

Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
April 18, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



	Committee Members:				
*	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 Robyn Jones, 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		
	Consultant(s):				
*C	Dwight Miller Parametrix, Inc.	✓C	Ryan Rudnick Parametrix, Inc.	C	Susanna Julber Conzor
	Staff:				
✓S	Tim Brownell Solid Waste Incoming Director	✓S	Chad Centola Solid Waste Director	✓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		
	Elected Official(s):				
*E	Tony DeBone County Commissioner				
	Guest(s):	✓G	11	*G	22
✓	<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 Chad Centola, Deschutes County Solid Waste Director.

1. Welcome: Chad Centola

Chad Centola welcomed the group and reviewed the list of Committee members in attendance.

2. Review/Approve Minutes: Chad Centola

Chad Centola asked for comments on the minutes from the March 2023 meeting. Robin Vora submitted comments to edit a Focused Area Screening Results sentence to reflect “Robin Vora expressed his concern about the scoring and it being useful, and thinks the scoring with so many factors may mask the major advantages and disadvantages of each site.”

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

3. Public Comment: Chad Centola

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

- Byron Anker
- Daniel Baca
- Steve Wright

4. Pine Mountain Observatory – Meeting with University of Oregon: Chad Centola

Chad Centola discussed a recent meeting with Pine Mountain Observatory and the anticipated need for mitigation if either of the Roth sites are chosen. There would likely be 2-3 buildings on site, and any lighting would just be the minimum required by code, and down lit, so not likely impactful (following Dark-Sky practices). Best management practices such as paving roads, application of dust suppressants and other practices would be incorporated to reduce dust emissions. The Pine Mountain Observatory is 4.5 miles from the site. While Pine Mountain indicated they would prefer an alternate site, they are agreeable to working collaboratively with the County should the Roth site be selected.

A member of the audience asked about mitigation of heat impacts from the flare. Chad Centola said they would have to explore the best methods and potential to disperse/cool heat emissions. The County will be required to use an enclosed flare and the flame would not be visible. It is a flare for burning landfill gas not incinerating trash. Potentially, the County could capture the gas in the future. The flame will be enclosed in a stack roughly 20-30 feet tall and would be a 24/7 operation.

5. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Site Acquisition Update: Chad Centola

Chad Centola discussed recent conversations and investigations into potentially acquiring the preferred BLM site along Hwy 97. He explained that the process will likely take 6 to 10 years by using the Recreational Public Purposes Act, and the approach that the commissioners would like to take is a legislative process through our congressional delegation. This process would allow the BLM to grant land directly to the County, but there is a lot of process to go through involving Congress. In the meantime, the County will be notifying nearby property owners of the process.

Robin Vora asked that if there are a lot of red flags with this site, if the other two sites identified by the BLM could be considered again. Chad said the initial focus will be on the Hwy 97 site, and the other sites may come into play if the Hwy 97 site is problematic. Parametrix will do some preliminary work to assess the site’s viability.

6. Focused Area Screening Results: Ryan Rudnick

Ryan Rudnick went through the Focused Area Screening summaries of the five remaining sites, and the potential BLM Hwy 97 site.

Ryan Rudnick discussed challenges with DSL sites, including distance and ability to attract workers to a remote location. Ryan explained that the Hwy 97 BLM Site has some advantages, would need to take access across railroad and over County-owned land. There may be a solar farm development nearby in the future.

Comparative Cost Factor Analysis:

Ryan Rudnick noted that the Moon Pit scores highest (lowest cost) to develop and operate; it has a paved access road, water onsite, and has been excavated/developed. The Hwy 97 BLM site would have relatively high excavation costs, depending on whether the rock could be mined and sold.

Dwight Miller discussed that if the site could be mined like Moon Pit, it would improve the Hwy 97 BLM site scoring significantly. In Phase 2, a more detailed cost analysis will be provided.

Residential Proximity Analysis:

Ryan Rudnick explained that the Roth West site has more residences nearby than Roth East. The DSL Sites have minimal residences nearby. The Hwy 97 BLM site has 50+ residences within 1 mile, and 300+ within 2 miles. However, many are on the west side of Hwy 97. Within 2 miles of the site, some of the Pronghorn properties are within this radius.

Ryan Rudnick explained that there are existing barriers between Long Butte and the Hwy 97 BLM site, including Hwy 97 itself, and the railroad tracks that provide a barrier between east and west side, as well as the nearby solar farm. There are no residences within $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the site.

An audience member asked about the BLM site along Powell Butte Highway. Chad Centola and Tim Brownell noted the Hwy 97 site is already more disturbed, so has an advantage over other one, and more interest in disposal. From the BLM perspective, Hwy 97 site is best one out of the three potential BLM sites and they would support that site rather than either of the other sites. This site is advantageous because some of the waste can go directly from route collection in both Bend and Redmond to the site. The audience asked about water and transportation at the BLM site. Linda Swearingen asked if the BLM would give permission to do some geo testing. Chad Centola answered that they are just doing Broad Area Screening right now- site due diligence and analysis of soil and water availability will come in Phase II.

Robin Vora brought up that most of the sites have a major red flag. BLM site would have residences, and also rock impacts. Also acquisition red flags.

7. Site visit feedback from SWAC members:

- Keith Kessarar appreciated the tour, thought Roth East is a better location between the two Roth sites.
- Robin Vora feels that the two DSL sites should be eliminated due to sage grouse impacts, distance, and visibility from Hwy 20. Robin Vora discussed that the Millican sites both have problems with sage grouse, and impacts to people, far from the centroid, Roth West is visible from Hwy 20. Robin Vora feels that the only one to advance is Moon Pit, and the impacts can be mitigated.
- Cassie Lacy clarified that BLM would come in later, once there is more assurance about the congressional process, to be more efficient with project funding. Robin Vora feels that we should proceed with looking at the BLM site, especially soils and other characteristics.

- Chad Centola said that the County is prepared to invest significant funds into 2-3 sites, to do more detailed evaluation. Robin Vora supports BLM and Moon Pit sites, for least red flags, except for the challenging of the Moon Pit being offered for lease only.
- Mike Riley would not like Roth West considered, and has general concerns about the way wildlife use the area. Roth East is more protected and visual impacts are lower. We likely still need to keep Roth East on the list for comparison with other sites, prefers BLM and Moon Pit sites. We need to do some due diligence on BLM prior to pursuing Congress. Moon Pit will require working with the owners to figure out liability of not owning the site, etc. Mike Riley thinks Roth East should go forward but not his favorite site.
- Cassie Lacy thinks we don't have the luxury of eliminating any sites, and Roth sites should stay in (with East being more preferred). Asked about some level of analysis of the BLM site before getting too far with Congress; maybe it is just looking into the big issues like excavation and access.
- Erica Lindberg asked about timing for the process. Chad Centola said the normal Recreation and Public Purposes Act process can take 6-10 years, and some of the analyses have expiration dates, which can further prolong the process. Recommended moving ahead with Roth East, Moon Pit and BLM.
- Keith Kessar agrees and would like to understand more about the BLM process.
- Chris Ogren agrees with Moon Pit and Roth East moving forward. And staying optimistic about the BLM site.
- Paul Bertagna thinks Roth East would work and could be buffered, and Moon Pit (but could be long term issues with working together).

Ryan Rudnick asked about any committee members who may not want to move forward with the BLM site. No committee members wanted to take the site out of consideration at this time.

8. Sites to advance to Phase 2 Screening: Ryan Rudnick and Chad Centola

Action: Motion by Mike Riley to advance Roth East and Moon Pit sites, and remove Roth West and DSL sites. Chris Ogren seconded the motion.

Robin Vora asked for an amended motion to remove Roth East because of wildlife and sage grouse impacts and wants to move forward with the Moon Pit site and investigate the Hwy 97 BLM site to see its viability. No committee members seconded Robin Vora's amended motion.

Robin Vora opposed the original motion while all other committee members approved.

Mike Riley proposed a separate motion for the Hwy 97 BLM site to move forward, with some geophysical analysis to evaluate the presence of rock on site and outreach to the neighbors within at least a mile of the site.

Cassie Lacy brought up concerns about the prior SWAC meetings with intentional evaluation of the sites, and no outreach being conducted yet to BLM neighbors. Chad Centola noted that the County will conduct that outreach prior to the next SWAC meeting.

Action: Chad Centola will contact surrounding neighbors of the Hwy 97 BLM site.

Action: Tim Brownell restated Mike Riley’s motion, amended per committee discussion, to move forward with the Hwy 97 BLM property and to notify owners of adjacent properties within one mile of the site, and to conduct a partial due diligence evaluation. Robin Vora seconded. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Chad Centola explained that the properties adjacent to the Roth East site within 2 miles of the site would be notified. An audience member wanted to make sure that the whole section is expanded to encompass the entire community of Millican. Chad Centola discussed the importance of staying consistent with how we provide notice to neighbors around each property.

Action: Chad Centola will contact neighbors within 2 miles of the Roth East site.

9. Communications Update: Susanna Julber

Susanna Julber updated the group on communications and discussed the timing for an open house. The SWAC members discussed a potential May or June Open House, and the County is going to look into locations. An update will be provided at the next SWAC meeting. A fall open house may be an option as well.

10. Adjourn: Chad Centola

Next Committee Meeting: SWAC Advisory Group meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of each month virtually or at the Deschutes County Road Department (61150 SE 27th St., Bend, OR 97702) from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting is **May 16, 2023 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

Meeting Adjourned: 11:02 a.m.