

28 September 1978

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement - Meeting with Skagit County Officials

1. On 27 September 1978, Messrs. Cook, Brooks and McKinley met with Messrs. Nelson, Skrinde and Sampley of Skagit County to discuss progress on the Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project.
2. We discussed the results of the environmental workshop and field trip which was held the last week of September. Those agencies are primarily concerned about removal of riparian habitat and placement of riprap within the river. Where that is not possible, the placement of large pieces of riprap can provide needed shelter for small fish.
3. We explained that we had selected the levee height for the downstream levees (the 120,000 cfs profile + 6 feet). This design would include about 1.8 feet for aggradation and 2 feet for freeboard. Until the formulation of the upstream project was completed we can not assign a discharge or frequency to this levee height but it appeared to be about 160,000 to 170,000 cfs or about 50-year to 70-year protection. This would mean the right bank levee would be raised about 2 feet, the Fir Island levees about 2-3 feet, and the left bank levees about 3-4 feet.
4. We then discussed the problems of the Samish overflow (peak overflow discharge with levees would be about the same but the volume would be greater because of a longer duration.) We said we now were going to be looking at building a weir between Burlington and Sedro Woolley to restrict the overflow to no more than under present conditions. Mr. Sampley mentioned that we would also have to determine the effect on the Nookachamps area and we agreed.
5. We discussed the problems in relocating the road around the Big Bend at Mount Vernon. The desired levee cross section in this area includes a 12-foot wide, 3 foot high gravel berm. This requires the road to be relocated. Using road standards obtained from Skagit County, it appears that the new road fill will catch on existing houses and cause the removal of all vegetation between the houses and the existing road. We discussed several options: (1) use reduced standards due to low volume road, (2) relocate road on other side of houses, (3) use retaining walls and rockeries. The Skagit County officials will consider the problem and Frank Weidenbener will discuss it with them in Mount Vernon next week.
6. We briefly discussed the problems along the left bank in Mount Vernon. We asked whether the firms west of the railroad (Stokley-Van Camp, Darigold, and the beer distributor) wanted to be protected by the levee. Mr. Sampley

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expressed concern over the levee damaging the Lions Park since the Mayor of Mount Vernon is a Lion and is very proud of the park. Mr. Nelson asked whether we would consider just upstream of the BNRR bridge building a new segment of levee rather than raising the existing levee. Mr. McKinley explained how we had thought through the design for the area.

7. Mr. Sampley requested several copies of our worksheets for the project (which we provided), and a set of the enlarged aerial photographs (which we will have made). We requested that Skagit County provide profiles/elevations along roads in the Nookachamps Creek area, typical cross-sections to use in our road relocations, guidance on the left bank problems at Mount Vernon, and suggested dates for our public workshop. Mr. Sampley said they would provide these items.

Brooks

BROOKS

cc: *FB*

Brooks/Worthington/Amador *file LOCAL*

McKinley

Cook, Design

Ch, ERS

Ch, E&SE

Ch, FPMS

Ch, F&M

Ch, H&H

Ch, Design

Ch, Hydrology

Ch, Hydraulics

Frey, RE

Jump, Design

RP file