

# Macon Commission Gives Ridge Law Tentative OK

By BOB SCOTT  
Western Bureau

FRANKLIN — The Macon County Board of Commissioners groped Monday for any angle that might help them opt out of the state ridge law.

Unable to figure a way out, they gave "tentative approval" to the state's version of the law on first reading and set a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the courthouse.

The commissioners have waffled on the issue for several months. Several of the commissioners have said they do not approve of any type of ridge law or land-use planning.

Siler Slagle, vice chairman of the board, said he doesn't "believe there is any place in an ordinance for any phrase like 'natural beauty,' for that is in the eye of the beholder."

Slagle said someone could bring civil action against the county for a violation of the ridge law because such terms as "natural beauty" and "views" and the like are used in

the state's suggested ordinance.

"If people understood it (the ridge law), they might not be for it," Slagle added.

County Attorney R.S. Jones said compliance with the ridge law would entail "very expensive surveys and complete development plans" by individuals to satisfy the law and an enforcement officer.

A group of residents from the Jones Creek, Pleasant Hill and South Skeenah sections of the county appeared to protest a proposed landfill near their communities.

Spokesman Barbara McRae said she was told by County Manager Sam Greenwood the group could not comment because the meeting was a continuation of the Nov. 7 commission meeting.

The commissioners have a rule allowing meeting spectators only five minutes per person to air their views and ask questions at the beginning of a regularly scheduled commission meeting.

At the end of Monday's 2½-hour meeting, Commission Chairman C.E. "Shorty" Mason asked if there was anyone present who wished to be heard. By then most of the residents had left the meeting. There were no comments.

Later Ms. McRae said residents of the three communities have formed the Pine Ridge Protective Association to block any further studies of the 120-acre area as a landfill.

A major concern of the association is the proximity of the proposed landfill to Cartoogechaye Creek, the source of Franklin's drinking water. The creek also is popular as a trout stream.

Ms. McRae said her neighbors learned of the proposed landfill when a landowner confronted an engineering crew that accidentally moved onto private property near the site. The crew members confirmed they were studying the site for a possible landfill.

Ms. McRae said the commissioners then confirmed to the group that the site is under

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