

Sanitary Land-Fill Plan Delayed

By LAYNE CREASON
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The Klamath Falls Planning Commission withheld approval Wednesday night of a six-acre park proposed for development by use of sanitary land-fill material at the entrance to the city on the west shore of Lake Ewauna.

Commission reaction to a presentation on the proposed park by Keith Read, Klamath County engineer, was favorable; however, it set certain conditions to be met before a use permit for the park would be granted.

The park would be developed

on a low-lying area adjacent to the lake about 1/2-mile southeast of the West Side Bypass/Main Street interchange. The area was deeded to the City by Modoc Lumber Co., and, in turn, deeded to Klamath County, which has proposed the park. The area is inside city limits.

The commission said a public hearing should be held to explain the proposed park to residents on Riverside Drive and some merchants downtown who earlier signed a petition against the project. The hearing was scheduled for a week prior to the March 12 planning commission meeting.

The commission felt the pro-

ject must be explained to the people before approval could be given. Several commission members said their attitude toward the sanitary land fill-developed park had been changed by Read's presentation.

The commission also requested a detailed plan for operation of and administration of the development be submitted at the next commission meeting, and written approval from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Quality be obtained.

Read explained that using garbage as fill material for the park would be much cheaper

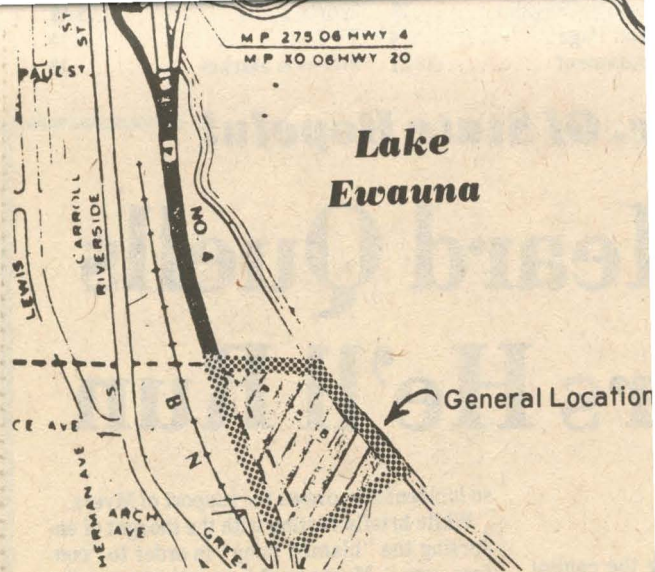
than using soil. Earth fill would cost about \$85,000 and garbage, about \$27,000. Total cost of the sanitary land-fill operation would be \$160,000 to \$170,000, he said. The county will fund the project and is applying to the State Marine Board for a grant, he said.

From City Dump

Trash would be hauled mainly from the city dump, compacted, and deposited in the area, he said. Over each layer of trash, 6-8 inches of soil would be deposited each day, he said.

Depositing trash at the site would take place during two six-

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☆ Ewauna Land-Fill

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month fair-weather periods and completed in two years, he said. There would be pipes to the surface to allow gases to escape. Drains would be installed for leachate (a substance formed from the decomposition of trash which would rise to the surface).

Rick Cisar, city planning director, said his feelings on the land fill were negative at this time, based on conversations with his contacts.

He recommended the matter be tabled and the public hearing for residents held. Cisar said Modoc Lumber Co., which still owns property south of the proposed park, was opposed to the project. He said Tom Shaw, president, told him he didn't think citizens would stand still for "having a garbage dump close to the entrance of Klamath Falls."

Cisar said the State Highway Department, the other abutting property owner, had no objections to the project. Cisar also talked with DEQ and corps of engineers personnel.

Cisar indicated the city was concerned about the increased truck traffic which would occur on Main Street and in the residential area on Riverside Drive during the summer months.

Fred Goeller, 406 Riverside Drive, one of the original petitioners against the sanitary land-fill park, attended the meeting and said most petitioners were still opposed.

'Right On Edge'

Goeller said after hearing Read's presentation he was "right on the edge" in his opinion of the project. He indicated if it were done right, he would be in favor.

However, "I've seen Eugene's (sanitary land fill/park) and it looks like hell. Garbage is blowing all over the place and pipes are sticking out," he said.

"I could see this thing from my front window. I'd feel a lot better if soil was placed on the garbage right after it was dumped (instead of once at the end of the day)," he said.

Nina Pence, 219 Jefferson, another area resident, said inevitably papers would blow into the lake and downtown Klamath Falls. She also objected to dust from trucks entering the access road and residue from gases escaping from the site. (Read said gas would be minimal and should have little odor.

James Kerns, head of the Lake Ewauna Rowing Club, said the club and the Lake Ewauna Development Committee have unanimously endorsed the project, which would enhance recreation programs for youth of Klamath Falls.

Glenn Bowen, vice president and manager of Oregon Water Corp., said, "I think we have belabored this thing long enough and we would like to see a prompt decision on it."

Now Favorable

Richard Bogatay, commission member, said his initial negative attitude toward the land fill changed to favorable after hearing the presentation. Bob Beach, commission member, said he was in favor of the project but that residents who petitioned against it should be satisfied.

Cisar said he had asked Read and Pat Gordon, county planning director, to contact Riverside residents two weeks ago about plans to seek the use permit, but that had not been done.

Read said perhaps they "were remiss" in failing to contact residents but he thought the project had been well publicized.

Read pointed out dust would occur at the site whether the area was filled with soil or garbage. There will also be a fence around the site to restrict access, he said, and an added fence around the park area to confine materials.

County Drops Plan To Buy Landfill Site In Hills

County officials have dropped a proposal to buy a sanitary landfill site in the hills west of Klamath Falls, according to M. E. Holland, chairman of the Klamath County Board of Commissioners.

Holland said today that Lyle Smith, county public works director, had informed the commissioners that the proposed garbage dump site was "unsatisfactory" because it does not contain an adequate depth of soil.

"We're looking for another site," Holland told newsmen at a press conference this morning.

Strict new state and federal environmental regulations will make it necessary for the county to close many of its 13 existing dumps and the commissioners want to replace these with one large sanitary landfill site which meets all standards.

The first site proposed, located in the area between the KAGO radio transmitter and the offices of the Klamath Forest Protective Association, would be unsuitable because "there is not enough soil to carry on a sanitary landfill there for any length of time," Holland explained.

In other matters, Holland said the Klamath County Medical Society is providing physicians to conduct various clinics at the county health department. The department was left without a doctor with the recent retirement of Dr. Neil

Black as county health officer.

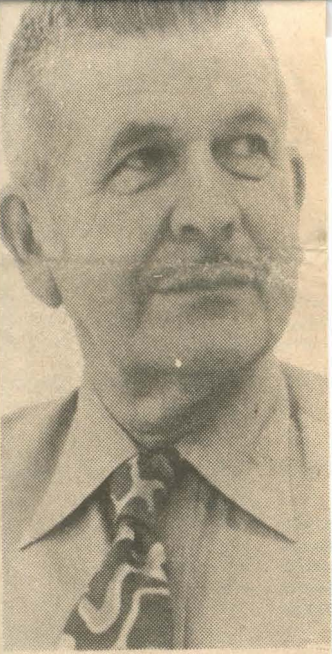
The medical society is also assisting the commissioners in finding a permanent replacement for Dr. Black, Holland said.

The new county policy of mandatory retirement at age 65 also forced Ted Case to retire as county veterans' service officer. Holland said today that the commissioners have received applications from "seven or eight" candidates for that position and have asked local veterans' organizations to make recommendations.

County Commissioner Robert A. Pyle missed this morning's press conference because he was sitting as a member of the Klamath County Board of Equalization. Commissioner Lloyd Gift was also absent.

In other recent actions, the commissioners appointed Richard Price to fill out the unexpired term of Dan Homfelt, who resigned as commissioner of the Nimrod Park Special Road District, and set June 7 as the date to open bids for a \$16,075 bond sale to finance improvements to sections of Summers Lane and Autumn and Frieda streets.

The commissioners' June 7 public meeting will also be the occasion for the final public hearing on the county's proposed \$6.7 million budget for fiscal 1972-73.



WILFRED CLARK

County Officer Starts Job

Wilfred A. "Fred" Clark went to work Thursday as the supervising sanitarian for the Klamath County Health Department.

Clark, 56, is the former supervising sanitarian for San Bernadino County, Calif.

He will be responsible for all the sanitarian functions of the Klamath County Health Department, including approval of septic tank installations and inspection of restaurants.

Clark's arrival brings the county sanitarian staff up to two members and he said Thursday that he will ask the county commissioners to employ a third sanitarian "as soon as we find a qualified man."

Clark told the Herald and News he was aware of "some conflicting opinions" about decisions of the health department's sanitarian staff and he plans to work for better communication and "unity to solve whatever problems we have."

Clark became a registered sanitarian in 1949 after farming for 10 years near Chino, Calif. He spent the last seven years supervising a staff of six sanitarians for the San Bernadino County Health Department.

He said he and his wife decided to move to Klamath Falls to escape the smog of Southern California. "I have been in this area many times and I like it and the people I have met," he added.

Clark's son, Darrell, is a resident of Klamath Falls. He also had a daughter in Ontario, Calif. and two grandchildren.

DEQ May Take Charge Of Stored Pesticide Drums

LAKEVIEW — The Environmental Quality Commission discussed four subjects here Friday afternoon.

The commission during a meeting at the courthouse discussed chemical waste disposal at Alkali Lake, air quality control of Lake and Klamath counties, Lake Ewauna and Klamath River pollution, and Columbia Plywood's log-bark problem.

The commission indicated the Department of Environmental Quality may take charge of 30,000 drums of pesticides stored at Alkali Lake Chemical Waste Storage.

L.B. Day, the director, said Friday after a visit to the Alkali Lake site, that assumption of responsibility for the 55-gallon containers of "environmentally hazardous" material will be taken by the DEQ if the chemical storage company does not apply for a new permit by Wednesday.

The commission reviewed air quality control of Lake and Klamath counties and discussed progress, or lack of it, regarding lumber mills and elimination and smoke control of wigwam burners, and also discussed Klamath County lake and river pollution including log-bark pollution.

Regarding the Alkali Lake chemical waste storage, Oregon State University has indicated, after research, that disposal of wastes in the soil of the lake basin may be feasible. The lake has no outlet.

A DEQ staff report said OSU experiments using chemicals to control sagebrush and greasewood also are promising.

Arleigh G. Isley, Lake County agricultural agent, said that if used properly, chemicals can kill unwanted vegetation without damage to desirable native grasses.

Merrill Pesticide

Dump Won't Reopen

There is no attempt to reopen the pesticide disposal facility at the Klamath County dump at Merrill, despite evident support for such action, according to Bert Wilcox, Klamath County extension agent.

The facility has been closed since 1970.

The site was constructed as the first such experimental facility in the nation to determine the best method of disposing of pesticides and empty pesticide containers.

Since its closure, however, approximately 8,000 containers — from one-gallon to 50-gallon capacity — have been stockpiled each year.

Disposal poses a problem, Wilcox said, because of the residues which remain in the containers — as much as two

pints in an "empty" 50-gallon drum.

The study was intended to determine whether any serious problem could arise from concentrated disposal of the containers. Wilcox pointed out that over a period of time the small amounts would add up, possibly seeping into underground water sources. He also said that dump operators could be endangered by vapors or by improper handling of the containers.

Wilcox said that many of the pesticide containers have been used for dock floats on Upper Klamath Lake and Lake of the Woods. He warned that if the barrels rusted through, any residue inside would be released into the water and could cause undesirable results.