

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Delta Floodways, Meeting of 9 June 1981

1. At the request of FEMA, a meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. at COE-Seattle. The following people attended from FEMA: Carl Cook, Wes Edens, Greg Polt, and Chuck Steele (part time). The following people attended from the Corps: Dick Regan, Bill Spurlock, Gerry Gardner, Robb Brennecke, Chadd Novich, and Forest Brooks (part time).
2. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible floodway solutions for the Skagit delta. FEMA wants a "horse" to take to the Skagit River Flood Control Committee to get them started on determining floodways.
3. Regan was asked if he could develop an equal conveyance floodway parallel to the levees. Regan said it is possible, but such a floodway would not be politically acceptable.
4. Gardner said that levee breach locations and sequences must be established and controlled before realistic floodways can be adopted. Polt said that development of fringe areas by fill would ultimately confine the floodwaters to any floodway location that might be selected.
5. Cook asked if Corps could approximate two floodways, one near Burlington and one near Avon. Cook asked if Regan could provide floodway centerlines in these two areas. Regan felt that center lines would not be useful to the county unless they knew how wide the floodway was going to be.
6. Regan said he couldn't evaluate any floodway without detailed topography of the entire delta, with 2 or 5 foot contours, because valley storage has to be accounted for. He would use the unsteady state method. FEMA is not considering lost storage effects in the insurance program. Regan estimated that it would cost \$200,000 to provide topography (2 ft contour intervals) and \$150,000 for backwater runs.
7. Gardner suggested consideration of density floodways in the delta particularly near the mouth and other undeveloped areas. Steel feels the 40 acre minimum lot size in force in many portions of the county would accomplish the same thing as density floodways. Cook and Steel suggested possibly using the county's 40-acre lot size in the lower half of the

Samish Valley and west of Avon, and then equal conveyance floodways near Burlington and Mount Vernon. Regan was asked if he would study small equal conveyance floodways near Burlington and Mount Vernon, but he declined unless he had more detailed topography. Gardner questioned the adequacy of zoning in lieu of a floodway since zoning has not been considered adequate to resist development pressures.

8. Gardner suggested FEMA give a contract to the Corps, HEC, CH<sub>2</sub>M Hill, or other consultant, to study the range of floodway alternatives for the delta and estimate the cost of studying each alternative.

9. Brooks feels that the only sure way to control overflow areas in the delta is with some sort of structural solution. He suggested an overflow wier and channel upstream of Mount Vernon to pass discharges above the channel capacity down to Samish or Padilla Bays. Brooks said the Corps Avon Bypass would accomplish this but would require a congressional request before we would restudy it.

10. Polt is concerned about potential development between Burlington and Mount Vernon eliminating a floodway and causing a damming effect upstream. Gardner suggested using the "C-10" clause in the flood insurance program, which requires each development be studied for effect on water elevation. Although it is unreasonable to ask developers or communities to conduct detailed hydraulic analyses for the complex delta area, Gardner suggested that developments could be designed so that they obviously do not decrease valley storage or conveyance i.e. elevated buildings with parking underneath. This would eliminate fill as a floodproofing method unless the fill material were obtained from adjacent areas in such a way as to substitute for the lost conveyance and valley storage. Steele said this clause could only be used after a community enters the regular program provided that efforts are being made to develop detailed floodways. FEMA will contact their Washington, D.C., office and see if the "C-10" approach is acceptable for the Skagit delta.

11. The meeting was adjourned with FEMA's decision to discuss the alternative presented among themselves and with their Washington, D.C., office. They will keep us informed of their actions.

BRENNECKE

cc: Steele / Cook / Edens / Polt

cc: Regan

cc: Brooks

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