Plan B

“Let’s do it ourselves!”
One of the best things about me is that I am direct, that I speak bluntly, that I don't sugar coat anything.

Of course, that's probably also one of the worst things about me.

Some people see a problem and then pass it along to the rest of us.

I tend to see a problem and see it as an opportunity in disguise.
Let’s Do It Ourselves

That the people of the county should take the burden of providing adequate protection on their own shoulders, was the opinion of H.L. Willis, . . . without any outside assistance. He urged the adoption of organized effort as soon as possible and concluded with, “Let’s do the job ourselves.” (Permanent Organization To Be Formed “To Improve Skagit River.” 1/5/22 Argus)
Plan A

- Skagit County Government

- “Stay the course”

- Agree with Corps’ & FEMA’s hydrology

- Raise property taxes

- Use Corps “Measures” as basis for raising taxes with “no guarantees” of a pot of gold at end of rainbow.
County Plan A

Stay the course

- Corp currently has over 73 billion dollars worth of authorized projects that have not been started.

- With its construction funding limited to roughly $2 billion a year, it will take the Corps more than 40 years to construct just its current backlog of projects.  
  
**County Plan A**

**Raise Property Taxes**

100 yr. flood

### Skagit County

**Conceptual Flood Control Measures with Conceptual Cost Estimates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conceptual Measures</th>
<th>Construction Costs</th>
<th>Assessed Value</th>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
<th>Local Match 25% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Sedro Woolley Water Treatment Plant</td>
<td>$1,278,259</td>
<td>$95,500</td>
<td>$1,374,069</td>
<td>$343,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Clear Lake Levee Alignment</td>
<td>5,979,341</td>
<td>1,709,700</td>
<td>7,689,041</td>
<td>1,922,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 SR-9 to BNSF Right Bank Levee Alignment</td>
<td>17,011,371</td>
<td>9,023,500</td>
<td>26,035,371</td>
<td>6,508,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Multi-Bridge Corridor Right Bank Alignment</td>
<td>18,880,198</td>
<td>23,774,500</td>
<td>21,368,698</td>
<td>5,340,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Multi-Bridge Corridor Left Bank Alignment</td>
<td>7,205,415</td>
<td>29,895,500</td>
<td>37,100,915</td>
<td>9,275,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Anacortes Water Treatment Plant</td>
<td>1,480,693</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,480,693</td>
<td>370,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Riverbend Cut-off Levee Alignment</td>
<td>8,395,572</td>
<td>8,334,900</td>
<td>16,700,472</td>
<td>4,175,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a Diversion segment 1 – Riverbend</td>
<td>5,491,382</td>
<td>5,283,500</td>
<td>10,774,882</td>
<td>2,693,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8b Diversion segment 2 – Mount Vernon</td>
<td>8,395,572</td>
<td>5,903,300</td>
<td>14,298,872</td>
<td>3,567,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8c Diversion segment 3 – Fir Island</td>
<td>11,443,241</td>
<td>2,985,700</td>
<td>14,428,941</td>
<td>3,607,235</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diverion Measure sub-total</strong></td>
<td>$25,300,196</td>
<td>$14,172,500</td>
<td>$39,472,696</td>
<td>$9,868,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Mount Vernon Right Bank Levee Alignment</td>
<td>1,904,844</td>
<td>15,597,500</td>
<td>17,502,344</td>
<td>4,375,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Mount Vernon Left Bank Levee Alignment</td>
<td>3,401,682</td>
<td>10,766,700</td>
<td>14,168,382</td>
<td>3,542,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Lower Right Bank Levee Alignment</td>
<td>6,416,406</td>
<td>9,040,400</td>
<td>15,456,806</td>
<td>3,864,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Lower Left Bank Levee Alignment</td>
<td>12,355,256</td>
<td>9,259,300</td>
<td>21,614,556</td>
<td>5,402,039</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Emergency Control Structure (no land)</td>
<td>13,197,868</td>
<td>29,504,400</td>
<td>42,702,268</td>
<td>10,675,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 LaConner Ring Dike</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>$122,781,598</td>
<td>$161,174,700</td>
<td>$263,656,298</td>
<td>$65,914,075</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 years - 25% of Total Project $4,394,272

15 years - Land Acquisition $10,744,960
Plan A

- Skagit River Impact Partnership (SRIP)
  - Get the hydrology right
  - Prepare for appeal of BFE figures
  - Obtain storage behind Ross and Baker Dams

100 yr. flood
Plan A

Skagit County Government versus SRIP

Results in lose-lose situation for the people of Skagit County

100 yr. flood
Plan B

A New Beginning In A Spirit of Cooperation

- Financing
  - Property Taxes vs. Sales Tax
- Agreement / Power-sharing
  - Formation of a Lower Skagit River Area Flood Control Agency
- Construction of genuine flood protection, *not* studies or lawsuits
Plan B -- Financing

- Property Taxes
  - Creates unfair contribution with respect to benefits received
  - Unjustly enriches and subsidizes 34% of taxpayers in the form of
    - Higher Property Values
    - Lower Flood Insurance Rates
  - Penalizes 66% of the people in the valley who didn’t build in the floodplain while rewarding the 34% who have made bad land use decisions
Plan B -- Financing

Sales Excise Taxes

- Establishes a criteria that those who play – pay.

- By increasing the sales tax by .005 cents we would be raising revenue from the economic base of our county that the flood projects are going to protect.

- The .005 cents would be a dedicated fund that could only be spent on flood control projects.
Plan B -- Financing

Would a sales tax discourage people from shopping in Skagit County?

Let's go shopping

- $10.00 worth of fishing gear = 5 cents
- $100.00 shirts, pants & tie = 50 cents
- $1,000 Sears lawn mower = $5.00
- $30,000 pickup truck = $150.00
Plan B -- Financing

Sales Excise Taxes (Con't)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mt. Vernon</th>
<th>Burlington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$702,657,412.00</td>
<td>$867,656,353.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$560,043,176.00</td>
<td>$792,370,588.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$541,366,824.00</td>
<td>$720,037,059.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$521,248,588.00</td>
<td>$666,629,412.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$502,703,412.00</td>
<td>$614,093,059.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>$565,603,882.40</td>
<td>$732,157,294.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Yearly Sum of 2 Cities $1,297,761,176.60
Average .005 Sales Tax Increase Revenue $6,488,805.88
Plan B -- Agreement

Three Part Process – How do we get the excise tax money?

Through a Written Agreement – Form a Lower Valley Flood Control Agency *(Modified after Sacramento Flood Control Agency)*


Amend Flood Control and Excise Tax Statutes to allow for the creation of the Flood Control Agency and the collection of the Excise Tax
Plan B -- Agreement

The Agreement

- Forms a Lower Valley Flood Control Agency
- Agency does not consolidate the Dike Districts
- Rather it puts the Dike Districts on equal footing with the Cities and Towns and Skagit County
- No one entity holds more or less power than any other entity
- Only the entity owning/controlling the property can VETO a project.
Plan B -- Agreement

The Agreement

All Parties to the Agreement maintain complete autonomy.

f. To acquire, construct, manage, maintain, operate and replace any Projects, Facilities, or Works; provided, however, that the Agency shall not construct, maintain or operate any Water Control Works or Facilities within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Parties or Special District without the prior written agreement of the governing body of the affected Special District or Party.  (Draft Agreement Page 5)
The Agreement

Veto Power

20. A Party may exercise a veto with respect to the following items:

a) the construction and/or acquisition of Projects, Works or Facilities within its boundaries;

b) the Agency's assumption of the Party's maintenance and operation responsibilities for currently existing levees, Projects, Facilities or Works;

c) the imposition of any assessment, fee, or charge within its boundaries to be levied for any Projects, Facilities or Works authorized pursuant to this Agreement.
Possible Project

100 yr. flood
Current Conditions

100 yr. flood

Sedro Woolley Sewage Treatment Plant = .5 to 1 ft

Clear Lake/Beaver Lake = 2 ft

Francis Road = 4 ft
Plan B -- Legislation

The Legislation

Will require flood control statutes to be amended in order to allow formation of Flood Control Agency by agreement of participating municipalities, adding new sections to but not limited to:

- RCW 86.12 Flood Control By Counties
- RCW 86.13 Flood Control By Counties Jointly
- RCW 85.05 Diking Districts
- RCW 36.89 (Maybe) Highways . . . Storm water Control
- RCW 36.94 (Maybe) Sewerage, Water & Drainage Systems
Plan B -- Legislation

The Legislation

Will require Sales Excise tax statutes to be amended in order to allow for the funding of the Flood Control Agency by agreement of participating municipalities, adding new sections but not limited to:

- RCW 82.08 Retail Sales Tax
- RCW 82.14 Local Retail Sales and Use Taxes
Plan B -- Timeline

- June 21st - The beginning
- July 30th - Attorneys have draft agreement in final form
- August 30th - Cities/County/Dike Districts begin final approval and signing of Agreement
- September 30th - Attorneys prepare draft legislation
- October/December County Commissioners, Mayors, Dike Commissioners, Upstanding Members of the Community Meet with Legislators
Plan B -- Timeline

- January 2008: Bill introduced in both houses of the legislature - put on fast track
- March 2008: Legislature passes Bill
- June 2008: County holds special election for voter approval of the Excise Tax
- By July 2010 we begin construction of flood control projects
Plan B – Summary

- Get consensus of local community.
- Prepare and sign local agreement to form Skagit River Flood Control Agency.
- Have legislature amend statutes creating the Agency and provide funding by increasing a dedicated sales excise tax by .005 cents.
- Have voters approve sales tax.
- Begin construction of flood control projects!!
Plan B – What it’s about!!

It’s about **LOCAL CONTROL**.

Putting local people in charge of local funds to build flood control projects.

“LET’S DO IT OURSELVES!”

“LET’S DO IT NOW!!”