



Residents balk at land-fill proposal

By Kathi Bliss
Editor/POST-REGISTER

Residents of the Lytton Springs area have joined forces with others throughout the county to encourage the Caldwell County Commissioners Court to block what they believe will be "a disaster" for Caldwell County.

Nearly a dozen residents spoke, and several more were in attendance on Monday as a group known to social media as "Bump the Dump" made their opinions about the proposed 130 Environmental Park known.

"We would have never chosen our property if we knew there was a dump here," said Kaylon Robinson, who spoke to the Court for the second time this week with her infant child in her arms. "We were looking for someplace clean and wholesome."

Frank Sughrue asked the Commissioners to "stop this trainwreck, because it's going to be here forever."

Central to the objections, the 130 Environmental Park proposed by Green Group Holdings, LLC, will

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include a 233-acre landfill site, in the midst of 1,260 acres of property located at the intersection of SH130 and FM 1185 in northern Caldwell County. The site, which also promises a pavilion, wildlife refuge areas and an industrial park, is at the center of a storm of controversy, specifically because of the landfill aspects of the project.

"Runoff will be leaching materials into the earth,"

said James Abshier. "And it feeds right into Plum Creek... which goes right into your faucet."

Green Group Holdings has offered to enter negotiations into a Host Agreement which will spell out not only the types of waste that will be accepted into the landfill, but a variety of incentives not only for surrounding property owners, but for the community at large.

Among those incen-

tives, according to GGH representatives, the organization is willing to offer up to \$1 per ton over the life of the facility, which amounts to nearly \$25 million, along with scholarships, increased tax revenues, and a business park they hope will attract new businesses to the area.

Still, residents are not convinced, particularly those that live in the area. Residents raised a litany of concerns, including prop-

erty value questions, health concerns and the notion that entering the Host Agreement could be "signing away the rights of the county."

Their hope, it seems, was to encourage the Commissioners to pass an ordinance that would prevent construction of the landfill facility in Caldwell County.

However, after a brief executive session to discuss the matter, County Civil Attorney Mack Harrison

said he believes it is too late for such an ordinance.

"I've spoken with TCEQ, and [Green Group Holdings] does have a permit pending," Harrison said. "Even if the Court were to approve such an ordinance, [this facility] would be grandfathered in, because the permit is pending."

The status of the permit, however, brought forth questions from the Court.

Commissioner Neto

Madrigo suggested there might be another way around, because the TCEQ process requires a four-part permit application, and Green Group Holdings has only completed two of the four parts.

Harrison reiterated that TCEQ considers the application to be pending with two, rather than four, parts filed, and insisted the 130 Environmental Park facility would be grandfathered.