

~~18~~ September 1978

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project - Meeting with  
Skagit County Officials to Discuss Potential Recreation  
Development

1. The subject meeting was held on 13 September 1978 at the Skagit County Engineer's Office in Mount Vernon, Washington. The following were in attendance:

Gene Sampley	County Engineer
Bob Schofield	Director, Skagit County Planning Dept.
Jon Aarstad	Director, Skagit County Parks & Recreation
Don Nelson	Skagit County Engineer Department
Pete Walker	Skagit County Flood Control Council
Arnold Hansen	City of Burlington
Terry Stevens	Skagit County Planning Department
Jim Newman	Corps of Engineers
Walter Robinson	Corps of Engineers
* Rich Worthington	Corps of Engineers

2. The meeting began with a review of the current status of Skagit basin flood control and a review of the planning to date on the Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project. This was followed by a review of the Corps of Engineers authorities with respect to the recreation development of local protection projects. Items reviewed included cost sharing requirements, limitations on development to lands required for the basic flood control project, limitations on the Federal share of the costs of development, and limitations on the types of facilities. We also reviewed some concepts for possible recreation development of the project.

3. The meeting was then open to input from local officials. The results of this discussion are as follows:

a. The County's primary concern is to preserve the existing recreation facilities along the levee alignment. Of primary concern is Lions Park where there may be substantial impact from the proposed project. Ideas should be explored to minimize the impact on the park. We promised to explore the breakdown of Federal versus non-Federal responsibility in preserving or mitigating for losses of existing recreation opportunities although we indicated that our initial opinion was that this would be a non-Federal responsibility.

b. Of secondary concern by the County is the development of existing access areas. A number of areas were noted where public use is occurring

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and where the County or the State Game Department holds some interest in the land. There is interest in possible cost-shared development of these existing unimproved access areas, particularly for fishing use. The existing access areas were noted on a map.

c. There is no interest, at this time, in developing a complete trail system along the levee. Landowner opposition to such a system would be high, and this use would conflict with the use of the levee for grazing. There may be some interest in shorter trails or bikeways on the levees in the urban areas. The County Parks and Recreation Director requested that the levee design consider future trail use in anticipation of a change in the attitude toward trail use of the levees.

4. As a followup to this meeting, a joint field review of existing access areas and parks along the levee has been scheduled for 25 September 1978. The next step following the field review would be the development of conceptual plans and preliminary costs for potential recreation improvements for review by the County and possibly the State Game Department.

*Richard Worthington*  
RICHARD WORTHINGTON

cc:

Ch, Env Res Sec  
Ch, Econ & SE Sec  
Ch, FPMS  
Ch, F&M Br  
Ch, H&H Br  
Ch, Des Br  
Ch, Plng Br  
Ch, Real Est Div  
Newman/Robinson  
Swanson, Des Br  
Cook, Des Br  
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