

13 April 1977

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit River Levees and Channel Improvements

1. On 1 April 1977 a meeting was held to discuss Skagit River levee and channel improvements study. Those attending were:

Richard Sellevold	Raymond Skrinde
Sidney Knutson	Forest Brooks
Edwin Derrick	Norman MacDonald
Duane Hogan	William Spurlock
Vernon Cook	Richard Regan

2. Purpose of the meeting was to:

- a. Review the Corps mission in the study.
- b. Reaffirm direction of study effort.
- c. Determine what restraints are preventing orderly progress of General Design Memorandum (GDM) work.
- d. Determine what restraints may preclude meeting scheduled completion dates.
- e. Establish items of action.

3. The day before the meeting an attempt was made to send a letter to NPD requesting a delay in the first scheduled milestone (Plan of Study). The District Engineer requested that we reevaluate our efforts and prepare a more comprehensive letter that would provide additional data to NPD. He also reiterated that the Corps' mission was to provide the highest level flood protection that is feasible to the urban centers of Mt. Vernon and Burlington.

4. At the opening of the meeting Vernon Cook reviewed the District Engineer's direction on urban flood protection and the problem of a slow start on planning due to planning personnel working on other work. Mr. Sellevold reaffirmed District Engineer's guidance on urban protection and discussed whether the study might result in a phase I only or a combined GDM as now contemplated.

5. Mr. Cook advised that there was no apparent need to seek additional study funds (beyond existing \$100,000) based on the slow start and apparent inability to progress with hydrology work until well into the fourth quarter. Further, the first milestone of the study (submit plan of study) has been missed, with

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every likelihood the next few milestones were going to be missed. A discussion ensued about what had been done, what could now be done, and what could be done during the coming year.

6. Work accomplished to date has been limited to requesting estimates for planned work. Work that could have been done, and can be done now includes surveys, gathering base data for F&M hydrology economics and preparation of plan of study. Agreement was reached to:

- a. Proceed with preparation of plan of study with submittal within 30 days.
- b. Proceed with all necessary surveys.
- c. Request start on F&M economics and hydrology.

7. Mr. Sellevold requested that Mr. Cook review EC 1105-2-78, subject proposed regulation: Options for Authorization of Civil Works Projects, dated 2 March 1977 to determine applicability of the EC to this study. Of particular interest would be as the EC relates to proceeding with study without being committed to a Phase I only, or a combined Phase I and II until well into the study. Mr. Sellevold also requested feedback from Mr. Hogan on priority for study in Regional Planning and Water Control Sections.

8. Mr. MacDonald said he had not been asked to perform any work other than supply an estimate of cost. Further, he said that until he was asked to start and was provided with necessary survey data, he did not have a priority problem. His previous estimate of a probable start in August with 9 to 15 months to complete the work still appeared valid, as it would probably be that long until surveys were provided.

9. Mr. Cook summarized the meeting and stressed the need for proceeding with surveys and plan of study along with request for starting background hydrology economics and F&M. Mr. Cook said there was no way the previously planned two-year schedule could be maintained, and he would proceed with review of EC and prepare a letter to NPD on procedure we plan to follow.

VERNON E. COOK

cc:
Ch, Engr Div
Ch, Reg Plng Sec
Ch, Plng Br
Ch, Water Control Sec
Cook