

**Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**  
**May 17, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**



**SOLID  
WASTE**

	<b>Committee Members:</b>				
✓	Susan Baker Republic Services	✓	Luke Dynes Citizen at Large	*	Chris Ogren Citizen at Large
*	Paul Bertagna City of Sisters	✓	Keith Kessar Citizen at Large	✓	Mike Riley The Environmental Center
✓	Jared Black Citizen at Large	✓	Cassie Lacy City of Bend	✓	Erwin Swetnam Cascade Disposal
	Bill Duerden City of Redmond		Jake Obrist City of La Pine	✓	Robin Vora Citizen at Large
	<b>Consultant(s):</b>				
✓C	Dwight Miller Parametrix, Inc.	✓C	Susanna Julber Barney & Worth, Inc.		
	<b>Staff:</b>				
✓S	Tim Brownell Incoming Director	*S	Nick Lelack County Administrator	✓S	Timm Schimke Senior Advisor
✓S	Chad Centola Director	*S	Sue Monette Management Analyst	*S	Todd Sween Operations Manager
	<b>Elected Official(s):</b>				
*E	Tony DeBone County Commissioner				
	<b>Guest(s):</b>	✓G	<b>0</b>	*G	<b>6</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 9:06 a.m. by Chad Centola, Deschutes County Solid Waste Director.

**1. Introductions:** SWAC members and project team members introduced themselves.

**2. Review/Approve Minutes:** Chad Centola

Chad Centola asked for comments on the minutes from the April 22, 2022 meeting. Robin Vora submitted written comments to include “A committee member expressed concern that evaluating 31 criteria for each potential site, each with an arbitrary and small percentage weight, might overshadow obvious pros and cons of sites. For example, cost is important, but is only included as Haul Distance with a weight of 50% of 10% of 35% (0.5 x 0.1 x 0.35) or 1.75% of the

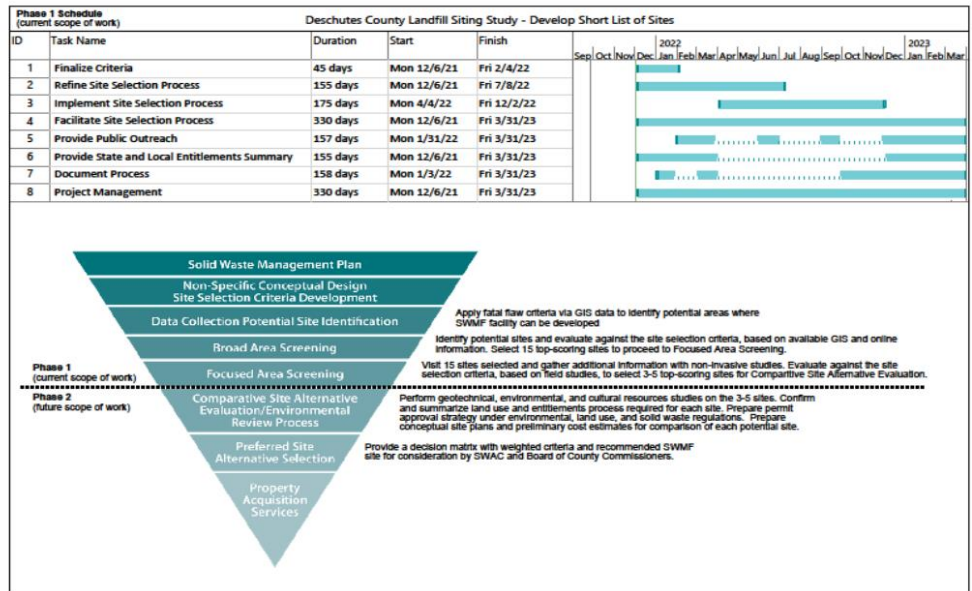
total weight. The committee member suggested that a simpler and more subjective evaluation, including obvious fatal flaws, would be a quicker and cheaper way to narrow the list of candidate sites to be studied in detail.”

Action: Erwin Swetnam made the motion and Chris Ogren seconded to approve the minutes from the prior meeting with the inclusion of Robin Vora’s comment. Susan Baker and Mike Riley abstained as they were not present at the meeting. The remaining committee members unanimously approved the revised minutes.

Robin Vora arrived at 9:10 a.m.

### 3. Discussion/ Recommendation on Criteria Screening: Dwight Miller

Dwight Miller provided an overview of the project schedule (slide to right), and the criteria and weights for screening the broad list of potential sites. There are three levels of weighting. The new criteria table shows the actual percent weighting out of 100% for each criterion and provides a better understanding of the overall impact of each criterion. He asked the Committee for input and discussion on the criteria and weighting. The consultants will not begin evaluating or reviewing sites until the criteria is finalized.



After the criteria are approved by the SWAC, they will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), who will then consider approval of the criteria at a work session. Following BOCC approval of the criteria, the consultants will conduct a fatal flaw analysis, which will likely omit a fair number of sites across the County. When the sites have been narrowed to 3-5, then more rigorous criteria will be applied to the sites, including more rigorous cultural, historical evaluation and provide a much better ability to evaluate cost of the narrowed sites. The schedule for the process of narrowing sites is to reduce the number to 15 by late summer 2022, and to 3-5 finalist sites by the end of March 2023.

Robin Vora asked about the 30 miles from waste centroid criteria, and the background of the 30-mile figure. Dwight clarified that the 30-mile radius criteria is more of a subjective criterion which will affect cost. If the new facility is located farther than 30 miles, it could become a cost factor because of hauling rates. Dwight explained that being farther than 30 miles won’t automatically create a fatal flaw for a site – it impacts cost though. Chad stated that one of our goals today is to ask the SWAC if the group agrees with the siting criteria and then it can move onto the BOCC.

Timm Schimke noted that the 30-mile figure came from the Solid Waste Management Plan process and 30 miles was agreed upon for cost estimation.

Dwight explained that the cultural resources criteria was revised a little, and in consultation with our cultural resources expert, archeological assets below the surface generally have higher significance than the above the surface cultural resources.

Mike Riley noted he would like some type of effort to engage the Native American community- emphasized that we need to be talking to them and would like to add the Native American community input into the criteria document and add this to the criteria. Dwight will talk with archeologist about adding that into the data point for screening.



## Revised Cultural Resources Criteria

Scoring	Criteria Categories
<b>Known Cultural Resource categories within Site or within 500 feet of Site</b>	
5	No known cultural resources.
4	Above ground/ Standing Structures within Site
2	Archaeological Sites
1	Other Properties of Tribal Importance
<b>Potential for Buried Archaeological Sites within Site or within 500 feet of Site</b>	
5	The site and the surrounding 500 feet contain only areas with low probability to encounter buried archaeological sites.
3	The site contains low probability, but the surrounding 500 feet contain areas with moderate probability to encounter buried archaeological sites.
1	The site and the surrounding 500 feet contain areas with moderate or high probability to encounter buried archaeological sites.

**Action: Dwight Miller will work with their team to site data sources and information on the tribes.**

Robin also discussed the need for cultural/archeological assessments with federal lands. Dwight mentioned that the project team has reached out to BLM to make sure we are tracking the appropriate resources. Chad will be meeting with BLM in the next week or so.

Dwight asked the SWAC if, overall, they thought the criteria and weighting were appropriate. The group asked about fatal flaws. There are fatal flaws included in some of the criteria, which would score zero on the weighting scale. Parcel assemblage and ownership are a big factor, and GIS will be used to quickly screen smaller, parcelized sites, and those with multiple ownership. The criteria and screening process does not prohibit people from the public from coming forward with sites that may have been missed. Dwight clarified that fatal flaw sites can include sites with fault impacts, impact zones/hazards.

Mike asked about recreation impacts and noted that this constituency may be more interested in things. Horses, hikers, runners, mountain bikers may all have an interest. Timm S. noted that these concerns could be incorporated in the adjacent land use impacts criteria.

**Action: Dwight Miller and the consultants will make note and identify recreation within the criteria.**

Keith Kessarar asked about operations and transportation impacts from trucking from Knott to the new landfill and suggested adding energy efficiencies with trucking and also building. Dwight explained that improvements such as energy efficiencies would come in more with conceptual markups of the site. Other improvements like energy efficiencies include landfill gas capture, vehicle refueling, and minimizing impacts of haul routes. Dwight noted that we will lay out the opportunities for each site for incorporation of renewables and full use of resources at the site, including anaerobic digestion, recovery, etc. once the site is identified.

Luke Dynes likes that we have a lot of criteria to go through, but asked the project team if there is a backup plan to extend the life of Knott Landfill if there are issues with siting the new landfill by 2029. Timm clarified that he has had conversations with nearby counties about accepting waste, if necessary, for a short time. Luke noted that with supply chain issues and trucking costs, we need to plan ahead.

Mike asked about the water referenced in pages 16 and 17 of the criteria memo, specifically the amount of water needed for landfill operations and whether a site that does not have water rights should be a fatal flaw. Dwight

explained that some landfills have operated with trucked water, harvested rainwater, and other options, and while not necessarily a fatal flaw, definitely is a huge cost determiner. Mike thinks it is critical that we think about this from the outset. Water is a big limiting factor, and pressure on existing/adjacent wells because of climate change and drought makes it seem like lack of water rights should be a fatal flaw. Timm thought we should check into this with the Oregon Water Resources Department, and the rules around the well/drilling availability through an industrial permit, to determine if there is a fatal flaw with water and lack of water rights. Robin suggested revising the wording in pages 16 and 17. Chris Ogren asked about looking at other landfills that have functioned without water rights.

**Action: Dwight Miller and the consultants will revisit the criteria and research water rights implied by ownership and restrictions for industrial purposes to see if the water criteria needs to be a fatal flaw. Pages 16 and 17 of the criteria memo can define obtaining water rights and minimum water consumption for operations and construction.**

Robin asked about clarifying the term fault hazard. Dwight explained that some are fatal flaws, and others are not; those that are older (had more ancient seismic activity) are of less concern. Robin inquired about the groundwater criterion- less than 100 feet may eliminate the La Pine area. Dwight confirmed, yes, that is important and may eliminate some sites. Sites that are more effective for groundwater protection may be characterized by soils with more clay verses sites that have fractured basalt, cinder, and are potentially less protective of groundwater.

Robin asked about the site acreage criteria and wanted to know why it is not a fatal flaw if a site is less than 250 acres. Dwight and Chad clarified that a site may be less than 250 acres but bordered by BLM or other county-owned land, and still be an acceptable site. So, we need a little flex in the criteria to not rule out those sites as fatal flaws.

Commissioner Tony DeBone thanked everyone for their efforts and recommended thinking about the scope of this- look at siting in the county with a focus on where it is going to be located.

Chris Ogren asked about consideration of population trends, looking at trends for 50 or 100 years and where the population centers will go. Timm S. recommended consulting the Oregon Blue Book to see if we can shift/move based on population changes, but likely the population centers will remain where they are today as a good portion of Deschutes County is made up of federal lands and other restrictions which are a big consideration.

Paul Bertagna left at 9:58.

Robin brought up the importance of Oregon land use EFU/Forest Resource zones. Timm S. noted that Oregon land use law allows landfills with a Conditional Use Permit, so resource-zoned properties are not automatically considered fatal flaws.

Mike discussed the haul distance as after 50 years you may have issues with the 30-mile distance criteria as cities grow. Knott Landfill would not meet that criteria, for instance. More people will be living within that 30-mile radius, so maybe it should be even farther. Dwight discussed the benefits of having it closer, to reduce haul costs. There will be a discussion at some point about this balance.

A question was asked about pages 27 and 28 and why agriculture is more compatible as an adjacent land use. Dwight clarified that agriculture has a lower population impact, as opposed to residential with lots of people. And, it could be that the lower-value EFU ag land is weighted higher than high value. The point is we're trying to impact the least amount of people. Timm S. commented that once we identify a site, we should think about how to protect the adjacent uses and encroachment.

Nick Lelack noted the criteria weighting and natural environment does not include a fatal flaw for the Metolius Area of Critical State Concern (ACSC) – a 10-mile boundary around Metolius River that precludes large-scale developments. He recommended seeing the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 2, Resource Management Section 2.9 Environmental Quality, pages 67-68. Dwight agreed we should add this in for property northwest of Sisters.

Action: Dwight will ensure the consultant GIS team mapped the Metolius ASCS overlay and it gets included.

Robin asked about wildlife combining zones and if those include Mule Deer Winter Range. Nick will ask a planner (Tanya Saltzman) and update as it is going to the BOCC this week. Because this application won't come in for a long time, but the rules in place will be used for the GIS app, this is interesting because the criteria is being done now. Maybe add Mule Deer Winter Range. Nick also talked about the "goal post rule" which dictates that your application is reviewed under the regulations in effect at the time of submittal because we are developing criteria far in advance of a land use application.

Robin summarized his thoughts on additional criteria and noted that the mule deer winter range, Metolius Area of Critical State Concern, involvement of the tribes, are all important factors that we should be thinking about. Keith noted that at some point, it'll be a weighing of the pros and cons for each site and balancing them for each of the smaller group of sites. Dwight noted that we will have a background report on each of the smaller group of sites. Robin and Mike recommended looking at past planning processes (Bend UGB, others) for ideas and examples of site selection. A guest commented that the criteria look good. Jared Black offered that we should look to interest groups that may offer resistance and be proactive to reach out to them.

#### 4. Communications Plan Update: Susanna Julber

Susanna Julber provided an overview of communications on the project thus far, including a summary of the stakeholder interviews that were completed. Twenty people were contacted, and twelve were interviewed. There will be additional opportunities for stakeholder involvement, this is just the initial outreach effort. Common themes in criteria ranged from those provided in the adjacent slide, to the impacts to recreation- hunters, people who fish, cyclists, hikers, birders.



### Stakeholder Interview Summary

- 12 people interviewed
- Common themes:
  - Preferred site should be close to towns- but not too close
  - Wildlife, flora, wetlands, waterways, sensitive landscapes and marginalized populations should be considered in siting and in haul road impacts
  - Wind, climate, precipitation are all important factors to consider, as is groundwater and potential for groundwater pollution

Those interviewed recommended a variety of communication methods. Additional outreach will be taking place that will be tailored to keeping the public apprised of the site selection process.

- Project website, e-news, utility bill inserts, social media, and TV/radio
- Targeted presentations to existing scheduled groups: City Club, Chamber meetings, Rotaries, environmental organization regular meetings, BOCC work session updates
- Work to engage with environmental, social justice groups early
- Once sites are narrowed, really focus on the impacted people
- Much of the outreach strategy will be dictated by the site- if not near population center, are there user groups, environmental interests, etc. that will be interested?
- Good neighbor plan essential if near people

In addition to a good neighbor plan for residential, we should think about developing plans for a number of adjacent uses- agricultural, etc. Jared recommended reaching out to opponents. Mike discussed coming back for updates to the Central Oregon Conservation Network. Also the importance of understanding the issues people have- view, other impacts. It will be hard to find a site that doesn't have impacts. Dwight discussed the cumulative impact of events (trail closures, etc.) on recreational users, and look for opportunities for mitigation (trail enhancements, for example).

A guest suggested adding a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment report and the availability of utilities for each site. Robin discussed irrigation canals as an example of a utility, and as being difficult to reroute, and consideration of climate change in decision-making. Climate change legislation as well.

Dwight noted it would be important to hear about potential issues, so we can talk early to people about them and discover agreements that may be used to mitigate an impact. Dwight discussed current and future methane capture rules and thought these rules and additional towards energy creation will help us actually so they can positively impact the process. So not just a landfill, but a solid waste management facility. And also as Knott transitions to a transfer station only, what are the opportunities for Knott in the future as an asset to the community.

Mike noted that water will be the other factor that climate will come into play. If the drought persists, people may perceive the threat and well and water rights threats a bit more. Dwight mentioned using this project for a model for the environmental sustainable rating system- ISI- Envision index. Dwight is a practitioner with the scale, and it looks at sustainability and resiliency of operations and planning of a facility. The first level is a solid community process. Good to look at the process that goes into this screening. Keith agreed because the site will be operational for 50 to 100 years and we need to look far out.

## **5. Next Steps – Action Items: Dwight Miller**

Dwight summarized the list of the primary items to be added to the criteria that the SWAC discussed. These will be added to either the narrative explanations of criteria, or the criteria themselves.

- Consultation with Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Consultations with BLM, federal lands, on buffers around sites, and possible use of BLM lands.
- Recreational resources and adding to narrative of that criteria
- Water supply, looking at that from what is needed and what is allowed for water supply/allotment/water law- and maybe changing the scoring after learning more from OWRD.
- Haul distance-is there value in considering things closer than 10 miles
- Adjacent land use-clarify potential residential impact
- Adding Metolius Basin, and mule deer winter range and best criteria for this to be included
- Climate change-accounting for future climate change
- Addressing utilities at the narrower site screening
- Adding irrigation canals to the current land use criteria

Timm S. reiterated that the new landfill will not be accessed by the general public and will be limited access. Dwight will make updates with the criteria narrative, and how these factors relate to the criteria. Robin reiterated that the weighting may be adjusted as we go along, and Dwight agreed this is a starting point.

[Action: Vote on recommending to the BOCC approval of the criteria list and proposed weighting with the modifications identified today. Luke Dynes made the motion, Keith Kessarid seconded, and the motion passed unanimously from the SWAC members in attendance.](#)

Commissioners will review the screening late May and Chad will let the SWAC know when the work session is scheduled. After Board approval, Consultants will proceed with the fatal flaw and broad area screening. The next meeting in June will have a brief update and a site tour for the committee members. The July meeting will have initial screening content for committee review. Broad screening results are expected in August. September we should be down to 15 sites or so.

## **6. Wrap Up/ Adjourn**

**Next Committee Meeting:** SWAC Advisory Group meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month virtually or at the Deschutes County Road Department (61150 SE 27<sup>th</sup> St., Bend, OR 97702) from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting is **June 21, 2022 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

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