

Livingston officials decide to restrict industrial waste allowed at landfill

LIVINGSTON — The Livingston Parish Police Jury rescinded a modification to its contract with American Waste and Pollution to operate the parish's Woodside landfill in a last-minute move Tuesday.

Jurors voted 8-1 to not allow the landfill to accept any industrial waste not generated in the parish.

Juror Jimmy Dunlap, who chairs the jury's solid waste committee and offered the motion, was upset that Woodside was accepting asbestos from all over the state.

He and other jurors were disturbed that contaminated soil was trucked in from an American Waste and Pollution landfill in Mississippi.

The action left Woodside manager David Mason spluttering in surprise. "I have no earthly idea where they are coming from," he said.

Mason had to repeatedly ask the jury for permission before

he was allowed to address the board. Asbestos is not considered a hazardous waste, he said.

"There is nothing wrong with (putting) asbestos in a non-hazardous, industrial solid waste landfill," he said.

Mason explained that the diesel-contaminated soil from Mississippi was an overflow from an American Waste and Pollution landfill. Because of bureaucratic red tape, American decided to send the non-hazardous waste to Woodside, he said.

Jurors were not mollified and voted overwhelmingly to prevent Woodside from taking out-of-parish industrial waste. The parish doesn't want waste it didn't create, Juror Dewey Harrell said.

Harrell also announced a public hearing on BFI's CECOS hazardous waste site at 7 p.m. Oct. 27 in the jury meeting

room. "The Livingston Parish Police Jury wants CECOS out of the parish," he said.

Meanwhile, Oak Ridge subdivision residents sought help to improve the main subdivision road.

Dorian Patton said school buses no longer would go into the subdivision to pick up children because the road is so bad. "Our children are in jeopardy," she said, because they have to walk a half-mile along a dangerous road with no sidewalks.

The road is not in the parish system, Juror Bobby Bowman said, so the parish can't pave it or put down gravel. However, Bowman said he has the road graded on a regular basis.

The jury agreed to buy gravel for the road if the residents would organize and agree to reimburse the parish for the gravel. Resident Phil Grisaffi said he would get the jury a letter today saying that subdivision residents would finance the gravel purchase and spreading.

Jury President Gerald Sullivan estimated the cost at "\$500 to \$600."

The jury also voted to create a seven-member tourism council. Citing the need to promote the parish's tourist attractions, Juror J.L. Shilling made the proposal to form the board.

Several jurors voiced hope that increased tourism might encourage a hotel or motel chain in the parish.

Betty Eaves, past president of the Denham Springs Chamber of Commerce and current member of the board of directors of the Lower Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce, was selected to head the council.

"We're so far behind (other parishes in tourism development), it's not even funny," she said.

Eaves said she knew of plenty of people in the parish who would donate their time and services to promoting tourism.