Order No. 2024-021, submitted for the BOCC's consideration.

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 and 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. 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)

to guide the siting of a new solid waste management facility. After holding a work session with staff to discuss and amend the document, the BOCC approved the SSC in June of 2022.

The site selection process reviewed over 200 areas of interest in the County, then reviewed 31 of those through the broad screening evaluation process. This was followed by the focus screening evaluation of 12 potential sites. During this phase, the SSC was amended by the BOCC at SWAC's recommendation to include the Federal Aviation Administration's advisory memorandum which 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. Following that evaluation, the SWAC came to a unanimous recommendation of the Moon Pit site for BOCC consideration.

A public hearing was held before the BOCC on June 12, 2024, after which the Board allowed the submittal of additional written comments until Wednesday, June 26th. All written public comments and other relevant materials pertaining to the public hearing may be viewed at www.deschutes.org/solidwaste/page/solid-waste-management-facility-location-proposal.

In follow-up to the public hearing and questions that were raised during the Board's discussion, Parametrix has assembled three memoranda to provide additional information and/or clarification regarding water rights, environmental mitigation, and aggregate value as those issues pertain to the Moon Pit site. The full Solid Waste Management Facility Final Site Evaluation Report and Appendices and all relevant SWAC meeting details can be accessed at deschutes.org/managethefuture.

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