

MEMO FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit River, Levee and Channel Improvements, Meetings with Local Interests

1. On 31 October, Messrs. Knutson, Leake and Keller attended meetings with local interests at Conway and Mt. Vernon, to answer questions concerning the levee and channel improvement project on the lower Skagit River.

2. At each meeting, Messrs. Knutson and Leake made a brief presentation of the project and then asked for questions from those attending.

3. The meeting at Conway was held at the Fire Station at 10 a.m., attended by 18 people. The questions and comments brought up at the Conway meeting follow:

a. When will the project be built?

Ans. No one knows when it will be built. The timing depends upon Congressional appropriations. If funds are appropriated in 1969, the project could possibly be completed in 1972.

b. What does 8-year protection mean?

Ans. Protects against a flood with expected frequency of occurrence of once in 8 years.

c. There is a constriction, a bar, at the downstream end which blocks the flow of floodwater.

Comment: Will be investigated in future studies.

d. Widening of the channel will cause bars which will build up until a high flow takes them out.

Comment: This is possibly true and will be considered in future studies.

e. Would you be widening the channel?

Ans. Not for the full length of the channel, only in the three areas shown in the chart.

f. The riverbank is stabilized with rock now. What will happen to the existing rock in the channel widening areas?

Ans. Rock will be placed in areas requiring it. Existing rock will be stockpiled and used where feasible.

g. There is quicksand in some areas that may cause trouble.

Comment: Problem to be considered in future studies.

h. Why doesn't the Corps remove the navigation dams that are causing restrictions in the river?

Ans. Will be considered in our future planning.

i. An overflow channel is not effective, the high velocities are still out in the deep part of the channel and the overflow part of the channel carries very little flow.

Comment: Explained with use of cross section chart and the formula $Q = AV$.

j. Is it in the program to dredge the big bar on the downstream end of the north fork?

Ans. No program at present. This was part of the navigation project found to be not economically justified. We will look at the effects of this bar on the flood control project.

k. Fresh Water Slough has turned north and is affecting the drainage to the north side. The slough is plugging up the interior drainage.

Comment: No answer at present.

l. The Corps should investigate extending the channels into Skagit Bay to provide an outlet for the floodwaters.

Comment: This will be investigated, but will be very costly.

m. When will you get started?

Ans. Studies to begin as soon as Congress appropriates money.

n. Drainage District #15 objects to having the river widened.

Comment: The Corps intends to work closely with the diking districts to get their suggestions on the project.

o. Is there a local cooperation cost figure for each diking or drainage district?

Ans. No. The estimate is not that detailed.

4. Lloyd Johnson, Skagit County Engineer, said that he would explain the plans for specific areas to those who were interested if we would furnish the available plans and profiles. He has a copy of the survey report which includes the available plans and profiles.

5. The meeting at Mt. Vernon was held at the City Hall Annex at 2 p.m. and was attended by 16 people. The questions asked at the Mt. Vernon meeting follow:

a. What are the top widths and side slopes of the levees?

Ans. 10-foot top width, 1 on 2 side slopes.

b. Is a 10-foot top width adequate for flood flows and also accommodate truck traffic along the top?

Ans. We think so, but more detailed studies may bring about design changes.

c. Has anyone considered widening on the north side of the river at Phil's Beathouse?

Ans. Will be considered in future studies.

d. Who (what agency) would instigate a study for an access road to Whidby Island?

Ans. Don't know, possibly B.P.R. This question was asked by Chris Knudson of Drainage District 19. Paul Ostroth will contact him to get more details as to what he had in mind.

e. How long will the levee project take?

Ans. 18 months for construction, possibly finish about 1972.

f. How much are the local costs?

Ans. **\$237,000. Estimated.**

g. The bridge at Mt. Vernon is a constriction and should be taken care of. There is no use building levees unless the bridge capacity is increased.

Comment: Will be investigated.

h. How much water will the west side bridge at Mt. Vernon let through?

Ans. Don't know.

1. Your cost estimate is not realistic. \$6 million is too high.
About \$150,000 per mile.

Ans. The cost estimate may be conservative, this is a preliminary estimate.

6. Everyone attending the meetings seemed to favor the project as a whole although there were some doubts about details of the project as covered in the above questions.

7. I called Mr. George Dynes residence and asked that he send us a list of those attending the meetings.

GERALD KELLER

cc: Lemke
Knutson