

30 October 1978

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project - Sixth Biweekly Review Meeting

1. The subject meeting was held on 30 October 1978 in the large Engineering Division conference room. The following were in attendance:

Dwain Hogan	Chief, Planning Branch
Walt Farrar	Chief, Regional Planning Section
Vern Cook	Design Branch
Clyde Jump	Design Branch
Larry Scudder	Design Branch
Bob Frey	Real Estate Division
Jack Morris	Real Estate Division
Dick Regan	Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) Branch
Les Soule	Hydrology and Hydraulics
Don Thompson	Economics and Social Evaluation Section
Bob Vogler	Economics and Social Evaluation Section
Ron Bush	Environmental Resources Section
Bob Newbill	Foundation and Materials (F&M) Branch
Dwain Detamore	Program Development Office
Forest Brooks	Regional Planning Section
Jim Newman	Regional Planning Section
Walt Robinson	Regional Planning Section
Rich Worthington	Regional Planning Section

2. The meeting began with an update of significant actions since the last meeting. The following items were mentioned.

a. On options for authorization for the upstream levees, the District Engineer has decided that we would pursue our present direction anticipating an extension of the authorization early next year. We will also pursue inclusion of the upstream levee under a simple post-authorization change (PAC).

b. Alternatives for Fisher Slough/Carpenter Creek have been examined and the Architect/Engineer (A/E) has been given a tentative plan. However, this will be a later item of work for the A/E.

c. A tabulation of water surface runs made by H&H Branch is available in the Regional Planning Section.

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d. A meeting with the County Engineer was held on 27 October. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for 3 November.

e. A meeting with the Skagit County Flood Control Council has been scheduled for 1 November. Forest Brooks and Vern Cook will attend that meeting.

f. General Wells will tour the Skagit project area on 8 November.

3. Vern Cook brought up a question that was raised at the meeting with the County Engineer concerning the county's liability for areas between the levees where the depth of flooding will be increased. It was concluded that there is an undefined liability that must be considered and it would be a part of the county's local cooperation responsibility. We would be required to furnish the county data on the additional flooding heights and they would be responsible for securing the necessary easements. It was noted that the largest impact area would be the trailer court at Mount Vernon. It was suggested that relocation of the court be considered as a part of the plan. It was also concluded that a meeting should be held involving Design Branch, Regional Planning Section, Real Estate Division, and Office of Counsel to discuss local cooperation requirements.

4. The meeting continued with a review of each work element's progress and problems. These are summarized as follows:

a. Civil Design Section. Hydraulics work in computing capacity of Carpenter Creek is dependent on receiving cross sections from the A/E. These may be available this week. On work done to date, some corrections have been noted for some sections. The A/E will also need to define the river bottom for downstream sections so that riprap requirements may be defined. The downstream limits of the project have been set and the A/E has indicated that he will request a contract modification based on these new limits.

b. Environmental Resources Section. The Fish and Wildlife Service report was due 15 November. It will be delayed pending receipt of information on the design of the downstream levee. The specific information required concerns areas where the levees would encroach upon water areas. Levee cross sections for the downstream levees will be submitted from the A/E in 2 to 3 weeks. The "relationship of project to land use plans" contract for input into the environmental impact statement (EIS) got started late due to the freeze on contracts. Contract completion

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date is now 27 November. Endangered species funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service has been approved but not yet signed by the President. This should not delay the Fish and Wildlife Service response on the bald eagle for Skagit. The draft wetlands report was submitted on schedule by the contractor. Regarding mitigation, in general plans will consist of levee planting in areas of encroachment on riparian habitat. Once a mitigation plan is drafted another resource agency meeting is planned. In summary, it was reported that the input to the General Design Memo (GDM) and the draft EIS will not be completed for typing by the currently scheduled date of 6 November. **The effort has slipped about 3 weeks.**

c. Economics and Social Evaluation Section. Economics has developed average annual existing flood damages for the 12, 50, 100, and 500 year floods. **Assuming a 50-year level of protection for rural (downstream) areas and a 100-year level of protection for urban areas, the average annual damages are about \$4,690,000.** This would justify about a \$138,000,000 project at 3-1/4 percent interest or a \$68,000,000 project at 6-7/8 percent. Therefore, **it is apparent that there will be a justified project for the Skagit.** The presentation of the benefits in the report was then discussed. It was indicated that the benefits will be divided into urban and rural categories. Incremental analysis was discussed and it was concluded that some discussion of incremental analysis should be included although all the details do not have to be presented. The topic of Stanwood benefits was also addressed. It was concluded that efforts should continue in identifying Stanwood benefits attributable to the Skagit.

d. Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch. H&H is completing work on requested computer runs for establishing water surface profiles. Delays in obtaining Carpenter Creek cross sections will delay analysis on Carpenter Creek. The weir design will not be initiated until it is concluded that it is a part of the selected plan.

e. Regional Planning Section. Costs for all alternatives at the 100-year level of protection will be completed this week (week of 30 October). These costs will be tabulated and compared to benefits to verify decisions on the selected plan. This effort is about two weeks behind schedule. Report writing is behind schedule and no input from other work elements has been received. It is recognized that input cannot be finalized until a final plan is selected and a level of protection defined.

f. Foundation and Materials Branch. F&M is participating in field reviews with Design Branch of the A/E's work. The draft input to the GDM is about 90 percent complete awaiting selection of a plan.

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- g. Real Estate Division. Real estate work is on schedule.
- h. Recreation. Recreation supply and demand analysis for the main GDM is being completed. Preliminary ideas for potential recreation sites are being formulated.
5. The next biweekly meeting is scheduled for 9 November.

*Worthington*  
WORTHINGTON

cc:

Ch, Plng Br

Ch, Des Br

Ch, F&amp;M Br

Ch, H&amp;H Br

Ch, Real Estate Div.

Ch, Prog Dev

Ch, ERS

Ch, E&amp;SE

Ch, Civil Design

Ch, Hydrology

Ch, Hydraulics

Brooks/Worthington/Amador, Reg Plng

Cook, Des Br

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*file OFFICE*