

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project-
Meeting to Discuss Seepage

1. On 2 August 1978 the people listed below met to discuss seepage on the Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement study:

Vern Cook	Design Branch
Larry Merkle	Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch
George Ristau	" " "
Dan Harvey	" " "
Tom Ward	Foundation and Materials Branch
Ernie Sabo	" " "
Ken Graybeal	" " "
Forest Brooks	Regional Planning Section

Mr. Ward requested that F&M Branch be provided all data on water surface profiles which had been prepared by H&H Branch for Economic and Social Evaluation Section. (This data was distributed on 3 August 1978). Mr. Cook then discussed District wide priorities. The following list governs priorities on Seattle District work.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Priority</u>
1	Support ongoing construction program
2	Work required for operation of projects
3	Dam safety
4	Skagit River/Levee and Channel Improvements AE&D
5	Power (such as Libby Rereg., Chief Joseph, etc.)
6	Continuing authorities (except for plans and specs stage when priority becomes Number Five)
7	General Investigation studies

2. A general discussion was then conducted on the seepage associated with the Skagit Levee and Channel Improvements Project. It was decided that F&M Branch will provide design details so that a safe levee is constructed. They will not try to eliminate or even significantly reduce the existing seepage since in this area there is significant lag time, and we do not have a Marmes-type situation. A question came up

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concerning the fact that even though we are not affecting the existing drainage in the agricultural land, is there a legal problem, because Federal dollars would be used in continuing a possible illegal situation (i.e., landowners being flooded by existing ponding areas). Vern Cook stated that he had talked to Office of Counsel on 1 August 1978 and that the response to that question is "NO". Any claim that a landowner might have had has long ago gone by the board. In regards to the interior/drainage for the agricultural lands, the GDM will contain the rationale for confirming that the interior drainage runoff, rainfall plus seepage, does not cause significant flooding, which would negate the benefits realized from the levee improvement project. For the urban levees, where we will be blocking the existing drainage channels, a more rigorous determination will be required. F&M Branch will estimate the amount of seepage along the levee system and provide this information to H&H Branch for their use in their interior runoff calculations. (Mr. Ward, on 3 August 1978 agreed this information would be provided by 11 August 1978.) H&H Branch will then determine what portion of the seepage will actually reach the interior drainage channels and become part of the interior drainage runoff.

3. Mr. McKinley then outlined possible locations for pumping plants. These include the mouth of Gages Slough, the Big Bend east of Interstate 5 in North Mr. Vernon, along Britt Slough in South Mr. Vernon, near Interstate 5 along the south side of Mr. Vernon, and in west Mt. Vernon. Mr. McKinley also identified three critical items which are necessary for him to conduct his work. These include: final water surface elevation data, information on pumping capacity, and information on F&M problem areas. Mr. Ristau said the preliminary hydrology, the aggradation, superelevation, wave action studies had been completed and were currently being reviewed and typed. Mr. Merkle stated that in his review of the hydrology that the shape of the 100-year hydrograph was modified because of the volume, and this may cause some change in the water surface profiles. (Mr. Soule in H&H Branch, on 4 August 1978 agreed the revisions to the 100-year profile will be provided by 11 August 1978.) Mr. Merkle said that the information on the interior drainage should be completed for Mr. McKinley's use by the end of September. On 3 August, Messrs. McKinley and Brooks talked to Mr. Ward, and he indicated that the delineation of problem areas and proposed design details in regards to foundation conditions would be completed by 11 August 1978.

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4. There was then a short discussion as to the merits of conducting a public meeting or public workshop on the project to touch base with locals and the public in general. I stated that a public workshop was much easier to conduct and has less details involved in it and can be done much more quickly and informally. Due to the limited timeframe involved, I feel we should hold a public workshop rather than a public meeting. A final public meeting would of course be held after NPD review of the draft GDM and EIS, and after the EIS draft had been distributed for public review. (March or April of 1979).

5. Mr. Cook then outlined the organization of the Seattle District. He has the position of project engineer, and moves across the organizational matrix of the District to interact with different work elements. Regional Planning Section has the lead in preparing the General Design Memo and conducting the coordination on this project. In the future, weekly or biweekly meetings will be conducted on this project. All organizational elements involved in the study will be invited. The first of these meetings will probably be held next week when a draft outline for the GDM and EIS is available and a revised network has been prepared by Regional Planning Section.

Brooks

FOREST BROOKS

cc:

Rp Sec file

FB Brooks/Worthington/Amador - file

Des Br, Cook

Hydrology Br., Merkle/Harvey

F&M Br, Ward/Graybeal/Sabo

ERS, Mettling

E&SE

Civ Des Sec/Jump

FPMS/Gardner

Hydraulics Sec, Ristau/Soule

McKinley