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Ecology Watchdog Urged for Calhoun

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By LINDA HETSEL
Advocate Staff Writer

PORT LAVACA — A citizens advisory group organized by the Port Lavaca-Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce urged the Calhoun County Commissioners Court Monday to hire "an environmental watchdog."

The county environmentalist should have access to all of the area's industrial plants, should be paid by county funds — not by the local industries — and should answer first to the constituents of Calhoun County, representatives of the committee said.

"It's not our intent to focus on Formosa but on the entire county," said Bobby Clegg, chairman of the committee. "If we don't clean up our county now, we'll pay for it dearly later."

While the "watchdog" might not have enforcement powers, he or she could be a whistleblower if tests they conducted on-site did not agree with reports made to regulatory authorities, such as the Texas Water Commission, Texas Air Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Clegg said.

Mrs. Sue Traylor said the environmentalist might also organize recycling programs to reduce waste taken to the landfill, and educational programs for students.

Commissioners Leroy Belk and Oscar Hahn noted that the county lacked a proper facility for the disposal of batteries and household chemicals.

At least seven counties and com-

munities had created positions for an environmental engineer including Houston and Harris County, said Mrs. Traylor and Lana Morgenroth, another committee member.

Calhoun County Judge Alex Hernandez said was uncertain whether the county had the legislative authority to create the position, and the funding to pay the position.

No action was taken by the court since the issue was not posted on the agenda. Hernandez, however, assured the committee he would investigate whether the county had the authority to create the position or would need special enabling legislation.

Mrs. Traylor urged the court to also consider the cost of cleaning up an environmental disaster when reviewing the cost of creating the position.

Serving on the committee are Clegg, Mrs. Morgenroth, Mrs. Traylor, Waymon Boyd, Port Lavaca Mayor Tiney Browning, Kenneth Clark, Bill Cunningham, Marilyn Giessel, Cris Gonzalez, Rayburn Haynie, Fred Knipling, Doug Lynch, Don Ray, Larry Robinson, Bill Swope, Brad Tanner, Bill Tigrett and Ted Wilson.

Reunion Planned

Advocate News Service

ANDER — The third Ander School reunion will begin at noon Sunday at St. Peters Lutheran Parish Hall. All former students and teachers of Ander School are invited. A covered dish dinner will be served.