Projects panel talks trash

Hears pitch to upgrade Salem-area convenience center

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WALHALLA — The trash-collection center near Salem off Highway 130 is "highly congested" and inadequate to keep up with rapid growth around Lake Keowee.

That's the assessment made by Solid Waste Director Swain Still during a presentation to the Capital Projects Advisory Committee on Wednesday.

Still said the trash drop-off point in Salem collects about 9 tons of garbage daily and is among the top-four busiest convenience centers in the county.

Inspecting the center one particular Saturday, Still said he saw a steady line of vehicles "backed up to almost (Highway) 130."

"We had about 22 cars in a 10-minute stretch," he said. "You can imagine the complaints."

Still said that enlarging the facility would create a safer environment for employees and customers.

According to Still, the county owns about 3 additional acres at the Salem center that could be used to upgrade the facility without incurring additional costs to purchase land.

Still filled out a questionnaire that committee members review and score. The scored questionnaire is then passed on to the Planning Commission for its review and recommendation to County Council.

Still stated in the questionnaire that the project would mostly be "advantageous to residents in Salem, Keowee Key and the Cliffs Communities."

As of yet, no plans have been approved for the Salem site upgrade and no cost estimates,

Councilman Paul Corbeil, who chairs the committee, said the group would meet again next week.

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