

1979 FLOOD FIGHT MEETING
(Minutes)
Thursday, October 18, 1979
7:30 P.M.
Hearing Room 'A'

Don Nelson of Skagit County Public Works Department called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Don discussed the purpose of the meeting and the Flood Fight Exercise.

The purpose of the meeting was for agencies and flood fight groups to get acquainted with each other to discuss various problems, i.e., condition of dikes, coordination, equipment, and responsibilities.

Don introduced the various agencies and groups who comprise the flood fight team in Skagit County, and they are as follows:

1. Skagit County Public Works Department - Don Nelson gave a general breakdown of Skagit County's part in a flood fight. The office works in the coordination of the different agencies and groups, gives out information relative to flood conditions, and handles communications.

Don introduced John Ensley, Section Manager of the three county road districts and John stated that they will supply men and equipment.

2. Sheriff's Department - Not represented at the meeting.
3. Skagit/San Juan Counties Department of Emergency Services - Joe Cain, Director for Department of Emergency Services, stated that his department's responsibilities included coordination of resources and welfare services, i.e., Search and Rescue volunteers, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and state and federal agencies.
4. Corps of Engineers, Seattle District - Ernie Sabo said that when the river rises to flood stage and county resources are exhausted, the Corps will begin their active flood fighting. Headquarters will be set up at the Skagit Valley College and the Corps will hire equipment and men, and oversee the flood fighting sectors. After the flood is over, they will begin the restoration process.

During the Corps present flood exercise, they are inspecting the dikes, contacting dike district commissioners and trying to isolate and solve problem areas.

Pete Walker asked Ernie about quantities of sandbags that should be on hand in the local dike districts.

Don Nelson replied to this and stated that each district should have a minimum of 10,000 bags on hand. During this discussion, it was found that several of the districts had little or no sandbags on hand. Skagit County has approximately 10,000 on hand and these are to be used supplementary to what the dike districts have on hand.

The question was asked, where sandbags could be purchased. Don answered that if they contact his department, they could get the name and address of a supplier. He also noted that the bags are about 30¢ each. (Note: They can be purchased from the Fisher Bag Company, 1560 First Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98134, Telephone No. 623-1966). After checking, current prices are as follows:

Cost:	each	50¢	
	500	32¢	= \$160.00
	1,000	32¢	= \$320.00
	10,000	32¢	= \$3,200.00

Don also said that some of the smaller districts might get by with fewer bags than 10,000.

The question was asked, how long would it take to get additional bags during a flood. Don said that if all local supplies were getting low and more would have to be obtained from Seattle by truck, it could take four hours.

Ernie discussed the method that would be used for issuing sandbags. The agreement between the Corps and Skagit County is that no bags will be issued without approval of the Skagit County Flood Control Coordinator.

5. State Highway Department - Not represented at the meeting.
6. City of Mount Vernon - Not represented at the meeting.
7. City of Burlington - Pete Walker spoke for Ted Banta who couldn't attend the meeting. He said that the Burlington Fire Department is their task force. Burlington Fire Hall is the headquarters. They have flood exercises twice a year. During flood stage, their people will be patrolling the dikes in their district.
8. The cities of Sedro Woolley, Lyman, and Hamilton were represented by Steve Ladd of the Rural Planning Commission.
9. K.B.R.C. Radio Station - Bob Fordan, News Director said that they will be broadcasting emergency information 24 hours a day.
10. State Department of Emergency Services - Rick LaValla from the State Department of Emergency Services stated that the State Department will support local emergency services.
11. Dike District #1 - Pete Walker stated that the McLean Road Fire Department is the headquarters for the diking district, and said that they have no sandbags on hand.
12. Dike District #2 - Not represented.
13. Dike District #3 - Tony Tronsdal stated that the Conway Fire Hall is the headquarters and that they are well equipped with 10,000 sandbags and lots of shovels and manpower.
14. Dike District #12 - Pete Walker stated that the Burlington and the McLean Road Fire Halls are the headquarters and that they have no sandbags on hand.
15. Dike District #13 - Bennie Anderson and Joe Tellesbo said that they have no headquarters or sandbags.
16. Dike District #15 - Bill and Eunice Summer stated that the headquarters would be at one of the diking district commissioners' houses and that they need sandbags.
17. Dike District #17 - The headquarters will be at the District Commissioners' houses and they do have sandbags on hand.

General Discussion:

Don said that for river information, Skagit County has a recorded message (336-9488) and during times of flooding will be updated every hour or as conditions change.

Joe Cain noted that during a flood, there will be three numbers that can be called for a recorded message instead of just the one number.

Sand Stockpiles:

Butler Pit is our best source for single operations. Jim Leckenby responded that it should be noted that there is an abundance of broken glass in areas of this site and workers in this pit should avoid those areas.

It was generally felt that Fir Island should have a stockpile of sand. Hermway Heights was thought to be a good location for a stockpile.

Distribution of Sand:

Distribution of sand will be done by Skagit County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hire trucks, and possibly the State Highway Department will assist.

Rick LaValla of the State Department of Emergency Services indicated that after the state of emergency has been declared by the state, the state could furnish money, equipment, and manpower. He stressed that efforts should be made to sign up volunteers so that in case of injury related problems, they will be covered by State Industrial Insurance.

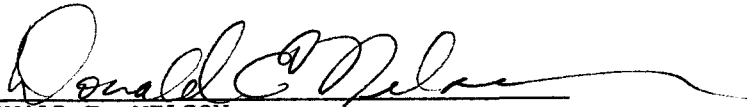
Ernie Sabo said that the dikes here are well maintained and pointed out that each district should keep the tops of the dikes clear. We still have a problem of locked gates and fences without gates. Each district should have a standard lock and an extra key should be kept at the Skagit County Engineer's Office.

Pete Walker, Dike District #12, has notified people about this and is aware of the problem.

Ernie said that some locks are rusted shut and are useless.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

(Corps of Engineer's people present at the meeting talked with individuals and Dike District Commissioners after the meeting to discuss problems).


DONALD E. NELSON
Flood Control Manager

1979 Flood Fight Etc.

Name	Organization
PETE WALKER	Skagit Co. Dike Dist #12
Lancia & Bill Summers	Sk. Co. Dike Dist 15
Rick Lawalla	State Emerg. Servs.
Nancy Thomas	Corps of Engineers
Shirley Blomson	COE
Bob Ehrmantraut	COE
Hiser	"
MIKE LOYD	SKAGIT Co.
Robert Newbill	COE
Mark Vance	Skagit Co. Dept. of Emergency Services and Dept. of Public Works
BRIAN APPLEBURY	COE
BENNIE ANDERSON	DIKE 13
Joe Tellesbo	" 13
Ed. O'Leary	COE Ret
Ray Nelson	Contractor
Ernie Lobo	Company Eng.
Ross Kneal	C.I.E.
Wayne Rowe	C.O.E.
JAMES R. SMITH	COE
ROBERT FREY	COE
EUGENE BROWN	COE
Steve Ladd	SR.P.C. (towns & cities)
Suzanne Palmer	
Leith Sundseth	C of E
Lony Bronstad	DIKE III
Joseph W. Cam	SKAGIT Co. Dept.
Bob Fordan	K.B.P.C.