

## Landfill issue sparks talk of secession

Residents of Credit River Township in eastern Scott County are so upset by the prospect of a sanitary landfill being built near them that they are holding an informal "referendum" May 12 to explore the possibility of seceding from the county.

"The problem we've been having with our county commissioners is we don't get any reaction from them," said Pete Feldman, a Credit River resident and member of the Anti-Landfill Committee sponsoring the vote.

"We go to (county board) meetings and stand up and voice our opinions and nobody has any reaction. It's just like they're sleeping up there. What we're trying to do is get some attention."

So on May 12 the committee will set up booths outside the Credit River Town Hall and from 5 to 7 p.m. residents will be able to fill out index cards, saying "yes" or "no" to the idea of seceding from Scott County.

"We're desperate," said Pat Feldman, who has been working with her husband in organizing the referen-

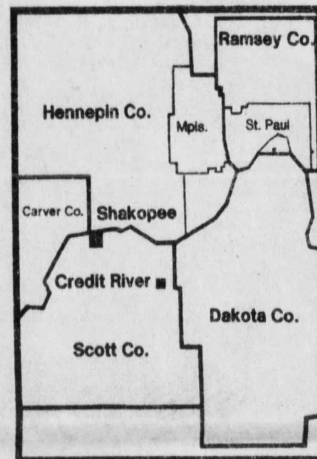
dum. "We don't know who to turn to. So we're just taking our own action."

The cause of all this talk is the possibility that county commissioners will decide to place a sanitary landfill on a 360-acre farm in Credit River. It's one of several sites being considered by the county, but members of the anti-landfill group believe it is the county board's top choice.

"We're saying this site should not even be included in the inventory of sites," said Robert Berg, a member of the Anti-Landfill Committee. Asked if residents should wait until the site is officially approved before getting so upset, he said, "We don't dare wait that long. There will be no recourse at that point."

The Waste Management Act, passed in 1980 by the state Legislature, mandated that five landfill sites be found in each of the seven counties in the Metropolitan area.

"The Credit River site has 91 homes within three-quarters of a mile surrounding the potential site," Berg said. "But because this land has been volunteered we believe that several



criteria are being overlooked.

The land was volunteered by Vince Speiker, who farms the 360 acres.

"We have evidence to show that non-volunteered sites that have only a few residences surrounding them were eliminated for that very reason," Berg said.

"We have cattle. We all have water wells," Pat Feldman said. "You just can't tell me that it's not going to affect our drinking water. And parents are concerned about traffic. There will be hundreds of trucks going

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Sun, Jun 28, 2020